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The Official Newspaper of Record for the City of Gridley and Biggs



# THE GRIDLEY HERALD



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FRIDAY • DECEMBER 12, 2025 • VOL. 145 NO. 50

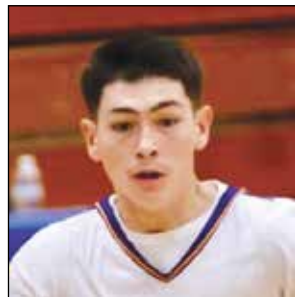
SEE INSIDE

## BULLDOGS HEAD TO STATE



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## TOURNAMENT SEASON IN FULL SWING



PAGE 11

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## Here Comes the Light!

Gridley Celebrates Winter Wonder with the Chamber



These children anxiously await the beginning of the Gridley Area Chamber of Commerce's Winter Wonderland Festival & Parade of Lights next to one of the decorative holiday displays created by chamber members and volunteers. Photo by Seti Long

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Winter wonder hit Gridley last Dec. 3 as downtown filled with lights and song at the Christmas tree lighting and Winter Wonderland Festival & Parade of Lights.

Daddow Park's gazebo served as the stage for Gridley's tree lighting, with Chamber of Commerce President Lynne Spencer joined by Mayor Mike

Farr to lead ceremonies. Music was provided by the royal members of the Miss Butte County Scholarship Program.

The Gridley Area Chamber of Commerce's efforts did not go unnoticed as Daddow Park was filled with vendors and numerous food trucks filled the stretch of Hazel west of the railroad tracks, forming a food court.

Previously, members of  
Continued on page 3



Apples to Zebra preschool float parade down the street at the the Gridley Area Chamber of Commerce's Winter Wonderland Festival & Parade of Lights. Photo by Chris Pedigo

## Gridley Prepares for Afternoon Power Outage



By Susan Meeker

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Residents are being urged to button up, settle in and get comfortable as Gridley prepares for a planned afternoon power outage on Dec. 18. The city has declared a local emergency to ensure crews and households are ready if the shutoff stretches beyond the scheduled four hours.

Pacific Gas and Electric originally proposed a 12-hour outage from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 11 to complete maintenance on a transmission switch at the Peachton substation north of town. That plan was deemed unfeasible because it overlapped with the annual Gridley Invitational Boys Basketball Tournament, held Dec. 11-13, which brings hundreds of visitors to the city. PG&E agreed to work with Gridley officials to break the job into four-hour blocks, and the city selected the 1-5 p.m. window on Dec. 18 to minimize disruption.

The transmission equipment delivers 60,000-volt power to Gridley, and utility officials said failure to replace the switch could result in a prolonged, unplanned outage requiring emergency repairs. PG&E noted that alternatives to the shutoff were not feasible because the city has only one transmission-level source.

Council members raised concerns about health clinics being left without electricity during the outage, but worked with PG&E to select a time frame that would best reduce disruption to schools. Superintendent Todd Kern said the afternoon window would have the least impact on food service programs, since students receive both breakfast and lunch earlier in the day.

The City Council's emergency declaration, approved unanimously at a special meeting on Dec. 2, allows Gridley to coordinate more quickly with Butte County and state agencies, authorize emergency spending, and activate its emergency

Continued on page 2

## Community Gathers for Biggs Holiday Celebration

Story and photos by Susan Meeker

BIGGS, CA (MPG) - Project Biggs brought holiday cheer to the heart of downtown Sunday with its annual Holiday Tree Lighting and Street Market.

Families filled the historic corridor to shop for crafts and gifts, enjoy good food, listen to live music and join in a countdown that lit the town tree.

Photographer and business owner Marci Shadd, the driving force behind Project Biggs, led the effort. Shadd and her volunteers coordinated vendors, decorations, and entertainment, turning the event into a festive showcase that blended tradition with new highlights.

The market offered plenty of spirited flavors and fun. Manuel Acevedo, of Live Oak, made no apologies for skipping straight to the food.

"I started early with a corn dog, moved on to nachos, and finished with a stuffed grilled cheese sandwich and churros,"

Acevedo said, celebrating his indulgence.

This year's community celebration also featured notable firsts. Kari Wheeler, a hometown Biggs resident who recently opened Wheeler Ranch Realty in a newly remodeled building on B Street, joined the festivities

from her new location by welcoming visitors with free hot cocoa.

"It's great to be back home again," Wheeler said, adding that she was proud to share in the community tradition for the first time.

The market featured both new and returning

vendors. LaTutu Queen Boutique participated for the first time and said the event was great, adding she looks forward to returning. Longtime vendors also expressed appreciation for the community support and festive atmosphere that keeps them coming back

Continued on page 3



Children visit Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Biggs Christmas celebration on Dec. 7.



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# The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

If you're interested in making some wonderful holiday treats, you can take the standard Rice Krispies recipe, which only has three ingredients: rice, marshmallows, and some butter, and add green food color dye, and then make a second batch with red food color dye. If you are tasked with bringing a treat to a Christmas party, you can make really cool red-and-green Christmas Rice Krispies squares. With a bit of extra effort, they can be shaped into trees (the green ones, not the red ones).


Each year at about this time, I remind dedicated readers that the law of the United States of America instituted Christmas as a federal holiday. Please refrain from saying Happy Holidays or utilizing the term "X-MAS". Be aware

- there's a fully funded, fully active campaign by people who dislike Christmas and don't really like America to try to water down Christmas and other traditional holidays from what they were intended to be - part of our common culture and ingrained in our customs and laws. Courtesy would dictate recognizing other people's holidays, just as it would dictate not diminishing the holy days of others by joining in efforts to reduce them through politically ridiculous verbal contortions. Northern CA has quite a number of non-Christian and/or religiously unaligned people; getting to know when and how they celebrate, and greeting them with some reference to their worldview, is wise and appropriate. Above all else, develop a sincere interest in others and share a happy, grateful, and welcoming vibe as you interact at the end of the year.

