



Gridley Blanks Pierce to Host NS D-III Title

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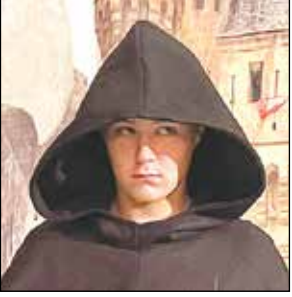
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FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 28, 2025 • VOL. 145 NO. 48

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Kory Hamman Hamman Real Estate



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Shop. Sparkle. Stroll

Gridley Downtown holds Christmas Preview



Got a sweet tooth? These ladies have you covered. From specialty ordered pies and cakes, to ready-to-go cookies, breads and more, Sweeties in downtown Gridley makes your holidays sweeter. The bakery and sweet shop had ample goodies on hand for the first Christmas Preview.

Story and photos by Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Gridley's downtown has grown the past year as new businesses join local staples along the Hazel Street corridor.

The planning prowess of the Farmers Wives and Eight Six O have brought

multiple pop-up events to the historical heart of Gridley over the past few months, beginning with the Harvest Festival in early October and now with the Christmas Preview - Shop, Sparkle, Stroll event which was held the evening of Nov. 22.

From baked goodies at Sweeties Sweet Shop, gifts

and fashions from multiple boutiques, creative pursuits and entertainment, there was something for everyone.

New to the scene, Canada Family Farms served apple cider slushies with vanilla ice cream and home-made goodness, from their retrofitted horse trailer. The family farms

apples locally and offers a variety of homegrown apple-based products.

Canda Family Farms has networked with Reis Family Farms, who made an appearance again at the downtown event, selling fresh pears, candied apples and artisan jams and jellies.

Continued on page 3

Gridley Residents Face Garbage Rate Hike

By Susan Meeker

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Gridley residents will have the final say on a proposed 6.62% increase to solid waste rates after the City Council voted unanimously Nov. 17 to begin the Proposition 218 process, which requires taxpayer notification and gives property owners the chance to block the hike through a majority protest.

City Administrator Elisa Arteaga said the city cannot approve the increase without following the formal process because the adjustment exceeds the 5% cap allowed in Gridley's contract with Waste Management.

"At this point, I think it is best that we do the Prop 218 notice to allow for public comment and then move forward," Arteaga said. "We don't want any potential liability of lack of noticing for the rate adjustment."

Under the new rate schedule, monthly residential charges would rise across all standard cart sizes. A 32 gallon cart would increase from \$28.43 to \$30.31; a 64 gallon cart would rise from \$31.91 to \$34.02; and a 96 gallon cart would move from \$48.48 to \$51.69. The increase reflects a 4.83% Consumer Price Index adjustment and an additional 1.79% tied to higher disposal fees at Neal Road Landfill, where Butte County increased charges 15.5% this year. Arteaga said Waste Management is not passing through the full landfill increase, but only a "small percentage."

The cost of garbage service is not the only concern for residents. Mayor Mike Farr said Waste Management's fines for overfilled and contaminated carts have become a persistent complaint. The fee schedule lists a \$12.53 fine for overfilled carts and a \$15.04 contamination fee. Farr said families have told him the penalties are hard and "very punitive."

Arteaga said the city has helped residents resolve disputes and that Waste Management has occasionally waived fines. She encouraged residents to contact the city for assistance and noted that upgrading to a larger cart may cost less than repeated penalties. The city plans to send information about the proposed measure in utility bills and through social media to help residents understand cart sizes, service options, and rules for proper disposal.

Because Proposition 218
Continued on page 2

Demitri Camperos Completes 700-Mile Firewalk to Paradise

By Shamaya Sutton

PARADISE, CA (MPG) - Altadena resident Demitri Camperos completed his 700-mile firewalk on Tuesday, Nov. 18, arriving at his final destination - Paradise, California - shortly after noon. As he reached the town's welcome sign, he was met by dozens of locals who gathered to cheer him on and support his cause.

"It was more than I expected," Camperos said. "To feel all that energy was one of my top life experiences without question."

From there, the crowd escorted him to Hope Plaza, where his journey officially came to an end. Camperos ultimately raised nearly \$8,000 for fire-recovery efforts, specifically the Eaton Fire Collaborative. But he said the walk was never really meant to be about money.

"Paradise was the victim of its own fire seven years ago and people are still rebuilding and just doing

the best they can with such resilience," Camperos said. "With Altadena, we haven't even had one full year yet of recovery from the Eaton Fire - I was eager to learn more firsthand from the people here in regard to bureaucracy and timelines, but also

on a personal and emotional level - what are the things they look forward to, what are the milestones that have been great to see throughout the community, and what's the joy that we can share back home in Altadena?"

Camperos began his

walk on Oct. 16 at the charred remains of his former home in Altadena. The idea, he said, came unexpectedly while he was substitute-teaching a high school history class. Students were watching a

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Demitri Camperos (left) stands with Harkey House hosts Lee and Bob Jones during his overnight stay in Yuba City, a memorable stop along his 700-mile firewalk to Paradise. Photo courtesy of Demitri Camperos

The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

The most popular national holiday in the United States is Thanksgiving. 65% of Americans think the meaning of Thanksgiving is to spend time with family. They are wrong. The purpose is to overeat and be grateful. Very spiritual event if you are religiously inclined. If you have family members who facilitate that, then good on you. Additionally, the percentage of Americans who will

celebrate Thanksgiving by staying home this year is hovering at 58%.

Now onto the costs involved in the big feast: In 2023, the average price of ingredients for a 10-person Thanksgiving dinner was \$58.08 U.S. dollars. Despite declining in 2023 and 2024, the cost of a dinner is up by \$11.18 U.S. dollars compared to 2020. As turkey plays a central role in the feast, this component typically accounts for the largest share of the meal's cost and is worth every dime. Americans consume approximately 46 million turkeys on Thanksgiving, along with about 250 million pounds of potatoes. On average, the price of a 16-pound turkey before Thanksgiving was \$25. According to a 2025 survey, about 74% of U.S. respondents planned to buy

a turkey "on sale" that year.

Americans spend more on Thanksgiving dinners - \$6.4 billion, than on Halloween candy at \$3.5 billion. So next Halloween, do better at Trunk or Treat.

Big-money people are skipping the event to play cribbage, golf, lacrosse, or some other sport we don't have in Gridley & Live Oak. Compared to 2023, higher income groups are less likely to celebrate at all. Among those who earn \$100,000 or more, the share not celebrating rose 10 percentage points to 18 percent. I guess when you get wealthier, you become less grateful.

Josh F.W. Cook was born in Gridley and received a 4th-grade education from Hall of Fame educator Betty Harp. ★

Gridley Tree Lighting Next Week!

Winter Wonderland Festival and Parade of Lights to Follow

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The holidays are officially here, and Gridley's Annual Tree Lighting is less than a week away!

The community Christmas Tree will be lit on Dec. 3, at Daddow Park in the heart of Downtown Gridley at 5:30 p.m.

Live music will be featured at the gazebo by WSB Band, with a plethora of vendors and food trucks.

Cathy Mills of the Gridley Area Chamber of Commerce said that they have full court of food trucks registered to be in attendance, along with a large amount of craft and gift vendors for guests to browse before the Parade of Lights begins.

At 6:30 p.m., the streets will be cleared. What follows will truly light up faces and the streets, as the annual Parade of Lights makes its way downtown.

Each year, the Winter Wonderland Festival and Parade of Lights grows, both in attendance and participation in the parade. This year is sure to be full of new sights and stunning displays of regular participants in the parade.

Elves and even the big guy in red are often found mingling in the crowd!

Mark your calendar for Wednesday Dec. 3, as Christmas begins in Downtown Gridley! ★

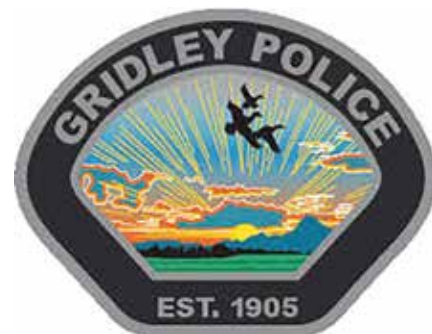
CodeRED is Out

Gridley Police Department News Release

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The Gridley Police Department has transitioned its emergency notification system from CodeRED to Butte County Emergency Alerts.

The Gridley Police Department recommends that all residents create and manage their own accounts to ensure they receive emergency alerts tailored to their preferences.

By managing your own account, you can choose your preferred language and select the methods through which you



would like to be notified in the event of an emergency. Sign up today! bit.ly/ButteAlerts ★

GHS Renaissance Brings Witches, Dungeons, Dancing and Music



Seen here performing "Bum the Witch," a scene from Monty Python and the Holy Grail, is, from left, Will Bevan, Zack Vallego, Asia Clark, and Owen Stewart. Photo by Cindy Scott

By Cindy Scott

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Dungeon Master Hudson Price was heavily occupied at this year's Gridley High School Renaissance Festival, held Nov. 19 and 20. Those in attendance were happy to report to Queen Heather Yost the evil designs of close friends and family. Some even reported good deeds—whatever it took to get them sent to the dungeon. A few gold coins secured their release—a fun way for the Gridley High School music program to raise needed funds.

Music students and community volunteers transformed the Gridley Community Center (Guardian Building) into a royal hall and welcomed guests to an evening of delicious food and clever entertainment.

The program began with the song "Camelot," which the Gridley High School Choir sang as they walked among the tables. This year's show also included the traditional couples and maiden dances and several comedic skits. As always, the Gridley High School Band performed Renaissance music, and the Gridley High School Choir ended the evening with "Homeward Bound," inviting choir alumni to join them.

Ethan Jacobsen, Gridley High School Band director, believes students should be engaged in the process as much as possible. The students suggest skits, choose costumes, contribute and make props, run the lights and sound, contribute baked goods to the market and decorate the hall. Band members who are not in the skits, as well as the Sycamore Middle School bands, serve the tables.

Jacobsen sees value in students gaining experience with aspects of performance, like set up, lighting and sound. He also said, "When the students do some of the foot work, they learn to appreciate the adults who are helping and all that they do."

Jacobsen also noted that, in band class, the students are playing their instruments most of the hour. Renaissance gives them a chance to interact outside of class, get

off their phones, learn to be a team and get to know each other.

The band participates in two marching competitions in the fall and one band festival in the spring. The funds raised in the Renaissance event pay for competition and festival entry fees, sheet music and their spring trip.

Jacobsen noted that the Gridley High School Drama Club, which performed the skits, will be performing the musical "Guys and Dolls" Feb. 27-28. These student performances fund the Drama Club's trip to a musical in Sacramento each spring.

Gridley High School students thrive in the performing arts—developing talents, friendships and community connections. ★



Hudson Price served as Dungeon Master at this year's Gridley High School Renaissance Festival. Attendees persuaded the King and Queen to send loved ones to the dungeon, where they waited for someone to pay for their release. Photo by Cindy Scott

Gridley Residents Face Garbage Rate Hike

Continued from page 1

requires mailed notices and a 45 day protest window, the increase cannot take effect until after a public hearing in March, where Waste Management officials are expected to be present to explain the proposed fee increase.