Pi-Line Independent Book Review of the week brings an evaluation of a once-published, rare, and obscure tome, produced by an independent press and authored by an entire family, whose pen name is "Wilson". The Mysterious

Savage is a short read by New York Times Review standards; nonetheless, the story is written skillfully and engagingly and locks one's imagination firmly in place from page three as it chronicles the adventures of a family in the High Middle Ages as they try to traverse the cultural landscape of banquets, castles, carriages, knights, kings, queens, animals, and servants and the norms of cleanliness, hospitality, and learning to work together as a family cooperatively. The actual Mysterious Stranger remains underdeveloped as a character, which seems appropriate, since the title actor would lose their mysteriousness if cast as a hero, healer, educator, or mother figure. The book includes hand-drawn color illustrations (wax medium), which add to the fascinating richness of the tale. The book is clearly a Pi Line Review 5-star achievement, and, while regrettably, it was not widely published outside Michigan and California. If you do get a copy, you will surely find it to be one of the better reads of 2026.

Josh F.W. Cook, M.S., has written over 350 New Pi-Lines for the historic Gridley Herald. ★



MEMORIAL

## ROGER FRANK VAN DE HEY • 12/10/1946 – 12/01/2025


Funeral services will be held 2 p.m., Friday, December 12, 2025 at Biggs- Gridley Cemetery for Roger Frank Van De Hey, 78 of Gridley. Roger passed away December 1, 2025 in Oroville, Ca.

Roger was born to Wilbert & Bernice Van De Hey of Manitowoc, Wisc., December 10, 1946. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 1965 enjoying his time on the wrestling team and spending time with friends.

Roger enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1966. He was stationed at Travis Air Base, CA before being deployed to Vietnam in 1968. Roger returned to his hometown to work for the City of Manitowoc as a lineman.

After a few years climbing power poles in the winter storms with loads of snow, Roger thought about the warm weather of California and followed his brother Wayne there.

In 1980 Roger received an AA at Yuba College in art.



Green Bay Packer games. Roger is survived by his loving wife Lisa of 38 years; grandson Blaine Van De Hey of Illinois, granddaughter Monica Joab both of Illinois; brother Wayne (Cindy) Van De Hey; sister Susan Klenke both of Wisc.; Aunt Shirley Larson of Wisc.; numerous nieces, nephews and many cherished friends.

Roger was pre-deceased by his parents; his son Eric and sister Bonnie Peters.

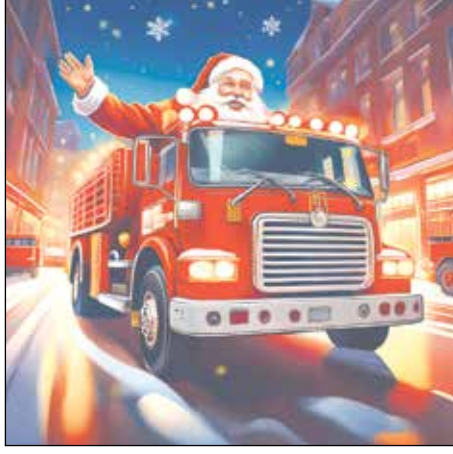
Roger was known for his love of classic cars, Harley Davidson motorcycles but most of all his beloved Green Bay Packers. An 8x10 picture of Roger with his Green Bay Santa carving hung in the Green Bay Packer Hall of Fame at Lambeau Field for many years.

Contributions may be made to Gridley Animal Shelter, in care of the City of Gridley, 685 Kentucky Street, Gridley CA 95948 or to an animal shelter of your choice in honor of Roger's love for dogs.

## Santa is Coming to Town!

Gridley Fire Department/CAL Fire News Release

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The holidays are here! Your Gridley Fire and Police Departments used their contacts at the North Pole, along with a little Christmas magic, to invite Santa to Gridley for a special tour of our town. He is graciously taking time out of his busy holiday schedule to ride our very own Gridley Fire Engine through the city and bring extra holiday cheer to our community.



Santa would like to see everyone and will be traveling through the city over two separate evenings, Dec. 16 and 17 starting at 6 p.m. For more information and the maps showing Santa's routes visit the Gridley Chamber of Commerce Facebook page [www.facebook.com/GridleyAreaChamber/](http://www.facebook.com/GridleyAreaChamber/), the Gridley Herald Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/GHMPG8/> or [www.gridleyherald.com](http://www.gridleyherald.com).

during Santa's visit. Keep in mind, the event is weather permitting, and the times are subject to change. It will be no secret when Santa arrives, just listen to the magic.

Santa won't be able to drive every street, but he will be a short walk away from every home. For everyone's safety, keep children and pets on the sidewalk

To monitor Santa's journey through Gridley visit [glympse.com/!](http://glympse.com/) Gridley Santa starting at 6 p.m. each night. This should help everyone to be prepared for Santa's arrival. Santa will be touring the north part of town on Dec. 16 and the south area of Gridley the evening of Dec. 17. ★

## Gridley Prepares for Afternoon Power Outage

Continued from page 1 operations center if needed.

Officials are urging households and businesses to prepare in advance by charging phones and medical devices, keeping refrigerator and freezer doors closed, unplugging

sensitive electronics, and ensuring generators are operated outdoors with proper ventilation. Residents who rely on medical equipment are advised to secure alternate power sources, and businesses are encouraged to review backup systems

and insurance coverage.

PG&E expects the work planned on Dec. 18 to be completed within the four-hour window. If complications arise, Gridley officials said they will notify residents through text alerts, social media and door-to-door outreach. ★

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# Here Comes the Light!