"This will move out based on the milestones with final approval in

March," Arteaga said.

Gridley's contract with Waste Management expires in December 2028, and the city may issue a Request for Proposals in 2026. Farr said he wants Waste Management to explain its charges directly when the rate notice goes out, but he also raised concerns about whether residents have other options.

"It seems like Waste Management has a monopoly here," Farr said. "Where's the competition?"

City staff noted that the request for proposal process would allow other providers to submit bids, though any transition to a new hauler would take about eight months to implement. ★

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Thanksgiving Pow Wow at Manzanita!

Story and photos by Seti Long

MANZANITA, CA (MPG) - Manzanita School was overrun with pilgrims and native Americans last Friday, Nov. 21 gathering for the school's annual Thanksgiving performance.

The small production was brought to parents, friends and family members of Manzanita students by the kindergartners, who played the role of wild Indians, and first grade classes, who's pilgrims welcomed all. The pilgrims treated guests to a song performed

with cardboard tubes, which functioned almost like bells when slapped against the student's hand. Each pilgrim played a specific part, combining to form a mini orchestra.

Meanwhile the kindergartners looked on from the audience until their turn came.

The little native Americans took center stage and performed a song called "Pow Wow" for their pilgrim visitors.

Afterward, students were congratulated and led to special places at tables set for a feast. Students colored and crafted turkey bowls for popcorn and made customized placemats, munching on the popcorn.

Meanwhile staffers and volunteers served a true Thanksgiving Feast for lunch, including mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie topped with whipped cream.

Smiles and laughter filled the lunchroom as the Manzanita pilgrims and Indians said farewell and celebrated the upcoming Thanksgiving break. ★



Staffers and parents served a thanksgiving style meal to students, including turkey, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie.



Smiles could be seen everywhere as pilgrims and Indians became friends. These pilgrims smile as they prepare for a very Happy Thanksgiving break.



Kaylen Black smiles with her handcrafted turkey bowl after performing as a pilgrim in Manzanitas Thanksgiving Program.



This little pilgrim is all smiles as he gets his plate of thanksgiving goodies.

Shop. Sparkle. Stroll

Continued from page 1

Gordo's tacos warmed stomachs and guests bundled against the cold, made their way in and out of shops, fitness and ceramic studios, and gaming hubs.

The recent addition to the boutiques in the downtown area is the ClayGround – owned by Bridget Ellis. Filled with children's toys and gifts, and featuring a large assortment of unfired clay pieces, the ClayGround invites aspiring or practiced artists to pick up a brush and create something colorful.

Santa Claus helped Ellis welcome guests to the street fair, with a photo booth. For \$20, children got a photo with Santa and a gift back with a Santa mug and hot cocoa bomb, filled with treats and games.

If you missed the Christmas Preview, worry not. The Mercantile, offering an eclectic variety of new and antique home goods, luxury bath and body products and gifts, is open for your shopping pleasure, along with Eight Six O, Brooke Armoire, and The Farmers Wives.

If gift certificates are your thing, most businesses



New to downtown, the ClayGround features ceramic pottery pieces for crafts and other gift items. Owner Brittney Ellis (far left) smiles next to her husband and son as they celebrate their first Christmas season downtown!

downtown offer them – from Game Board Knights, the new board gaming stop in town, to Back in Time Arcade, if you've got a gamer, they've got you covered.

Those focused on health and wellness can see The Pilates Room, HOT Studio, or massage therapist and Co-Owner Sarah Kelley at Eight Six O for gift certificates.

The locally owned small businesses of Gridley welcomed the holiday season with sparkle at the first Christmas Preview – Shop, Sparkle, Stroll event. ★



Co-Owners of Eight Six O, Sarah Kelley and Natalie Ratliff sparkle inside their shop that offers everything from scented candles, sparkling jewelry, chic clothing and spa delights, such as Massage therapy courtesy of Kelley, and salon services!



This little dude was cutting a rug with his momma to the Christmas music that rang through the evening air. This pair danced up a storm outside charming The Farmers Wives boutique.



Yudany, Alezandra and Maria Gutierrez help man the counter at The Mercantile, which offered gifts and free hot cocoa to shoppers during the event.



Gridley Recreation & Gridley Moose Lodge

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Join us for a festive & fun holiday celebration with breakfast cooked by Gridley Lions Club & a special visit from Santa!

8:00-11:00am | December 6th

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Pancake Breakfast

Photo Station

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Shoppers browsed through pop up sellers that set up along Hazel St. for the event, such as this permanent jewelry vendor.

City of Live Oak Announces Appointment of New Finance Director

City of Live Oak News Release

LIVE OAK, CA (MPG) - The City of Live Oak is pleased to announce the appointment of Ethan Gutierrez as the city's new Finance Director, with a start date of Dec. 1.

Gutierrez brings a strong background in public-sector finance, with over a decade of local government finance experience with multiple agencies including Yuba City and Sutter County. His work has included municipal budgeting, financial reporting and long-term fiscal planning, giving him a well-rounded foundation to support the city's financial operations.

Gutierrez holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in accounting, further strengthening his expertise in governmental finance and fiscal management.

In his new role, Gutierrez will oversee the city's budgeting, accounting, financial planning and fiscal management. His leadership will help further the city's commitment to transparency, operational efficiency and responsible stewardship of public resources. ★



The City of Live Oak is pleased to announce the appointment of Ethan Gutierrez as the city's new Finance Director. Photo courtesy of the City of Live Oak

The City of Live Oak welcomes Ethan Gutierrez to this important role and looks forward to the positive contributions he will bring to the organization and the community. ★

Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

Here we are at the time of second harvest and giving thanks. Our second harvest is green beans. They are growing so well after being planted in September. I will be using them at Thanksgiving as green beans not a casserole. The eggplant is still going strong with the fruit it had already set. No new flowers so it is probably done. The 300 onion

plants are in to grow through the winter and be ready in the spring. We have some cauliflower plants going that are starting to set. The artichokes are not fruiting but the plants are getting huge. The mandarins are sweetening up and we are starting to eat them. The oranges will linger on the tree for some time until they are sweet. Because of that tree I no longer eat an orange not at its peak so I wait until the end of December and beginning of January to enjoy them. My tiny potted kumquat has an excellent small crop. Of course, the chard is getting big and will be welcomed during the cool winter days. I grew up eating spinach with chili beans. I now eat chili beans with

chard and always love that winter comfort food. I've been enjoying the last of our vegetables in Minestrone soup lately, such a lovely soup full of goodness.

I am thankful for all of that and so much more. I always am thankful that the City of Gridley has planted so many beautiful trees with Autumn colors along our streets. It is a gift of being immersed in rich colors as I drive home. I've been collecting some and treating them with glycerin. They keep most of their color. May each of you have the gift/feast of nature's beauty throughout this colder time of the year. Practice Gratefulness it will help you through any type of hardship. ★

Parade Open House

Gridley Christian Church News Release

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - On Wednesday, Dec. 3 Gridley Christian Church will open

its doors from 5p.m. to 8 p.m. for all to come in and warm up, have a hot drink or use our clean restrooms.

We also have free Bibles available. A ramp is located

on the east side of the building for those who need it. Enjoy the parade and have a very Merry Christmas.

To speak with Pastor Ed call 530-846-4002. ★



California Peach Growers File Half-Billion-Dollar Claim

California cling peach growers face an uncertain future after long-term contracts worth more than a half-billion dollars in total were voided by Del Monte Foods, which filed for bankruptcy in July. In August, the major canned foods company exercised its right under federal bankruptcy law to reject its contracts with members of the California Canning Peach Association, which represents about 70% of the state's cling peach growers. Del Monte's rejection of peach contracts has left several dozen growers without a future buyer for their fruit, exposing some to steep losses should they fail to recoup the upfront cost—typically several thousand dollars per acre—of developing their orchards. "We have lots of anxious peach growers not sure what the future holds for them," said Rich Hudgins, president and CEO of the peach association. This month, the association filed a claim seeking \$555 million in damages.

State Proposal to Require Reporting on Treated Seeds

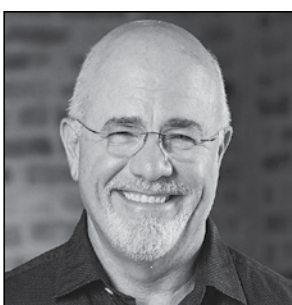
The California Department of Pesticide Regulation plans to add pesticide-treated seeds to the monthly use reports growers already must file with county agricultural commissioners. As part of the proposal, the state would also limit seed treatments to those products registered both federally and by the state. Under a lawsuit settlement between DPR and

environmental groups, the state must develop and finalize a rule to label and track pesticide-treated seed use by Jan. 1, 2027. Paul Sanguinetti, who farms tree and row crops with his sons near Stockton, has for years relied on pesticide treatments on corn seed to control soil-borne pests such as wireworms. Should the proposal be adopted as written, Sanguinetti said it would add more recordkeeping at times to an already cumbersome task. "It's another reporting job when you're trying to plant," Sanguinetti said.

Report Maps Impact of Wine Market Woes on Vineyard Acreage

California winegrape growers removed nearly 40,000 acres of vineyards—roughly 7% of the state's winegrape acreage—between October 2024 and August 2025, according to a new report commissioned by the California Association of Winegrape Growers. The 2025 Standing Winegrape Acreage report, which was conducted by Land IQ and released earlier this month, provided the most detailed view yet on the location and amount of acreage growers have pulled out in response to a global downturn in wine sales. "We have a lot of information now about the acreage in the state, and we have a good basis and foundation to go forward now in having more accurate numbers and being able to make better predictions about where we're going in the future," said Jeff Bitter, president of the grower-owned marketing group Allied Grape Growers. ★

Dave Ramsey Says All of Your Brain Means Both of You



Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

My husband and I live in India. I'm from the States, and he was born here. When it comes to our finances, I manage our American investments, and he manages our Indian investments. Every month, we sit down with spreadsheets and go over our finances. I trust him completely, but I'd like to better understand our investments here and how they work. Should I just defer to his judgment, or should I learn to understand things a little better?

—Anna

Dear Anna,

I always tell folks to make sure they completely understand their investments and how they work. So, there's absolutely nothing wrong with learning more about the side of your investments he manages.

I learned a long time ago that when you're married

and it comes to making decisions, you should use all of your brain. That means both of you. Two heads are better than one, right? Back when I made all my mistakes with money and we went broke, I didn't listen to anyone about anything. I thought I knew it all. We had investments and owned pieces of property my wife never knew about or laid eyes on.

When it came to our finances, she always trusted me and told me to do what I thought was best. Well, it turns out, I was an idiot. If I'd had an ounce of sense or humility back then, I'd have gone to her with my all my bright ideas. Knowing her thoughts or hearing her say, "I don't know about that, honey. I've got a bad feeling about it" might've saved us a lot of pain and heartache — if I'd listened. But now, I understand like never before the meaning of Proverbs 31:10-12. "Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is above rubies. The heart of her hus-

band safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain" (NKJV).

I'm sure your husband is lot smarter about things than I was. And he's obviously open to talking with you about all this and showing you things. That's a really good sign. But if I were him, and something were to happen, I'd want you to understand everything. I'd want you to know exactly what you have going on and how it all works.

Great question, Anna!

—Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★

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BCSO Announces Upgrade to Emergency Notification System



Butte County
KORY L. HONEA, SHERIFF-CORONER

Butte County Sheriff's Office News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Butte County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) announces a major upgrade to its emergency notification system. Since late 2017, Butte County Sheriff's Office has relied on the CodeRED Emergency Notification System. Due to an ongoing outage with CodeRED, the Sheriff's Office has decided to transition to the California RAVE platform for emergency alerts and notifications.

This upgrade ensures that residents and businesses will continue to receive timely and accurate emergency notifications. While all other

existing emergency notification methods will remain in place, the new RAVE platform will enhance our capabilities.

In compliance with California Government Code Section 8593.4, in the near future, Butte County Sheriff's Office will be importing customer contact lists from local public utilities into the new system. However, the Sheriff's Office emphasizes that the most accurate and up-to-date information should be provided by Butte County community members themselves.

To ensure you receive emergency alerts tailored to your preferences, Butte County Sheriff's Office encourages all residents

to create and manage their own accounts through the RAVE's Smart911 platform. By doing so, individuals can choose their preferred language and select the methods through which they would like to be notified in the event of an emergency.

Residents can sign up at the following link: <https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action...>

The Butte County Sheriff's Office appreciates the community's ongoing support and reminds everyone to remain vigilant by staying informed about weather conditions, monitoring local news, observing activity in their neighborhoods, and maintaining a personal emergency plan. ★

Cal Fire Needs Your Help to Fill the Boot!



CalFIRE firemen collecting funds for Fill the Boot fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Photo courtesy of CAL FIRE/Butte County

Cal Fire Butte Unit News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Help Cal Fire Butte Unit Firefighters fill the boot for the Muscular Dystrophy Association this Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Firefighters will be present in Gridley at the intersection of Highway 99 and Magnolia St. and in Oroville at the cross section of Oroville Dam Blvd East and Feather River Road.

What is fill the boot? Since 1954, fire fighters across the country have collected critical funds in the community, one dollar at a time, as part of the Fill the Boot program to raise money for Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA).

The partnership between Muscular Dystrophy Association and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) began when the International Association of Fire Fighters signed a proclamation designating Muscular Dystrophy Association as its charity of choice, vowing to continue raising awareness and funds to ensure effective treatments and therapies are found. The dollars raised through Fill the Boot fund Muscular Dystrophy Association's mission of empowering people living with neuromuscular disease to live longer, more independent lives.

It all began when a group of families affected by muscular dystrophy approached Boston Firefighters Local 718 to ask professional fire fighters to help fight muscular dystrophy. Responding enthusiastically, the fire fighters took to the streets with their boots in hand to ask Greater Boston to make donations that

would be used to fight muscular dystrophy.

The Fill the Boot campaign was an instant success, with the International Association of Fire Fighters membership passing a resolution to support Muscular Dystrophy Association's fight against muscular dystrophy until treatments and cures are found. Almost 70 years later, the International Association of Fire Fighters continues its tradition as the top fundraising organization for Muscular Dystrophy Association today, raising millions each year to support Muscular Dystrophy Association reach faster breakthroughs and stronger futures for families.

Because of the support of fire fighters, Muscular Dystrophy Association has been able to fund research directly linked to FDA-approved therapies across multiple neuromuscular diseases. These therapies are life-changing for Muscular Dystrophy Association families, giving them greater access to life's possibilities. Funding supports the advancement of care through the Muscular Dystrophy Association Care Center Network and much-needed education, recreation, advocacy, and community programs. This would not have been possible without the support of the International Association of Fire Fighters and fire fighters across the US.

We're proud to have the International Association of Fire Fighters as our largest national partner and are thankful for the thousands of fire fighters who have participated in Fill the Boot drives across America, as well as those who have volunteered countless hours at Muscular Dystrophy Association Summer Camps.

For as long as it takes, we'll be filling those boots together. ★

Demitri Camperos Completes 700-Mile Firewalk to Paradise

Continued from page 1

documentary about Doris "Granny D" Haddock, who walked from the Pasadena Rose Bowl to Washington, D.C., in 1999 at the age of 90 to raise national awareness for campaign finance reform — a movement that helped pave the way for the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002.

"It was like night and day, almost like flipping the light on in your head," Camperos explained. "I thought, 'Wow, if this little old lady can do something so inspiring and cool, surely I could do something in California within my own state that's been impacted by fires relentlessly.'"

The idea stuck, and after four months of research and preparation — despite having never backpacked before — he committed to the journey. He also promised loved ones he would stay sheltered each night, relying on a patchwork of relatives, B&Bs, hotels, and, at times, kind strangers.

"There's a whole culture of people on bikes traveling across the country and offering people to stay with them and vice versa," he said, recommending an app called Warm Showers. "I met an incredible retired

dairy farmer who was a cyclist and the experience that I had, 300 feet away from his dairy farm, was unforgettable... definitely not an experience I had on my bingo card."

On day 31 of his 33-day route, Camperos walked through Wheatland, taking in the migrating waterfowl and the distant silhouette of the Sutter Buttes. By nightfall, he had found a warm refuge at Yuba City's historic Harkey House and spent the evening talking with hosts Bob and Lee Jones.

"That Harkey House was fantastic, the people who run it — Bob and Lee Jones — so hospitable, so kind," Camperos said. "There's something so moving about being in a home 150 years old that has all the modern amenities and everything. It was just fantastic."

"He was an amazing guest with fascinating stories," Lee Jones added.

Like other long-distance walkers — including the Walking America couple who passed through Yuba City earlier this month — Camperos avoided freeways and often "relied on the kindness of strangers" along the way. He said that generosity became one of the

defining, healing parts of the journey.

"Ever since the fires I was not in the best place mentally and emotionally," he said. "This trip gave me a lot of pride for my state. California — for all the things people criticize it for — it's beautiful, it's wonderful and so diverse in its landscape and scenery, and the people are just warm and fantastic."

After reaching Paradise, Camperos met up with a friend who drove him back to Altadena. He plans to finish out the school year as a substitute teacher and hopes to continue pursuing community-oriented work and fire-awareness efforts.

"For me, more than anything else, it was just getting the word out and reminding people that we're here — the news moves on, but we're in it," Camperos said. "We're in it for the long haul, and any bit of reminder that we're doing our best, and that spirit of resilience is very important to me."

Those still interested in donating to Camperos's cause can visit his GoFundMe page at gofundme.com/fire-victim-fundraiser-story-700-miles-on-foot. ★

Candy Cane Lane Musical

Gridley Christian Church News Release

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - On Sunday, Dec. 7 at 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. the Kids Choir will present this entertaining musical at Gridley Christian Church. There are 16 children from 4 years old through eighth grade who will sing and act and who want you to come to this free event. Included also are costumes, stage lighting and set design that will transport you

to an amazing dreamland.

Marsha (Arabella Johnson), Mark (Declan Hildebrand) and Mindy (Lyla Watson) are children trying to make a cake to celebrate Christmas when the mother (Isabella Taylor) puts them to bed with a story. Dreamland is entered and the three children meet Candy Cane Jane (Celeste Watson), Miss Ginger (Keelia Hildebrand), Engineers Casey and Junior (Paul Pino, Kingston Cooke), Baby Bob

(Marcus Hildebrand) and some Soul Food Forest characters. Candy Cane Jane reveals the meaning of the candy cane and how it is to always remind us of the birth of Jesus.

Gridley Christian Church is located at 580 Washington Street. For more information about Kids Choir call Bonnie on 530-933-9845. Rehearsals for the spring musical "Fat, Fat Jehoshaphat" will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 6. ★

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California Sees Revenue Uptick

Not Enough to Erase Its Chronic Budget Deficit



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

In the four months since the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom enacted a new state budget, revenues — primarily from personal income taxes — have outstripped expectations by several billion dollars. The uptick has buoyed hopes within the Capitol that California’s chronic budget deficits might disappear if the revenue surge continues. That would spare Newsom and legislators from having to dream up more accounting gimmicks, deferrals and loans to cover the gap between income and outgo.

However, the Legislature’s fiscal advisor, Legislative Analyst Gabe Petek, threw cold water on those rosy scenarios Wednesday. He sees recent revenue gains as a spike driven by an artificial intelligence boomlet in Silicon Valley that’s likely to implode, as have previous tech-related bubbles.

“With so much exuberance surrounding AI, it now appears time to take seriously the notion that the stock market has become overheated,” Petek says in his annual fiscal overview, which predates the governor’s introduction of a new budget. “History suggests that the stock market is prone to overreact to major

technological advances, even if the technology itself turns out to be revolutionary.”

Instead of savoring a surge in revenues that would erase what officials are calling a “structural deficit” that is somewhere in the \$10-20 billion range, officials should anticipate a larger gap, Petek says. “Under our revenue and spending estimates, the Legislature faces an almost \$18 billion budget problem in 2026-27,” Petek says. “This is about \$5 billion larger than the budget problem anticipated by the administration in June, despite improvements in revenue.”

The analyst notes that California’s constitution requires the state put money toward public schools and reserves, which will “almost entirely offset revenue gains,” and toward other spending that’s running about \$6 billion over the current budget’s estimates.

“Starting in 2027-28, we estimate structural deficits to grow to about \$35 billion annually due to spending growth continuing to outstrip revenue growth,” Petek says.

It should be noted, not for the first time, that California’s chronic deficit is not caused by an economic downturn, which has occurred in the past, but rather by an enormous error by Newsom and his budget advisors three years ago.

In 2022, they projected a permanent increase in revenues, based on a one-time spike, leading Newsom to declare a \$97.5 billion budget surplus, boasting “No other state in

American history has ever experienced a surplus as large as this.”

Confident that the money would be there, Newsom and lawmakers fattened up the spending side of the budget, only to learn that the supposed surplus was based on what was later acknowledged to be a \$165 billion overstatement of revenues over four years.

Ever since, revenues have failed to cover the elevated spending, and Newsom and lawmakers have covered the gaps with the aforementioned gimmicks. They have incurred more than \$20 billion in internal loans from special funds that must be repaid. They also have drawn down reserves that were supposed to cover genuine emergencies, not political shortsightedness.

Newsom and his staff are now in the final throes of drafting an initial 2026-27 budget that will be his last as governor and will be unveiled in January. The question is whether he will face the fiscal music and finally write a truly balanced budget or employ more short-term fixes and dump the problem on his successor.

That would mean either making real cuts in spending or raising taxes, both of which would take some courage. The past has not been encouraging.

Dan Walters is one of the most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state’s political, economic, social and demographic trends. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



There are over 19,000 incorporated cities in the United States, but only 30 of those cities can make claim to having an NBA franchise. One of those cities is California’s capital, Sacramento.