Members of the Miss Butte County Scholarship Program ring the Holiday Season in with song. Photo by Chris Pedigo

Continued from page 1

the chamber and volunteers gathered and even pooled their own personal resources to decorate the downtown area, especially the corners of Virginia/Hazel Streets and Kentucky/Hazel Streets with shining lights, blowup decorations, lit Christmas trees and more to amplify and spread the holiday cheer.

Thanks to the efforts of the chamber, the parade route was bedecked in merriment as parade-goers began to stake their spots for the best view. By 6:30 p.m. the crowd stood five deep in places, ready to welcome Christmas merriment.

The Navy Sea Cadets would carry the colors down the parade route and present them for honor while local Kari Wheeler sang the National Anthem.

Spencer then took a moment to present the Gridley Area Chamber of Commerce Officer of the Year Award to Gridley Police Departments Ashley Gibson.

"I personally know how much she (Gibson) does for our community, and she helps the chamber out a lot," said Spencer. "We wanted to let her know how much she is appreciated, not only by us but by her fellow officers."

What followed was a dazzling array of lights, vehicles loaded down with blow up decorations and smiling faces.

Joseph Waterbury Electric Inc. would continue his winning streak, taking first place with this float for the fifth time in a row! Waterbury wired his float with moving puppets and a Santa that popped up out of a Chimney.

Bowling Family Dentistry taking a bite



These little girls excitedly await the Christmas cheer and bright lights of the parade. Photo by Chris Pedigo

out of second place with their "Molar Express" a witty take on the Polar Express. Coincidentally, the Polar Express itself would shuttle the Rotary Interact club down the parade route and take third place!

From Titans and Gridley High School football teams, CalFire engines and their responders and traditional Mexican folk dancing, the 2025 Winter Wonderland Festival and Parade of Lights dazzled and delighted. ★

# Community Gathers for Biggs Holiday Celebration



Kids play in man-made snow in front of the historic Colonia Building in Biggs during the annual holiday market and tree lighting on Dec. 7.

Continued from page 1

year after year.

In addition to craft and gift vendors, the market featured specialty booths such as Biggs FFA, which offered floral arrangements designed by agriculture students. Third-year Ag Teacher Lilly Baker said about 50 students are involved in the program, selling arrangements throughout the school year to raise money for FFA activities. The holiday market gave them a chance to showcase their skills while supporting the program's fundraising efforts, Baker said.

A traditional highlight of Sunday's event was the Ugly Sweater Contest, hosted by Kendall Milburn, which turned out to be more cute than homely. Three children took center stage: Dominic, 8, with a fireplace-mantle sweater; his little sister Alexia, 5, with a wreath-themed design; and Hannah, 9, with a sweater that lit up.

Judging was done by rounds of applause and cheering, and the crowd made sure each contestant felt celebrated. In the end, Alexia Stanley toppled her brother Dominic's two-year reign, drawing his applause as she claimed first place, with Hannah earning second. All three were praised for their creativity and courage, and organizers encouraged more entries next year.

Project Biggs also celebrated an inaugural house decorating contest, which drew about 20 entries across town and added

a festive new tradition to the celebration.

The Inflatables Award was given to 394 B Street for the best use of inflatable decorations, where a yard sign will be placed for recognition. The Griswold Award went to 3063 Six Street for the most and best-arranged holiday lights, covering an entire corner block. The People's Choice went to 2959 11th Street, home of Danielle and David Diaz, based on community votes.

Danielle Diaz, Shadd's niece and a Project Biggs volunteer, laughed about her win.

"I think it was a popularity contest, all our friends have been voting," Diaz said, adding that while her husband handled most of the decorating, they are both excited to keep building on their display each year.

Shadd said decorated homes will remain lit through the holidays and encourages residents and visitors to drive by and enjoy the displays. Pastor Neal Barnes of Biggs Baptist Church offered a blessing before the crowd counted down from 10 to cheer as Santa Claus lit the tree, which cast a warm glow across the town square and signaled the start of the holiday season.

Organizers said the combination of the tree lighting, contests and community involvement made this year's event one of the most festive yet. Plans are already underway to expand volunteer efforts and grow the event and decorating contest in future years. ★

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# CalFire Fills the Boot



Firefighters brought Ladder Truck 74 out to shine as they collect funds in support of genetic disorders associated to Muscular Dystrophy at one of Gridley's busiest intersections. Photo by Seti Long

By Seti Long

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Firefighters from local companies lived up street corners along Gridley's Hwy 99 corridor Dec. 6 as they rallied in support of MDA, or the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The annual fundraiser is a long-standing tradition of fire departments nationwide and supported by California departments throughout the year.

"Muscular dystrophies are a group of genetic diseases in which muscles become weak. Over time, muscle weakness decreases mobility, making everyday tasks difficult," states the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website.

"There are many kinds of muscular dystrophy. Each kind affects specific muscle groups, with signs and symptoms appearing at different ages, and varying in severity. Muscular dystrophies are caused by

changes in over 40 genes."

Gridley's Station 74 brought Ladder Truck 74 out to help advertise and was joined by Station 71, the CalFire Explorers and a 12-person hand crew as they collected donations. ★



Firefighters from Gridley and Richvale, supported by other area cadets and hand crews, raise money for Muscular Dystrophy. Photo by Seti Long

# Community Orchestra Set to Offer Free Christmas Concert

By Cindy Scott

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - The Sutter Buttes Family Orchestra moves into its second decade offering inspiring live orchestra music with "Christmas Bells Are Ringing."

Ethan Jacobsen, Gridley High School Music Director, will conduct the community orchestra. Pieces will be themed on Christmas bells, an anticipated highlight of the holiday season. "All Is Calm" will feature soloists Kirsten Little on French horn, Jonathan Quine on trumpet, and Cliz Townsend on clarinet.

All are invited to this free hour-long concert. The orchestra will perform at 7 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 400 Spruce Street



String players in the Sutter Buttes Family Orchestra have prepared a free Christmas concert for the community this Sunday at 7 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 400 Spruce Street. From left are, Mary Walker, John Paul Bower, Griffin Hayden, and Thomas Byrd. Photo by Cindy Scott

in Gridley. musical abilities. To participate, contact Joanie Grover at 530-210-3157. ★

# Gridley Housing Element Addresses Affordability, Fair Housing Issues

By Susan Meeker

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - The Gridley City Council unanimously adopted the city's 6th Cycle Housing Element during a special meeting Dec. 2, fulfilling a critical state mandate aimed at addressing local housing needs over the next eight years.

The plan, previously approved by the Gridley Planning Commission, outlines how the city will meet housing requirements set by California's Department of Housing and Community Development.

Principal Planner Christopher Smith opened the presentation, noting that the Housing Element was past due and emphasized the need for council action to bring the city into compliance. Consultant Cynthia Walsh, who has guided the update from the beginning, followed with an overview of the Housing Element, which covers the planning period from June 2022 through June 2030.

"The Housing Element is an eight year plan that identifies the city's housing needs across income levels and ensures adequate land is available for future development," Walsh said. "It includes goals, policies and programs designed to promote affordable, safe housing and complies with state law."

The updated document expands on the city's previous housing programs and incorporates new sections addressing fair housing issues, including segregation, housing disparities, and enforcement of fair housing laws. It also evaluates constraints such as zoning and infrastructure and includes a realistic inventory of vacant land suitable for residential development.

According to the Housing and Community Development Regional Housing Needs Allocation, Gridley must plan for 345 new housing units. The requirement includes 161 units for very low income households, 93 units for low

income households, and 91 units for moderate income households, with no units assigned to the above moderate category. Walsh reported that Gridley already has a surplus of approved and constructed units, exceeding the state requirement.

Walsh also said public engagement shaped the document, with surveys and community meetings used to gather input on housing priorities. During those discussions, residents voiced concerns about affordability, fair housing access, and the pace of new development, which were incorporated into the final plan. The Housing Element highlights community challenges such as households spending more than 30 percent of income on housing costs, vacancy rates, and the age of existing housing stock. These findings point to the need for rehabilitation programs and infrastructure improvements. The plan notes that many of Gridley's homes were built decades ago, making maintenance and modernization a priority.

At their special meeting, council members raised questions about permit processing timelines and data discrepancies between census information and recent construction figures. Walsh explained that annual monitoring of approval timelines is now a required program to ensure projects are completed on schedule.

As part of the procedure, the council adopted a California Environmental Quality Act exemption for the Housing Element, noting that the plan functions as a policy document without direct land use changes.

Following discussion, the council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 225-R028, approving the Housing Element, and directed staff to submit the final document to Housing and Community Development for final certification by the Feb. 3, 2026, deadline. ★

# Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

It has been cold or I'm getting old. When a glimmer of sun comes out, I'm getting work done in the gardens. Finally, cut back the pineapple sage, the lion's tail and some of the everblooming lavender. This weather can fool one into thinking everything is fine waterwise. Yes, the ground is wet but

how far down? The combination of wind and fog made me think all was well for all of the plants. Then I noticed the Crimson Queen Japanese maple had crispy leaves. They were red and getting redder but now they were shriveled brown, hmmm. Wind alone can do this but usually this tree completes turning totally red and then leaf drop. Watering it now.

This feels like how winter used to be. I experienced the fog and cold a lot while a teacher who had to do yard duty in Chico. I used to drop out of the mountains into the ocean of fog. Now I live under the sea. This has made another difference in our gardening life other than me whining

and complaining about being cold. The planted baby onions look puny. I want to put frost cloth on them. I think it would help, all babies like a little warmth.

The raking and blowing of leaves is happening. My sweet husband has been doing the blowing of leaves which I did not allow before. I like to rake but obviously my years of working outside in the cold are over so I said, "Go for it blow those leaves." He then blew them all onto the center of the lawn. I still have to get out there and pick them up. My god how can I be so wimpy. I used to dig ditches when it was pouring icy rain. I'm more of a hothouse plant now. ★