Troubled times have suddenly unfolded in the city of trees, as our beloved basketball team recently went on an extended losing streak that reached 8 games.

Vitriol abounded and it seemed like Chicken Little had taken up residence in river city.

Radio stations that typically would posture with the glass half full were going the other way, with endless ideas of how quickly this franchise can blow up the current team.

When a steady hand at the wheel was needed, not much was coming from the owner, GM, or the new coach of the team.

Not a recipe for success, so imagine after 8 disappointing defeats in a row that the Sactown boys would fly into Denver and stand off the mighty Nuggets. No imagining needed because that’s exactly what the Kings did. While no one had an answer for the daunting center of the Nuggets, Nikola Jovic, who put up 44 points and 13 rebounds, the Kings controlled the rest of the lineup while playing perhaps their best 4th quarter of the young season.

No win could have come at a better time for a team that was getting zero respect from NBA pundits and hometown fans alike.

Much has been said about the pure talent on this team, with future hall of famers like Russell Westbrook, DeMar DeRozan, and Zach Lavine likely candidates for the Naismith Hall in Springfield Massachusetts, but the real conundrum is finding a way to get these accomplished ballers to play seamlessly together. That’s exactly what happened last Saturday night and I think it took the Nuggets by surprise.

No 4th quarter collapse on this night, as Russell Westbrook put up 21 big points, while Dennis Schroder matched Westbrooks total with 21 points of his own, while coming off the bench once again.

In this matchup Denver couldn’t focus on any one player, as Sacramento had some of the most even scoring, they have enjoyed all season. While Westbrook

dropped 15 of his 21 points in the 4th quarter, it was the ageless stalwart DeMar DeRozan that Sacramento turned to in the last minute of the game. Making 6 straight points DeMar made a crucial 3-point play the old-fashioned way, banking in a shot and converting the foul on the free throw line with only seconds remaining.

The Kings actually won a game from the free throw line, converting 22 of 23 attempts and demonstrated it is possible to be a good free throw shooting team!

Welcome back Keegan Murray as Keegan added 19 crucial points to the fray in only his second game back from injury, and if this performance is a glimpse of things to come, perhaps some of the hyperbole will subside and cooler heads will prevail.

Sacramento fans had to endure the debacle that was trading away the face of the franchise in DeAaron Fox less than a year ago and going through something similar would not be easy for a team still searching for their identity.

A word of reassurance coming from ownership would be nice at a time like this.

Suspect moves within the game such as sitting defensive specialist Keon Ellis for the first 3 quarters in back-to-back blowout losses simply have to stop. Sitting court-side in Golden One Arena while the crowd chants, “we want Keon, we want Keon,” is a bad look at the very least, and Doug Christie must be better than this.

Having Keegan Murray back in the lineup is a shot in the arm, but let’s not forget that the Kings accomplished this remarkable win with Domantas Sabonis sidelined with a knee injury.

Fans want to see a return to basics, like making free throws, and getting back on defense. Exerting energy and playing with passion is what Kings fans have become accustomed to, and I believe this team will not let their fan base down.

Coaches, put your players in places where they can succeed and find a rotation that every player can count on. We need good coaching and coaching that makes sense.

All the best!
Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

SPARKY'S CORNER

9 Volt Battery Safety

9-volt batteries power our smoke alarms, household items, and toys. They can be found in most homes, but these batteries can be a fire hazard if not stored safely or disposed of with care.

THE PROBLEM:

- 9-volt batteries can be dangerous. The positive and negative posts are close together. If a metal object touches the two posts of a 9-volt battery, it can cause a short circuit. This can make enough heat to start a fire.
- It is unsafe to store 9-volt batteries in a drawer near paper clips, coins, pens, or other batteries. Do not store common household items such as steel wool, aluminum foil, and keys near 9-volt batteries. If these items touch the two posts, there is a greater risk of a fire starting.
- Weak batteries may have enough charge to cause a fire. Some fires have started in trash when 9-volt batteries were thrown away with other metal items.

STORING 9-VOLT BATTERIES:

- Keep batteries in original packaging until you are ready to use them. If loose, keep the posts covered with masking, duct, or electrical tape. Prevent the posts from coming in contact with metal objects.
- Keep them someplace safe where they won’t be tossed around.
- Store batteries standing up:
- 9-volt batteries should not be stored loose in a drawer.
- Do not store them in containers with other batteries.

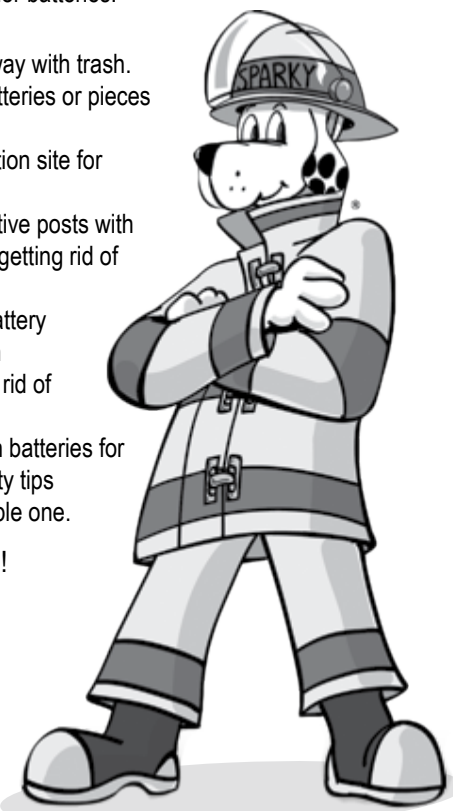
DISPOSAL:

- 9-volt batteries should not be thrown away with trash. They can come in contact with other batteries or pieces of metal.
- 9-volt batteries can be taken to a collection site for household hazardous waste.
- To be safe, cover the positive and negative posts with masking, duct, or electrical tape before getting rid of batteries.
- Some states do not allow any type of battery to be disposed of with trash. Check with your city or town for the best way to get rid of batteries.

So, when you are preparing to stock up on batteries for the holidays, remember these simple safety tips to keep your holidays a safe and memorable one.

Thank You, and Happy Holidays!!

Sparky the Dog
Gridley Fire Station 74



Ask DR. UNIVERSE

Dr. Universe: What’s the Hardest Math Equation in the World?

- James, 6, Washington State

Dear James,

There weren’t calculators or computers in medieval Europe. But there were math duels.

Mathematicians would gather in public squares and pose tricky math problems to each other. Then they raced to solve them. Victors might win money, fame or a university job. (Sadly, this isn’t how I got my job.)

People still noodle on difficult math puzzles for work and fun today.

That’s what my friend Daryl DeFord told me. He’s a mathematician at Washington State University.

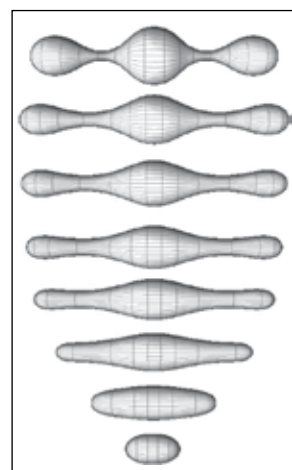
“That’s really what math is all about,” he said. “You find something that doesn’t quite make sense, and you keep poking at it until it does.”

Some math problems are difficult because they take a long time to solve. Others are tricky because no one has ever solved them.

There are even modern math contests—a lot like those medieval math duels. In 2000, the Clay Mathematics Institute named seven Millennium Prize Problems. Each of these math problems has a \$1 million prize for the solver.

The Riemann Hypothesis is one of the most famous problems in that set. It’s about prime numbers. That’s any whole number that can only be divided by 1 and itself—like 2, 3, 5, 7 and 11.

Back in 1859, a mathematician said there’s



So far, just one Millennium Prize Problem has been solved. In 2003, Grigori Perelman proved the Poincaré Conjecture. That’s about how shapes can be stretched or bent in different dimensions. To figure it out, Perelman used Ricci flow—shown in this image. That smooths out a shape in space. It’s like imagining the shape is rubber and heating it to even out any bumps or lumps. But Perelman turned down the prize money. He was only interested in the work. Courtesy photo

probably a pattern to describe how prime numbers are distributed. But so far nobody can prove that pattern exists—even though they’ve been working on it for more than 165 years.

Those kinds of math problems require advanced math knowledge. But there are technically simpler math mysteries, too.

The odd perfect number problem might be the oldest math problem of all. A perfect number is one whose proper divisors add together to equal the number itself. The number 6 is a perfect number because its divisors—1, 2 and 3—add up to 6.

But nobody has ever found an odd perfect number. People have been looking for one for thousands of years.

DeFord told me many mathematicians have personal math puzzles, too. These are math problems that grab their attention. They work on those problems for years or even decades.

DeFord has a problem like that.

Let’s say you have a 4 x 4 grid—so a page with 16 squares. And you have four shapes made of four blocks stuck together. How many ways can you cover the grid with those pieces? The answer is 117.

We know the answers for grids up to 9 x 9 with shapes made of nine blocks. (The 9 x 9 answer is 706,152,947,468,301.)

“The number of solutions for the 9 x 9 grid is staggeringly huge,” DeFord laughs. “Actually, one of my friends sent me a message this weekend claiming that by devoting 3TB of RAM on a super computer at Yale he will know the 10 x 10 value in the next couple of weeks—and maybe as soon as tomorrow.”

Whether that happens or not, he’s not giving up—and neither should you. I hope you take up your own impaw-ssible math problem and make it your own.

Consider this your personal invitation to a math duel.

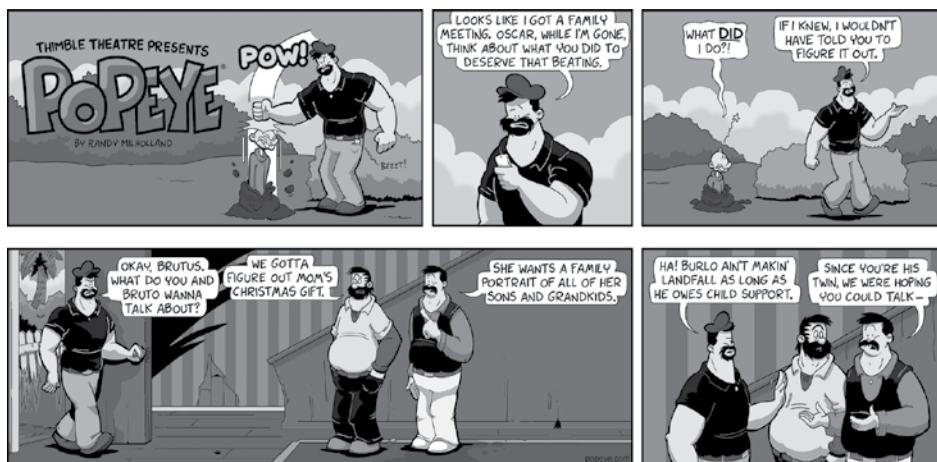
Sincerely,
Dr. Universe

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

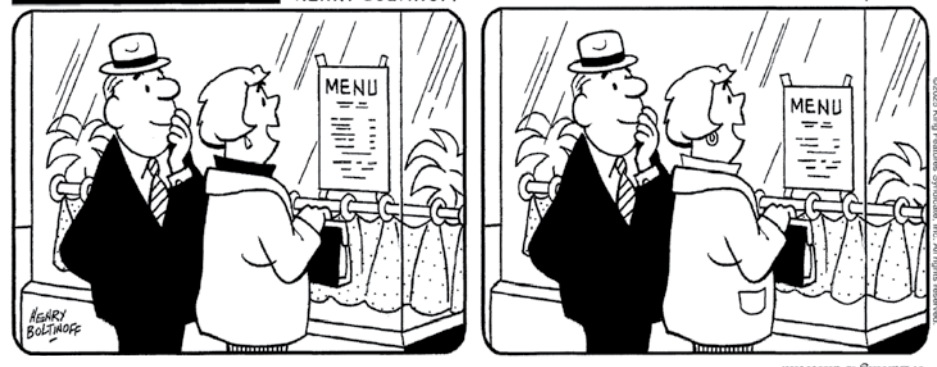
Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

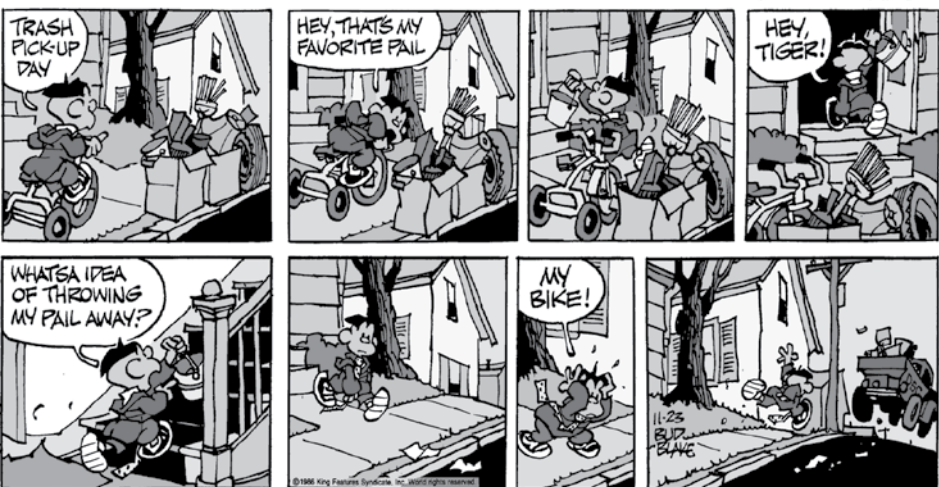


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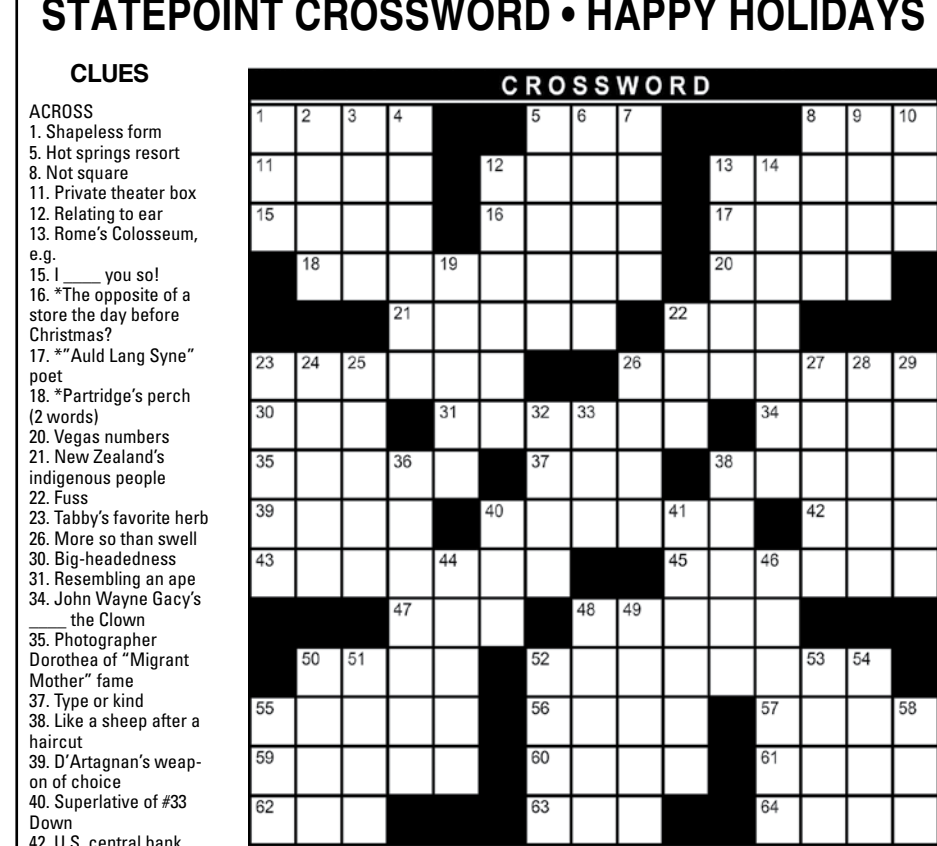


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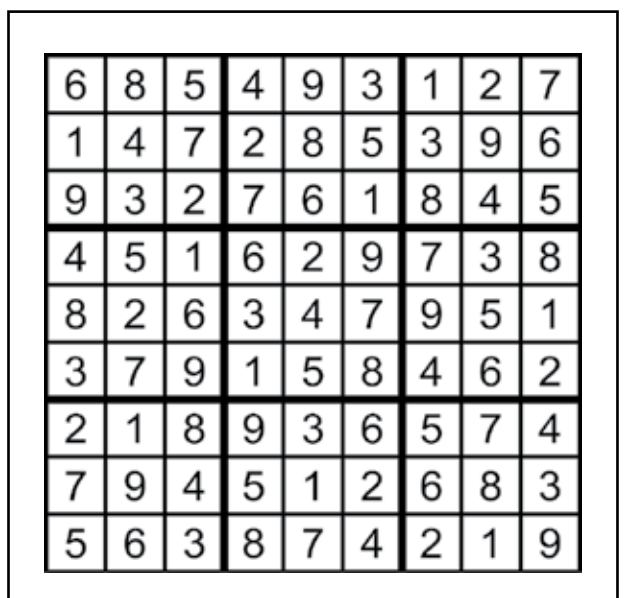


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AGI 11-28-25

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Christy Santillan, 765 Township Road, Gridley, CA 95948
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Kris Scott and Jon E Scott, PO Box 412, Biggs, CA 95917
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FIVE 11-28-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000774
The following person(s) are doing business as: My Oriental Market, 2550 S Whitman Place, Chico, CA 95928
My Oriental Market, 2550 S Whitman Place, Chico, CA 95928
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act business under the above business name on: N/A

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MY 12-5-25

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ALIGNMENT 12-5-25

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Adrian Torres, PO Box 1951, Paradise, CA 95967
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This Business is conducted by: An Individual.
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FIESTA 12-12-25

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The following person(s) are doing business as: R and R Cleaning, 200 Ford Avenue Apt 10, Gridley, CA 95948
Candy A Vanhuss, 200 Ford Avenue Apt 10, Gridley, CA 95948
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CLEANING 12-12-25

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The following person(s) are doing business as: Luxe & Glow Studio, 260 E 1st Street, Chico, CA 95928
Lenia C Garcia, PO Box 5125, Chico, CA 95927
Date filed in Butte County: September 11, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: September 11, 2025

This Business is conducted by: An Individual.
NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code.

Publish: Nov 21, 28, Dec 5, 12, 2025
LUXE 12-12-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000822
The following person(s) are doing business as: Hope and Health Marketing International, 838 Nancy Lane, Chico, CA 95926
Edmund Trujillo, 838 Nancy Lane, Chico, CA 95926
Date filed in Butte County: November 5, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: April 10, 1990

This Business is conducted by: An Individual.
NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Nov 21, 28, Dec 5, 12, 2025
HOPE 12-12-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000809
The following person(s) are doing business as: Norcal Tech Repair, 2064 Talbert Drive, Suite 301, Chico, CA 95928
Adam E Hutcheson, 2581 California Park Drive Apt 138, Chico, CA 95928
Date filed in Butte County: October 31, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: An Individual.
NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Nov 21, 28, Dec 5, 12, 2025
NORCAL 12-12-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000833
The following person(s) are doing business as: Orobliss Massage, 2045 Robinson, Oroville, CA 95965
Steven A Simmons, 8070 Utah Avenue, Oroville, CA 95966 and Terrell R Jonak, 1502 Pomona Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965
Date filed in Butte County: November 12, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: November 12, 2025

This Business is conducted by: A General Partnership.
NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, 19, 2025
OROBLISS 12-19-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000840
The following person(s) are doing business as: Children's Hope Counseling Services, 567 Virginia Street, Gridley, CA 95948
Children's Hope Foster Family Agency, 567 Virginia Street, Gridley, CA 95948
Date filed in Butte County: November 14, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: A Corporation.
NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, 19, 2025
HOPE 12-19-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000813
The following person(s) are doing business as: Grow Chico LLC, 6 Franciscan Way, Chico, CA 95973
Grow Chico LLC, 6 Franciscan Way, Chico, CA 95973
Date filed in Butte County: November 4, 2025. The

Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 2025

This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.
NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, 19, 2025
GROW 12-19-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000799
The following person(s) are doing business as: Beezy's Closet, 584 W Evans Reimer Road, Gridley, CA 95948
Murillo, Lupe, 584 W Evans Reimer Road, Gridley, CA 95948
Date filed in Butte County: October 29, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: August 25, 2025

This Business is conducted by: An Individual.
NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, 19, 2025
BEEZYS 12-19-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000783
The following person(s) are doing business as: Walmart #1575/Walmart Pharmacy #10-1575/Walmart Vision Center #30-1575, 465 Cal Oak Road, Oroville, CA 95965
Walmart Inc., 1 Customer Drive, Bentonville, AR 72716
Date filed in Butte County: October 24, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: August 7, 2025

This Business is conducted by: A Corporation.
NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, 19, 2025
WALMART 12-19-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000784
The following person(s) are doing business as: Walmart #2044/Walmart Pharmacy #10-2044/Walmart Vision Center #30 #2044, 2044 Forest Avenue, Chico, CA 95928
Walmart Inc., 1 Customer Drive, Bentonville, AR 72716
Date filed in Butte County: October 24, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: August 7, 2025

This Business is conducted by: A Corporation.
NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, 19, 2025
WALMART 12-19-25

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #25CV04337
Petitioner Anthony Bernard MacMaster filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Anthony Bernard MacMaster to Anthony Bernard Shoemaker.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing January 7, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Department TBD, Room TBD, Superior Court of California, County of Butte, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928
Filed on November 7, 2025

Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, 19, 2025
MACMASTER 12-19-25

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF WALLACE CLARK RONEY CASE NO. 25PR00484