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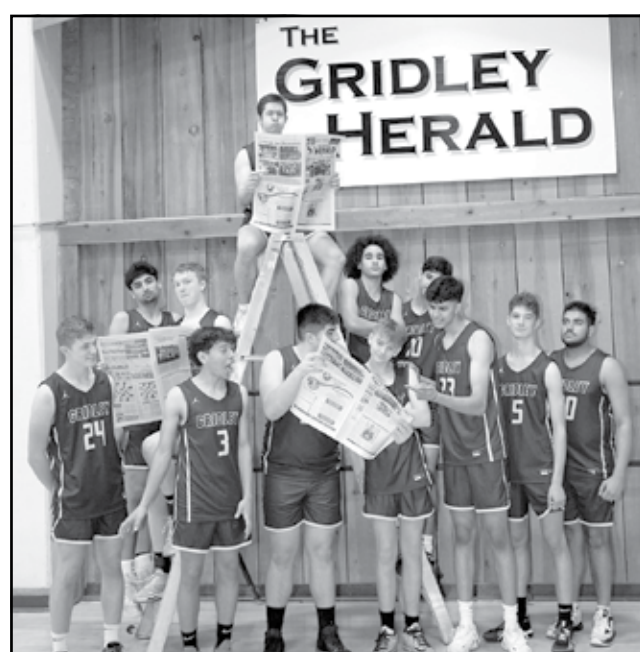
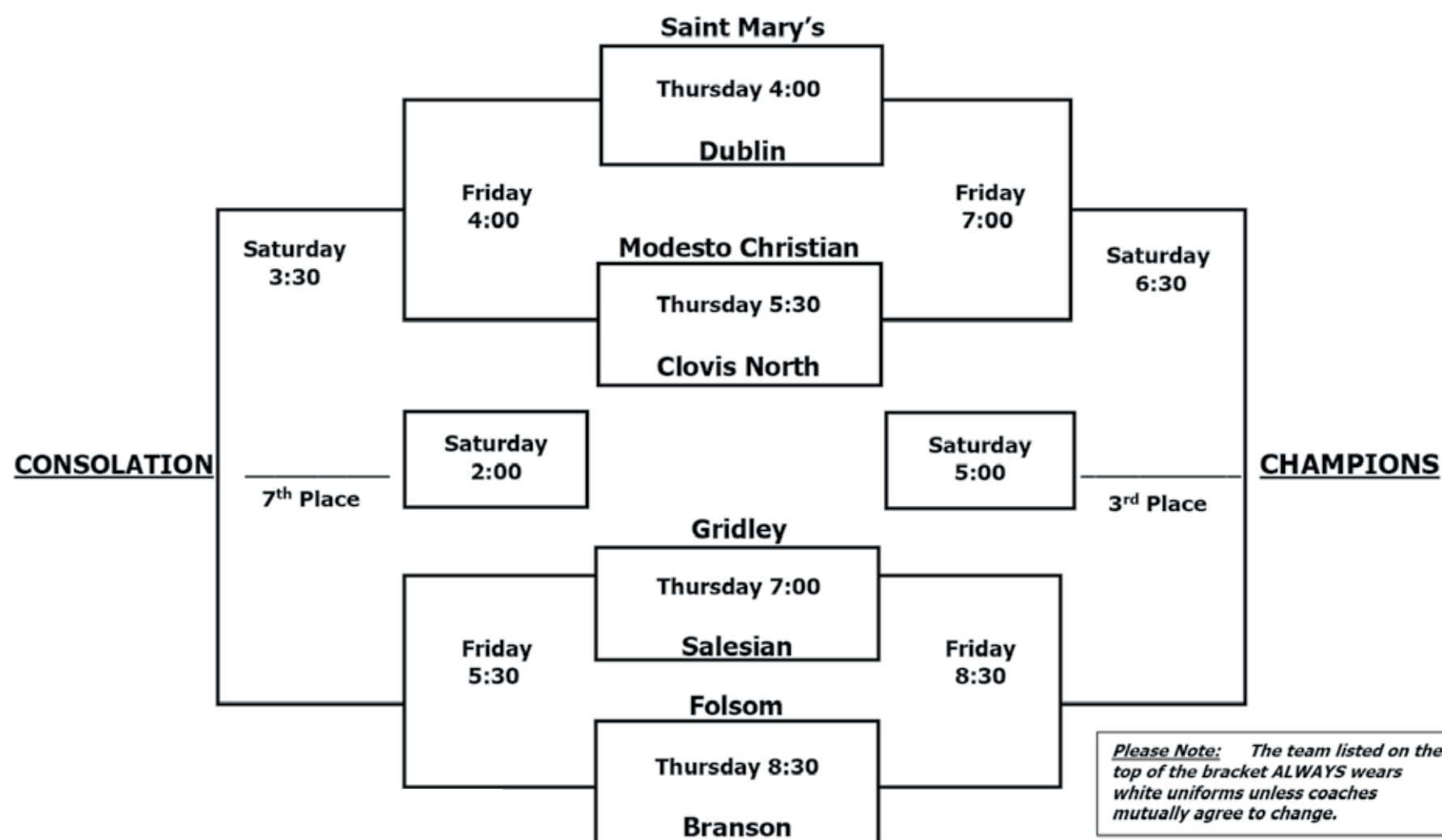
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# California's New Labor Law Could Have Unintended and Unwanted Consequences



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

The California Legislature has a bad habit of writing new law in the moment and paying little or no attention to its potential consequences.

While legislative history contains many examples, the most spectacular occurred three decades ago when legislators and then-Gov. Pete Wilson massively overhauled how electricity is generated, distributed and priced, telling consumers it would make power more affordable and reliable.

The real world impact was just the opposite. Power became less reliable, prices skyrocketed and the state's investor-owned utilities were pushed into insolvency.

Other examples of unintended consequences in California include launching a bullet train project without comprehensive construction or financial plans, sharply increasing public employee pensions without considering costs and doing the same with unemployment insurance benefits.

One could also add the current practice of draining emergency reserves to cover budget deficits that result from overestimating revenues and underestimating spending, leaving the state's finances vulnerable to an inevitable economic downturn.

Then there is Assembly Bill 288, one of many measures the Legislature dominated by Democrats and Gov. Gavin

Newsom have passed in recent years to thwart — or so they hope — President Donald Trump.

AB 288, sponsored by California labor unions and carried by Assemblymember Tina McKinnor, an Inglewood Democrat, expands the authority of California's Public Employment Relations Board — which oversees union-management activities in state and local governments and school districts — to include private sector employment.

The bill aims for the Public Employee Relations Board, or PERB, to step into the role performed for many decades by the National Labor Relations Board because, McKinnor and other advocates maintain, the NLRB is frozen by a dispute over its membership.

Early this year, Trump removed Dwyne Wilcox, the NLRB's chair, leaving the board without a quorum and unable to decide pending cases. Trump's action is being fought in the courts.

"Well, I'll just say that if we have no board, no quorum, no board, no justice to state workers, for state workers," McKinnor told the state Senate Judiciary Committee just before AB 288 passed. "And so, we need to make sure that, you know, that PERB can hear these cases, because if there's no forum for workers to resolve unfair labor practices, then where do they stand?"

"What do we do for them? We can't just leave them out in the cold because the NLRB doesn't have a quorum. We also can have loss of union protections, like bargaining rights, organizing protections and reinstatement after retaliation. And so, we can't have our workers unprotected, because employers will take advantage of that."

Private employer groups opposed the measure,

contending the existence of the NLRB, even though it's stymied, preempts a state from usurping federal authority.