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate of Wallace Clark Roney.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by George Edward Knox III, in the Superior Court of California, County of Butte, requesting George Edward Knox III be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: December 16, 2025, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 1. Superior Court of California, County of Butte, 1775 Concord Avenue, Chico, CA 95928.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Petitioner is: PO Box 3061, Chico, CA 95927; 916-877-6270
Publish: Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, 2025
RONEY 12-12-25

TRUSTEE SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Foreclosure No. 7301309 APN# 116-290-011 On December 16, 2025 at 11:00 a.m., Mid Valley Title and Escrow Company, Trustee, or Successor Trustee or Substituted Trustee of that certain Deed of Trust executed by Gordon Wiecezorek and Jackie S. Wiecezorek, husband and wife as joint tenants, and recorded February 3, 2003 as Instrument No. 2003-0001315, of Official Records of Plumas, California, and pursuant to that certain Notice of Default thereunder recorded August 6, 2025 as Instrument No. 2025-0003474, of Official Records of said County, will under and pursuant to said Deed of Trust sell at public auction for cash, lawful money of the United States of America, a cashier's check payable to said Trustee drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, at the main entrance to the County Courthouse located at 520 Main Street, Quincy, CA 95971, all that right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust and in the property situated in said County and State described as: as shown on said Deed of Trust (X)The street address or other common designation of said property: 147, 153 & 157 Fairgrounds Rd., Quincy, CA 95971 (X)Name and address of the beneficiary at whose request the sale is being conduct-

ed: Plumas Bank, PO Box 210, Quincy, CA 95971 Directions to the above property may be obtained by requesting same in writing from the beneficiary within 10 days from the first publication of this notice. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, as to title, possession or encumbrances to satisfy the unpaid balance due on the note or notes secured by said Deed of Trust, plus estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Sale: \$40,054.32 **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED JANUARY 27, 2003 UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.** **NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 1-916-939-0772 or visit this internet website: <http://www.nationwideposting.com> address for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 7301309. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website <http://www.nationwideposting.com>. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 1-916-939-0772, or visit this internet website <http://www.nationwideposting.com>, using the file number assigned to this case 7301309 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. The undersigned mortgagee, beneficiary or authorized agent for the mortgagee or beneficiary declares that the mortgagee or beneficiary has satisfied the requirements of California Civil Code 2923.5. **DATED: 11/06/2025 MID VALLEY TITLE AND ESCROW COMPANY** Address: 601 Main Street Chico, California 95928 Phone: (530) 879-2527 BY: Greg Wood, Vice President NPP0480995
To: GRIDLEY HERALD - PLUMAS 11/21/2025, 11/28/2025, 12/05/2025
GRIDLEY HERALD 12-5-25



Gridley AAUW Sends Local Techies to UC Davis

Story and photos
by Tracy Howell,
Gridley Branch
President of AAUW

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Gridley Branch American Auxiliary of University Women (AAUW) Tech Trek girls shared their UC Davis summer camp experiences with AAUW members, family and friends recently.

The girls spoke about their core classes, project-based STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) classes like robotics, engineering, coding, anatomy, biology and genetics, where campers participate in hands-on activities.

During the one-week camp, mornings focused on core classes within a specific STEM subject. Afternoons included rotational workshops, on-campus field trips to places like the Veterinary School, the Mondavi Theater and other hands-on activities. Evening activities such as talks with women in STEM careers, social events and team-building fun rounded out each day.

Eating great food,



From left are Rio Espino, Mary Lybrand, Lydia Thompson, Emersyn Moore and Gemma Ramirez with Sonia Zarate, Gridley Branch AAUW Tech Trek Coordinator.

broadening their horizons, feeling more confident, meeting girls from across northern California, making new friends, learning about overcoming challenges, discovering new careers, thinking about the future and acquiring new and practical skills are just some of the

comments shared by the girls about the Tech Trek summer camp held at UC Davis in July.

Since 1881, AAUW has been promoting equity and education for women and girls. Tech Trek began in 1998 and is being expanded across the U.S.

Girls attend Tech Trek camps hosted by AAUW California on scholarships provided by AAUW members, generous individuals, community organizations and memorial donations. From participating middle schools in our area, seventh grade science

and math teachers recommend camper candidates who must pass through an extensive qualification process that includes an application, an essay and a personal interview.

We hope that the Tech Trek campers continue to study STEM subjects and ultimately pursue a career

in these fields.

For more information about AAUW and helping support Tech Trek, visit <https://www.aauw-ca.org/>, <https://www.aauw-ca.org/about-us/>, <https://www.aauw-ca.org/tech-trek/>, <https://www.aauw-ca.org/join-us-2/> ★

Community Calendar

Butte County Libraries

Butte County Libraries have the following upcoming events: (G) Gridley branch, 299 Spruce St. and (B) Biggs branch, 464A B St. Call 530-552-5652 for more information.

Friday, Nov. 28: Libraries closed for Thanksgiving holiday.

Monday, Dec. 1: Gridley book club for adults, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (G) Gridley Friends of the Library meeting, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (G)

Tuesday, Dec. 2: Creative writing group for adults, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (G) LEGO Tuesday, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B)

Wednesday, Dec. 3: Color your world, arts and crafts for adults 11 a.m. to noon. (G) Afternoon kids' club, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (G)

Thursday, Dec. 4: Biggs Chess club, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B) Kid Quest, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (G)

Friday, Dec. 5: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (G)

Saturday, Dec. 6: Afternoon kids' club, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (B)

Continuing through Sunday, Jan. 4

Chico Ice Rink

Downtown Chico Plaza, 132 W. 4th St., Chico. Whether you're here with family or friends, come make the most of winter with us on the ice. We offer skating for all ages, skate rentals, and a cozy atmosphere. Check the website at www.chicorec.gov/chico-ice-rink for tickets and latest schedule information.

Saturday, Nov. 29

Chico Indian Market by the Mechoopda Tribe

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Chico Women's Club, 592 E. 3rd St., Chico. Join us for the 8th Annual Chico Indian Market, hosted by the Mechoopda Tribe. This beautiful display of goods will share uncommon cultural artistry.

Small Business Saturday: Oroville

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 1998 Montgomery St., Oroville. If the idea of braving the crowds at big box stores makes you want to cancel gift-giving, don't turn into the Grinch just yet. The cozy, carefully curated shops of Downtown Oroville have you covered. Find unique gifts for your loved ones and get the chance to win a gift for yourself. For every \$20 spent (restaurant or retail), you have the chance to enter to win a basket of downtown goodies and a \$100 gift card from a downtown business of your choice.

Small Business Saturday: Chico

11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 338 Broadway, Chico. Shop local, support your community, and make a big impact in Downtown Chico. Enjoy special activities, promotions, and events designed to highlight the businesses that make our downtown unique. Shoppers

who bring receipts from any downtown business on this day will be entered into a raffle for a gift basket filled with downtown goodies.

Wednesday, Dec. 3

Winter Wonderland Festival & Tree Lighting

5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Daddow Plaza, Hazel and Virginia Streets. Bring the whole family for the tree lighting, music, shopping, and hot chocolate. Olaf and the Princesses will be strolling downtown for pictures and there will be vendors and food trucks for buying holiday gifts and yummy treats. Holiday vendors will be on Kentucky Street starting at 5 p.m. and the tree lighting ceremony begins at 5:30 p.m. The Parade of Lights follows at 6:30 p.m. Please join this wonderful family-friendly holiday celebration with live music and refreshments as the historic tree is decorated and lit for the season.

Thursday, Dec. 4 through Tuesday, Dec. 23

Lights of Hope 2025

3556 Oro Bangor Hwy., Oroville. This event brings the magic of Christmas to life with a spectacular light walk, shimmering with joyful holiday attractions and more than 300,000 lights. This free event invites families to experience the wonder, warmth, and community spirit of the season together. You can also try the custom-built sledding hill, play with inflatables and try a variety of food and drink concessions. More information at www.fathershouseoroville.com/lights-of-hope

Friday, Dec. 5

Small Town Holiday Stroll

5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Community Building parking lot, 10200 O Street, Live Oak. Join the City of Live Oak in this very special holiday tradition. You'll find food and warm beverages, pictures with Santa and the lighting of the City's Christmas tree by the City Mayor at 6:15 p.m.

Community Tree Lighting Ceremony in Downtown Chico

Join us for an enchanting evening filled with music, community spirit, and holiday cheer. The full evening is still being planned, so call 530-345-6500 or email dcb@downtownchico.com for more information.

Saturday, Dec. 6 and Sunday, Dec. 7

Gold Country Hounds and Hunters Dog Show

At the Butte County Fairgrounds, 199 E. Hazel St. This is an outdoor event presented by the United Kennel Club (UKC). Show rings will be outside under cover. Events include conformation, (altered conformation, junior showmanship and novice puppy) and SPOT evaluations. Schedule and more information at 530-846-3626.

Brunch with Santa

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. both days at the CARD Community Center, 545 Vallombrosa Ave., Chico. Join us for a morning filled with holiday fun in our Winter Wonderland. Enjoy a delicious full buffet brunch by Roots Catering, meet Santa and capture your annual holiday photo, and explore Santa's Village with festive crafts, holiday activities and a very merry scavenger hunt in the rose garden. Tickets and more information at www.chicorec.gov/santa

Saturday, Dec. 6

Donuts with Santa

9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Durham Memorial Hall, 9319 Midway, Durham. All tickets include a donut and a drink, plus the DHS jazz band will be performing. \$5 online presale at the Durham Recreation website or \$8 at the door.

Breakfast with Santa

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Oroville Convention Center, 1200 Myers Street, Oroville. Join Santa as he makes his way to the Feather River Recreation and Park District. Enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast and live music before heading into Santa's workshop for holiday crafts. \$15 per attendee - registration is required at www.firpd.com

Butte County Toy Run

9:30 a.m. start at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, 2357 Fair St., Chico. Start your motorcycle, grab a new unwrapped toy, buy a poker hand, T-shirt and pin. Please support Butte County's neediest kiddos and create a Christmas for them. Toys can also be dropped at Sierra Steel Harley-Davidson, 1501 Mangrove Ave., Chico. For more information, call Barbi Boeger at 530-228-7838.

Meeting Minders

Ongoing Activities (Current as of publication, please verify schedule with the organization):

American Legion Bingo, Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Gridley Veterans Hall, 267 Sycamore St.

Biggs City Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday each month, at 6 p.m. in the council chambers, 3016 Sixth St., Biggs. The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 9 and more information is available at 530-368-5493.

Butte County Board of Supervisors generally meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at 25 County Center Drive, Suite 205, Oroville. The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 16 and more information is available at 530-552-3300.

ESL Conversation Group meets Wednesdays from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Esperanza House Family Center, 630 Washington St. Practice speaking English in this free, friendly group setting. All levels are welcome to attend any or all sessions. There is also a Zoom option from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Butte County Library. Contact literacy@buttecounty.net for more information.