Generally, states can legislate on labor relations only in economic sectors not covered by federal law. That's why, a half-century ago, California could create the public employment board and the Agricultural Labor Relations Board to oversee employment on farms and in food processing plants.

The NLRB and interests that opposed AB 288 are suing in federal court, contending that the legislation is illegal under federal law.

AB 288 represents a potentially disruptive, even dangerous, precedent. Were it to survive the legal challenge, every state would be free to create its own set of laws governing unionization of workers.

Blue states such as California could virtually mandate unionization of private sector employees, as it already has for public employees and farm workers.

Meanwhile, red states could virtually prohibit unions from organizing workers, to make the states more attractive to industry and insulated from NLRB oversight even if Democrats regain the White House.

Balkanizing labor-management relations would create chaos in the national economy. It also could potentially work to the overall disadvantage of union organizing efforts. Do California's unions and their political allies really want to take that chance?

*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



What a difference a day makes. As the Sacramento Kings began another depressing losing streak, this one reaching 3 games, fans are pleasantly surprised by an upset win over the Miami Heat in Miami Florida.

Sharpshooter Zach Lavine showed up for the intrepid scorer he is, posting 42 points that was more than the Heat were able to handle.

Sacramento favorite Davion Mitchell, now running the point for Miami, will have to wait to show off his defensive magic, as Davion was sidelined with a groin pull.

The 127-111 win over the Heat marked the first time this season that Sacramento has won a game by double digits, and it could not have come at a better time.

Talk shows throughout Sacramento, pundits and fans alike have been all but applauding the thought of blowing up the current team and starting from scratch.

I am a proponent of taking your medicine however difficult it is to swallow, and do not cave in to pressure.

Just one year ago, team management acted in haste and sent one of the greatest players Sacramento has ever seen packing. Now DeAaron Fox is getting standing ovations in San Antonio and will likely bring a championship to the state of Texas.

Knee jerk moves don't work. Ask Nico Harrison, formerly of the Dallas Mavericks if that's a good idea as he insanely traded superstar Luka Doncic and paid the price by losing his job.

Steady at the helm is what Sacramento needs and don't misjudge the talent currently on this team.

Davion Mitchell, Jonas Valanciunas, and Isaac Jones have taken up residence elsewhere, and other NBA teams are the better for it. We cannot fail to see the attributes in the players we have, and I was heartened to see that the Kings did something positive with last year's first round draft choice Devin Carter.

Carter, a talented and highly athletic young player has been sitting on the pines getting no playing time, but he was just sent down to Stockton where he will get much needed playing time in the G-league. Playing time is precisely what Carter needs, and I hope the Kings are not shortsighted when teams come calling, hoping to add

Carter to their roster. When you draft a player #1 it says something, and Devin Carter needs to have every opportunity to show this franchise the value he brings.

The Kings have been able to produce a win without talented big man Domantas Sabonis, and it should give every Kings fan pause.

Are the Kings as bad as their 6-17 record would indicate, or are there plausible reasons for such a tepid and unenthusiastic start?

We have pointed out the horrific free throw shooting in nearly all of Sacramento's losses, and on the flip side, the precision free throw shooting when Sacramento posts a win.

Is this coaching staff capable of getting this group of NBA ballers to sink free throws at a clip of 80% or better? If they can, wins will come.

Of course, the Kings need to improve on the defensive end, and when they hit the court with energy and a passion for getting stops, good things invariably happen.

Way too early to say I know how this season is going to go, and every fan should wonder if just one or possibly two moves could completely turn things around.

The Kings need to get bigger and longer, on that point few people will argue. But don't give away talent like Isaac Jones that already has the physical prowess this team needs.

Judge talent better, and if this staff can't do that, find people that can. Whether it's trades or in the draft, we need better judgement and we can't afford to wait much longer.

The good news is Sabonis won't be out much longer, and even one smart move could move the needle in a positive direction for the Kings.

I take my hat off to a fan base in Sacramento that I find amazing. Nearly unconditional support is hard to find and that is what this team has the privilege of playing in front of every night. Coaches coach better, and players hit the court every night and bring the best you have.

Stay tuned Kings fans, because there really is light at the end of the tunnel!

Merry Christmas!  
*Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com.* ★

## SPARKY'S CORNER

# Stop-Drop-n-Roll

While not something we often think about, an average 4,300 people are seriously burned from their clothing catching fire every year. A popular misconception is that synthetic fabrics like polyester burn easier than natural fabrics like cotton. This is not true. Cotton and Rylan ignite faster than polyester. However, synthetic fabrics like polyester can melt and stick to your skin. Since wearing wool or special fire resistant clothing all day every day is unrealistic, CAL FIRE/Gridley Fire Department would like to offer these helpful tips to prevent burn injuries:

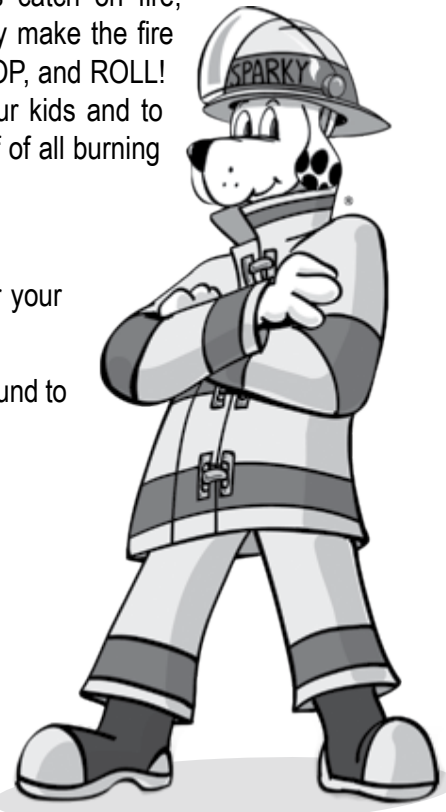
- Be cautious around open flames like bond fires or camp fires
- Keep a close eye on children, and don't let children run or play around open fires
- Don't be heavily intoxicated around open fires
- Don't wear hanging clothing while cooking or grilling
- Wear the proper safety equipment when welding, grinding or using a gas torch

In the event your clothing does catch on fire, DON'T run, the rushing air will only make the fire worse. Remember this: STOP, DROP, and ROLL! This is important both to teach your kids and to remember yourself since about half of all burning clothing injuries are adults.

- **STOP**, don't run
- **DROP** to the ground and cover your face with your hands
- **ROLL** back and forth on the ground to smother out the flames

Thank You, and Happy Holidays!!

**Sparky the Dog**  
Gridley Fire Station 74



## Ask DR. UNIVERSE

### Dr. Universe: Why do we Have Fingerprints?

- Kaylen, 11, North Carolina

Dear Kaylen,

I use my paws for all kinds of things. That's how I adjust my microscope, set up my microphone for a podcast and write answers to science questions. But most cats don't do those things. Maybe that's why cats don't have fingerprints like yours.

I asked my friend Katherine Corn about that. She's an evolutionary functional morphologist. She studies how animal bodies evolved to do all kinds of jobs. She's the director of Washington State University's museum of vertebrate zoology.

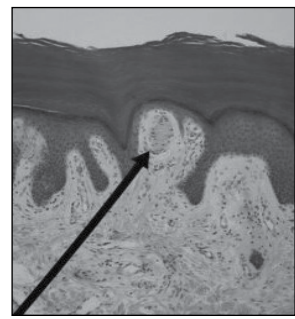
Scientists think there are two big reasons for fingerprints: dexterity and grip.

"We can't really discriminate which one is more important," Corn said. "But people are working on this, which is exciting."

Dexterity is the way you use muscles in your hands to make small, precise movements. That's how you write, type or use a game controller. It's also called fine motor control.

To make those exact movements, you take in data and make little adjustments. That data comes from what you see and hear. It comes from what you feel and how you sense your body in space.

If you're gaming, you adjust your hand movements based on things you see and hear in the game and in the real world. You feel the controller. You can tell how



Here's what a Meissner's corpuscle looks like under your skin. They're sensitive to touch and vibrations. Whensmith CC BY 3.0 Courtesy photo

your fingers and hands are moving. Your brain uses all that information to tune your movements.

Your sense of touch works because your skin has tiny touch sensors. They're called Meissner's corpuscles. They help you feel different textures. Primates like monkeys and apes have lots of these. Humans are among the apes with the most.

"Humans — *Homo sapiens* — have like a zillion of these mechanoreceptors," Corn said. "And our mechanoreceptors are really big."

Scientists think the ridges of your fingerprints act like little levers. As you touch something, those ridges push on touch sensors. That gives your brain lots of information about what you touched.

It's possible that this dexterity evolved as primates began eating more fruit. Being able to feel subtle textures would have helped them figure out if fruit was ripe.

Grip is how you hang onto things. To do that well, your fingers need to be moist but not sloppy. If your skin is too dry, it won't flex right. If it's too wet, you'll lose friction and slip off.

The ridges of your fingerprints are like tiny furrows or channels that move moisture. Those ridges spread your sweat around, so your skin is flexible but not too slippery.

Fingerprints also help grip rough surfaces because the ridges lock in with the bumps and grooves on the surface. Some animals do this super well. It's how geckoes cling to smooth surfaces like glass with their mega-ridged feet.

"We can't crawl up a window," Corn said. "But the same principle applies that we create little friction sets on a rough surface."

Animals usually don't evolve traits that do just one thing. Fingerprints helped early humans succeed in a few ways, so those fingerprints stuck around.

That's why human fetuses form fingerprints way before they're born. The unique pattern of ridges happens because of genes, the density of the fluid inside the uterus and how the fetus moves around while the ridges form.

It's a clever adaptation that gives humans a hand up on the competition.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Universe

# COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



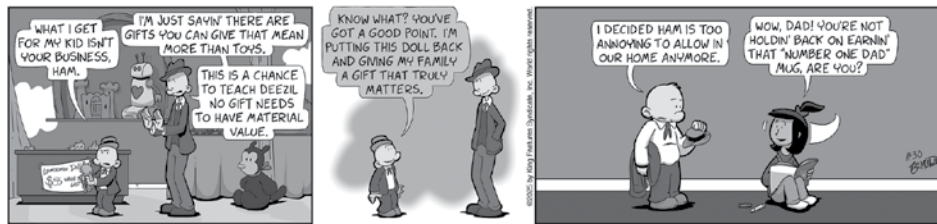
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Out on a Limb