Gridley City Council meets on the first and third Monday each month, 6 p.m. in

the council chambers, 685 Kentucky St. Meeting agendas are posted to the following site on the Friday prior to each meeting: <http://gridley.ca.us/government-and-departments/city-council> The next meeting will be Monday, Dec. 1.

Gridley Senior Group Breakfast every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. includes Bingo at 9:30 a.m. Gridley Recreation Center 194 Washington St. For more information, call 530-846-3264.

Gridley Unified School District (GUSD) Board meetings are generally on the first and third Wednesday each month, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, Dec. 10. Call 530-846-4721 for more information.

Live Oak City Council usually meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall, 9955 Live Oak Blvd. Call 530-695-2112 for more information.

Rotary Club of Gridley meets every Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church Hall, 446 Kentucky St. For more information or membership, call 530-632-5990.

Survivors of Suicide Support Group meets the first and third Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. at the Gridley Recreation Department, 194 Washington Street. Next meeting will be on Wednesday, Dec. 3.

Community Resources – Find Food

First 5 Family Center at Esperanza House, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays, at 630 Washington St., Gridley. Caregivers are welcome to drop in for help with resources for their families, access to our food pantry, diapers, and assistance with applications or translations. Call to schedule an appointment: 530-782-0293.

First Baptist Church of Live Oak Food Pantry, 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month, at 2480 Pennington Road, Live Oak. This is a drive-through Food Pantry, with entrance on Gum Street and exit on Pennington Road. Next distribution will be Sunday, Dec. 28. Call 530-695-2894 for more information.

Gridley Senior Food Distribution, 801 Washington Street, Room B. Once a month, call ahead for details: 530-846-4233.

Gridley United Methodist Church, 285 Magnolia St. Monday through Friday, during daytime hours. Come by the church and if they have food they will give client a box.

North State Food Bank, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. monthly at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 410 Jackson St., Gridley. Next distribution will be Tuesday, Dec. 9. Call 530-712-2600 for more information.

North State Food Bank, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Biggs Methodist Church, 441 C St., Biggs. Next distribution will be Tuesday, Dec. 9. Call 530-712-2600 for more information.

Sacred Heart Parish, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 1561 Hazel St., Gridley on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. Call 530-846-2140 for more information. ★

LaMalfa Introduces the ESSENTIAL Act to End Automatic Engine Start-Stop Mandates



Doug LaMalfa

Congressman Doug LaMalfa News Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG) - On Nov. 20, Congressman Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale) introduced H.R. 6200, the Eliminating Start-Stop Engine Nuisance Technologies that Impair Automobile Life (ESSENTIAL) Act, which would end federal mandates and incentives that push automatic engine start-stop systems in cars and trucks.

“One of the most annoying features in many new cars is the engine automatically turning off at stoplights and stop signs. Not only does this make the car feel like it’s stalled, but it causes a delay in acceleration as the engine restarts,” said Rep. LaMalfa. “This unnecessary feature with minimal environmental and mileage benefits wears out engine components faster and pushing a button to turn it off every time a driver starts the car is not a solution. This bill gets rid of Federal interference that requires vehicle manufacturers to put this start-stop nuisance in cars and trucks, which should help actually improve safety and reduce maintenance costs.”

Without direct congressional authorization, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) created “off-cycle technology credits” in 2010 as part of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

and fuel economy standards. These credits effectively reward automakers for installing automatic start-stop technology, a feature that automatically shuts off and restarts engines at stoplights or in traffic, as part of compliance with federal emissions rules.

The Environmental Protection Agency is currently working to repeal existing greenhouse gas emissions standards as part of its broader effort to rescind the 2009 Endangerment Finding on greenhouse gases. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has similarly proposed ending the off-cycle credit program in its recent fuel economy rulemakings. The ESSENTIAL Act complements those actions by ensuring these burdensome mandates are fully repealed and cannot be reinstated.

The ESSENTIAL Act would require the Environmental Protection Agency Administrator and Secretary of Transportation to repeal or rescind any rule, policy, or program that incentivizes or requires automakers to install automatic engine start-stop systems in cars and trucks; prohibit those agencies from issuing any similar rule in the future; allow exceptions only for measures designed to prevent or reduce carbon monoxide poisoning; and, require reports to Congress on implementation progress.

Automatic engine start-stop technology has been widely criticized for causing wear on vehicle components, including starters, alternators and batteries. It can also reduce the effectiveness of air conditioning systems when the engine shuts off, and it often cannot be permanently disabled by the driver.

Congressman Doug LaMalfa is Chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus and a lifelong farmer representing California’s First Congressional District, including Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba Counties. ★

Older Americans Face Cuts as State Shifts Funding

By Susan Meeker

CHICO, CA (MPG) - A proposed state funding formula under Senate Bill 1249 could slash resources for Area Agencies on Aging across California, threatening critical programs for older Americans in rural communities.

Passages, the agency serving Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Plumas and Tehama counties, projects a 30 percent funding cut when the new formula takes effect in fiscal year 2029-30. Similar reductions are expected for other agencies, including those serving Sutter and Yuba counties, raising alarms about the future of services for older adults.

“Removing 31 percent of the funds that feed them, provide them access to services, and work with their Medicare is going to have a devastating effect in this region,” Passages Executive Director Joe Cobery told the Butte County Board of Supervisors on Nov. 18. “And I think what is unfortunate in the state’s plan here is that all of the rural communities of California are going to be suffering as a result of this.”

Passages delivers services that help older Americans remain independent, including home-delivered meals, caregiver support, minor home modifications and emergency aid. A 30 percent cut could reduce meal delivery from five days a week to just three, leaving

many without consistent access to nutrition.

Cobery stressed the disproportionate impact on rural communities.

“In Paradise, 80 percent of those who died in the (Camp Fire) were over the age of 60,” Cobery said. “Older Americans are the most vulnerable population in our region, and these cuts would hit them hardest.”

Senate Bill 1249 would revise California’s funding formula for Area Agencies on Aging. While Passages is sounding the alarm locally, the legislation affects all urban and rural counties served by these agencies, where reductions in resources for meals, caregiver support, transportation, and elder protection programs are expected. The bill also allows counties within multi-county agencies to seek independent designation, a change that could fragment funding and complicate service delivery, Cobery said.

Looking ahead, the first impact of Senate Bill 1249 will arrive in 2026, when the California Department of Aging must identify core programs, update accountability standards, and develop a statewide consumer engagement plan. These steps will not immediately reduce funding but will set the stage for formula changes. Cobery said 2026 will be a critical year for rural communities to make their voices heard, as the state finalizes regulations that will determine how resources are

distributed in the years to come.

Passages, based in Chico, is funded primarily through federal dollars administered by the California Department of Aging, with support from county partnerships and community donations. The agency coordinates services across five counties, offering programs such as caregiver support, elder abuse prevention, health insurance counseling and ombudsman services for long-term care facilities. Through contracts with local nonprofits, Passages also supports congregate and home-delivered meals, transportation, legal assistance, home-making and personal care and Alzheimer’s day care programs.

Cobery said the agency will continue to press for protection of rural services and urged local government leaders to join in the effort.

“We will be testifying at the state; we will be testifying at the federal level as well,” Cobery said.

Local officials acknowledged the serious implications and pledged to stay engaged as the state finalizes its plan. Public comment opportunities will be announced in the coming months. For older Americans in Northern California, the proposed cuts could mean fewer meals, reduced home support services and diminished access to care that helps maintain independence and quality of life, Cobery said. ★

CHP Adds Strength to Ranks with Largest Graduating Class in Nearly 16 Years

California Highway Patrol News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In the largest graduation since December 2009, on Oct. 6, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) proudly welcomed 146 new officers, underscoring the Department’s enduring commitment to public safety and public service in California.

After 26 weeks of rigorous training at the California Highway Patrol Academy in West Sacramento, these newly sworn officers are prepared to carry forward the California Highway Patrol’s mission of safety, service and security, which not only strengthens the Department today but also

builds a stronger foundation for the generations of officers to come.

“The graduates embody the heart of service and sacrifice that defines our profession. These men and women have chosen the path of dedication to others, and we are proud to welcome them into the ranks of law enforcement as they begin their journey to protect and serve California’s communities with integrity and compassion.”

These new officers will now report to one of the California Highway Patrol’s 102 Area offices across California to start their law enforcement careers, protecting and serving communities throughout the state’s 58 counties.



The graduates bring a broad range of skills and experiences to the Department, reflecting their diverse backgrounds.

Among them are former college athletes, military veterans and correctional officers, as well as others with prior public safety experience.

During academy training, cadets receive instruction in traffic enforcement, crash investigation, defensive tactics, firearms, emergency vehicle operations and community policing. The curriculum also focuses on legal responsibilities, communication, ethics and cultural awareness to prepare cadets to serve California’s diverse population.

Following the Oct. 6 graduation ceremony, nearly 300 cadets remain at the California Highway Patrol’s live-in training facility, and an additional 160

cadets are set to start instruction on Oct. 13 as part of the Department’s ongoing efforts to enhance public safety across the state.

The California Highway Patrol continues to actively recruit dedicated individuals who are ready to make a difference in communities throughout California. A career with the California Highway Patrol offers comprehensive training, competitive benefits and opportunities for professional growth and advancement.

To learn more about joining the California Highway Patrol, visit www.CHPMadeForMore.com to take the first step towards a rewarding career in law enforcement. ★

Court Sentences Juvenile for 2023 Murder in South Oroville

Butte County District Attorney’s Office News Release

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - An Oroville juvenile was sentenced on Oct. 3, to seven years in the Butte County Juvenile Hall for a murder committed in 2023 when he was 17 years old.

Dakota Elliott, now 19, of Oroville, was sentenced for first-degree murder with the use of a firearm for the May 2023 shooting death of Ronnie Frazier, 20, of Oroville.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey stated that his office had previously filed a petition in juvenile court in 2023 to transfer the murder case to adult court and try Elliott as an adult, given the serious nature of the murder and the fact that Elliott was on formal juvenile probation at the time of the shooting for previously committing a battery

on a homeless victim that caused serious bodily injury in 2021. Elliott had violated that probation multiple times, including associating with known gang members, associating with others on probation, curfew violations, use of alcohol and drugs and failing to follow the lawful directives of his probation officers.

After numerous continuances by Elliott’s public defender, the contested “transfer hearing” concluded on May 13. Butte County Judge Jesus Rodriguez transferred and ruled that Elliott would remain under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

Following a three-day court trial that began on Sept. 8, Judge Rodriguez upheld the charges against Elliott, finding him guilty of first-degree murder with a firearm.

At the sentencing,



Frazier’s family members addressed the court both in person and through written letters. They also played a YouTube video of Frazier that showcased his musical talent and sense of humor.

In arguing for the maximum sentencing, Supervising Deputy District Attorney Jessica F.

Miller provided an exhaustive review of Elliott’s prior history on probation, noting that the failures in his prior probationary period served as a predictor of Elliott’s future conduct.

Miller told the Court, “Given the history of Elliott on juvenile

probation, it is clear that the prior attempts made to rehabilitate the youth were unsuccessful. Dakota sustained multiple violations of probation, and while he completed an intensive program while housed in the juvenile hall, once Elliott was released, he resumed his pattern of dangerous behavior, including alcohol and drug consumption, associating with members of a criminal street gang, and ultimately, murdering Ronnie Frazier.”

Miller argued that the inability to safely supervise Elliott in the community on probation in the past was an indication that the Court should not allow Elliott out on any earlier probation.

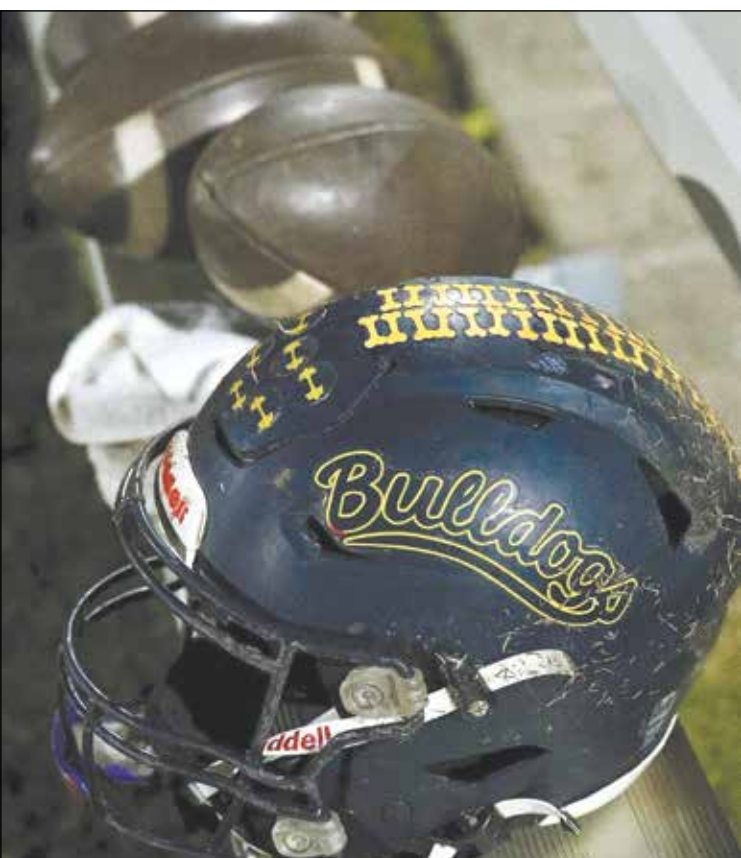
“The risk to public safety is too high,” Miller explained.

Before rendering his sentence, Judge Rodriguez addressed the family

of Frazier directly, telling them that “nothing that happens here today can measure the value of [Ronnie’s] life.” The judge went on to explain the law required him to balance accountability for the murder with the legislatively mandated rehabilitative goals of the juvenile justice system.

Judge Rodriguez sentenced Elliott to a term of seven years in the juvenile hall, which was the maximum amount of time allowed by law. Under California law, Elliott will be subject to six-month reviews while in juvenile hall, where the court will have the discretion to reduce the sentence by up to six months at a time. Elliott will only be subject to juvenile court jurisdiction until he reaches the age of 25. At that time, Elliott will be released into the community with no further supervision. ★

Gridley Blanks Pierce to Host NS D-III Title; Biggs Season Ends in Maxwell



A Gridley helmet sits on the bench after the Bulldogs' 22-0 win over Pierce on Friday, Nov. 21. Photo by Chris Pedigo



Gridley sophomore Michael Sandoval (23) returns an interception in the Bulldogs' 22-0 win on Friday, Nov. 21. Photo by Chris Pedigo

By YSBC

Gridley 22, Pierce 0

GRIDLEY, CA (YSBC) - The Gridley Bulldogs football team accomplished history on Nov. 21 when they shutout the Pierce Bears 22-0 for a trip to the CIF Northern Section Division III championship and secured their 12th victory of the season.

Gridley head coach Daniel Zumwalt expressed to Yuba Sutter Butte Colusa Sports that the season continues to be magical as this journey has been an insane ride.

The Bulldogs had some relief in the backfield as junior running back Marcus Duncan returned to the depth chart after recovering from an injury.

Zumwalt told YSBC that Duncan has been a part of some of the most explosive plays of the year and that saying proved it again as Duncan led the Bulldogs with 129 rushing yards on the night, including a long rush of 45 yards.

Duncan has 791 yards on the year heading into the NS D-III title game scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 29 at 7 p.m.

Gridley faced a Pierce squad that has been dissipated over the last month with significant injuries and that is the way the game of football works.

Bears head coach Anthony Tapia told YSBC it was a struggle because there were so many moving parts and adjustments to have multiple players starting and moving to positions they haven't played in all year.

There isn't a question that Pierce was down top performers as more than 75% of their offensive production didn't play in the semifinals against the Bulldogs.

Despite the Bears missing talent, Gridley has dealt with multiple injuries throughout the season as well. Bulldogs senior quarterback Eli Punzo had another efficient night of controlling the prolific offense.



Gridley senior quarterback Eli Punzo (5) rushes the ball on Friday, Nov. 21 in the Bulldogs' 22-0 win. Photo by Chris Pedigo



Gridley junior running back Marcus Duncan (6) rushes into the open field on Friday, Nov. 21 in the Bulldogs' 22-0 win. Photo by Chris Pedigo

The "Boneyard" is expected to be packed as the Orland Trojans

will visit Gridley for the second time this year. The Bulldogs

topped the Trojans 29-26 on Oct. 10 in the Westside League

opener and Zumwalt told YSBC that it's always more challenging to beat a team twice in the same season.

Maxwell 17, Biggs 8

A couple chapters closed on the Biggs 2025 football season as they were beaten in the CIFNS Division V playoffs on Nov. 21 as the Wolverines fell to the Maxwell Panthers 17-8.

Both teams left it all on the field as it was a battle on the gridiron. Maxwell had an 11-8 lead at the half and Biggs head coach Brian Harrison couldn't have been happier with the performance the Wolverines had in the loss to the Panthers.

Biggs senior quarterback Skyler Long ended the game with six completed passes for 86 yards and rushed the ball for a team-high 72 yards in the loss.

Wolverines' sophomore running back Hudson Brewer scored the lone touchdown for Biggs as he rushed for 65 yards and hauled in three receptions for 27 yards in the defeat.

Defensively, Brewer haunted the Panthers with 11 tackles, three for a loss and two sacks.

For Harrison, the end of the road as a coach for the Wolverines has come. Harrison told YSBC that he informed the school after the loss that it was time for his 20-plus year coaching career to take a back seat.

Harrison has enjoyed being around the Wolverines program as a standout all-area player to being a major contributor on the coaching staff.

Harrison is a proud resident of the Biggs community and it's clear as day of what his contributions have meant to the program over the years.

Harrison was at the helm of the Wolverines program where he went 27-21 and had three consecutive .500 seasons.

For more updated coverage on all local sports in our area, visit ysbcsports.com and subscribe today. ★

Bulldog Blessings

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - As the Gridley High School Bulldogs varsity team prepares for the NCIS Final Championship Game Saturday, Nov. 29 at home, emotions are intense and spirits high.

Local Catholic priest from Gridley's Sacred Heart Parish, Father John, invited the team to the church for a special blessing before the upcoming game.

A handful of team members took the father up on

his offer and were blessed alongside head coach Dan Zumwalt before the weekends Championship playoffs. ★



Local Catholic priest from Gridley's Sacred Heart Parish, Father John invited the Gridley High School Bulldogs varsity team for a special blessing. Courtesy photo



Biggs' Season Ends in Loss to Maxwell



The Wolverines' Peyton Drake sacks Panther quarterback Levi Velasquez during the semifinal round of the NSCIF D5 playoffs played on Nov. 21 in Maxwell.

Story and photos by Jennifer Corriea

MAXWELL, CA (MPG) - Sometimes in spite of putting forth one's best effort, things just don't go as planned and that is precisely what happened last Friday night in the Northern Section CIF Division V semifinal round game after the No. 3 seeded Wolverines' battle against the No. 2 Panthers ended in an 8-17 defeat.

Early on however, it seemed as though Biggs might be poised for an upset when after going three and out on the game's first possession, the Wolverine defense rose up and pinned Maxwell deep in its own territory after Peyton Drake sacked the Panther quarterback for a seven-yard loss inside the 10.

Then, on the ensuing punt, Ryan Flowers broke through to block it, putting the Wolverine offense in business at the Maxwell seven.

Although Biggs was prevented from punching the ball in on a fourth down play, it took advantage of the good field position

after the defense made another stand of its own and forced a second Panther punt.

Starting its third drive on the Maxwell 47, Biggs took three plays to get the ball down to the 34 before Hudson Brewer worked his way through the line and into the open field before out-running the defense for the game's first points, which unfortunately for the Wolverines were their only of the night.

Still, after tacking on the two-point conversion, Biggs took an 8-0 lead into the second quarter, but after the Panthers had a touchdown called back due to penalty, the Wolverines were flagged for three penalties of their own, allowing Maxwell to complete the drive, punching it in from the one and knot the score at eight all.

As the two teams continued to slug it out, Biggs had an opportunity to gain the advantage midway through the second quarter although a holding penalty negated the would-be touchdown.

Meanwhile, the Panthers



Wolverine fullback Ayden Owen takes a handoff in Biggs' 8-17 loss to Maxwell in the NSCIF D5 semifinal round on Nov. 21.

responded with a 23-yard field goal to take an 11-8 lead and had an opportunity for more after the Wolverines failed to cover the pooch kick.

Once again though, the Biggs' defense stood firm, and following a sack by Brewer, it forced a turnover on downs at its own 30-yard line with 43 seconds remaining before intermission.

Yet, nothing would come of the opportunity as the drive stalled at the Panther 44 yard line and the two teams headed to their respective ends of the field at the half.

Nonetheless, on Maxwell's first possession of the third quarter, it was able to create more breathing room when they embarked on a 75-yard scoring drive, which were ultimately the

final points scored in the game.

Even so, the Wolverines had a chance to close the gap on their subsequent possession when two Maxwell penalties on the kickoff resulted in the ball being placed at the Panther 26, but an interception in the end zone extinguished the threat.

Another opportunity presented itself in the fourth quarter when after a Biggs' double pass fell incomplete, a roughing the passer penalty extended the drive, but the Maxwell defense made its second goal line stand to again thwart the attempt.

With a trip to the championship at stake, the game was chippy at times, resulting in a combined 19 penalties, 10 of which were committed by the Wolverines.

Still, that didn't take away from the effort of the Biggs defense in particular, as they held the high-flying Maxwell offense to 21 points under its average.

In his final game for the Wolverines, Jordan Zamora made a game-high 15 tackles, Skyleer Long and Cameron Kroupa finished with 12 apiece, while Brewer had 11.

For the offense, Long threw for 86 yards and rushed for another 72, Brewer carried four times for 65 yards and caught three passes for 27 more, while Cashton Acosta hauled in one pass for 43 yards.

Biggs concluded the season with an overall record of 7-5 and was the third place team in the Mid-Valley League standings. ★



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