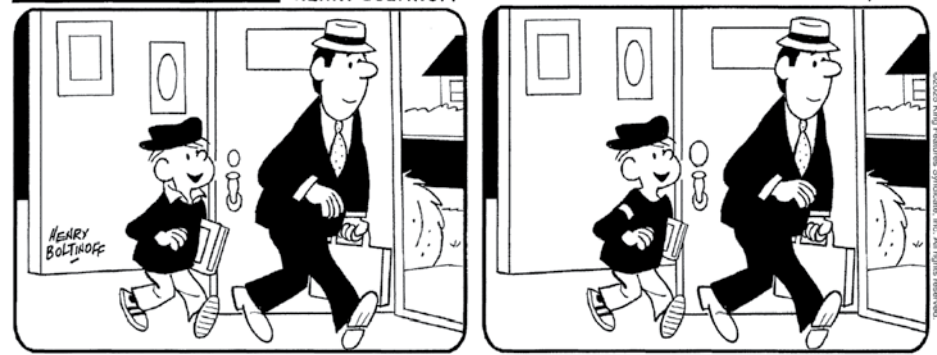
by Gary Kopervas



HOCUS-FOCUS

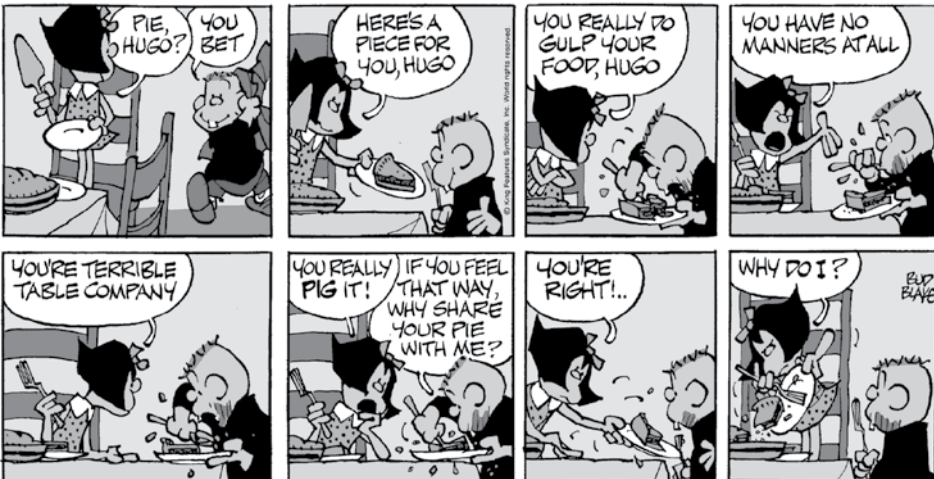
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



TIGER

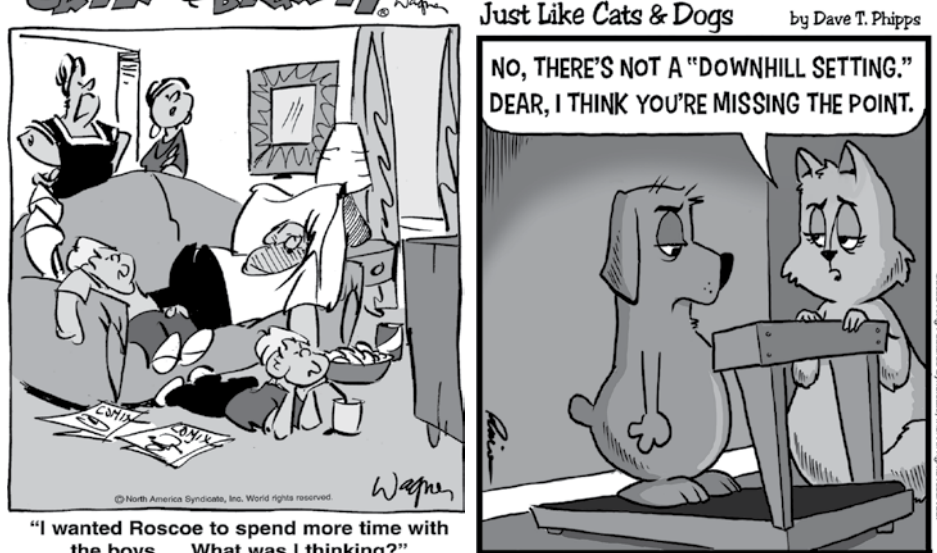
by BUD BLAKE



GRIN & BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Slovenly ones
  - To do this is human?
  - Not flip
  - Mistress or lover, arch.
  - Precedes de Rivoli
  - Lift a hefty load
  - Sheep-like
  - Invoice qty.
  - Republic on Arabian Peninsula
  - "Aromatic additives
  - "Beer with Bloody Mary, e.g.
  - Major Uziel Gal-designed gun
  - Clarified butter
  - Although, for short
  - Distressed cry
  - Bamboozled
  - What a willow did?
  - J in B. J. King
  - Raspberry drupelets
  - Pelvic bones
  - Birch family tree
  - Banned apple spray
  - Impolite dinner sound
  - Left, Latin prefix
  - Dissenting clique
  - a.k.a. chickadee
  - Four seasons
  - Abode for #1 Down
  - Do, re or mi
  - Buddy Holly's "Peggy"
  - "Measuring tool at a bar
  - "Not shaken
  - Dough or cabbage
  - "Gross!"
  - Lacking guile
  - "The Day the World Stilled"
  - Intelligence org.
  - Ruhr's industrial center
  - Job for a body shop
  - Finish
  - Condemn
- DOWN**
- #1 Across, sing.
  - Jeans maker Strauss
  - Leave out
  - Swahili and other languages
  - One of the seven dwarfs
  - Victorian one and Elizabethan one, e.g.
  - "Liquor in Hurricane and Painkiller
  - \*Verb related to hangover
  - Fine print add-ons
  - Feeble
  - Above and beyond
  - Mightier than sword
  - Shenzi of "The Lion King"
  - "Spanish dry red wine
  - "For \_\_\_ a Jolly Good Fellow"
  - Seductive stare (2 words)
  - "Citrus peel
  - Greeting
  - Laudanum ingredient
  - \*Same as rail at a bar
  - South American wood sorrels
  - Trickeries
  - Roleplay
  - "Like martini with olive brine
  - Queen of Hearts' pastry
  - Campbell of "Scream"

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# LEGAL ADVERTISING

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## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000769**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Fiesta Taco, 615 Pearson Road, Paradise, CA 95969  
Adrian Torres, PO Box 1951, Paradise, CA 95967  
Date filed in Butte County: October 17, 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  
**FIESTA** 12-12-25

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000762**  
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  
Date filed in Butte County: October 17, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: May 15, 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  
**CLEANING** 12-12-25

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000675**  
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  
**WALMART** 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  
Muriilo, 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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000865**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: The UPS Store 5756, 2 E Gridley Road Suite B, Gridley, CA 95948  
Jaskaran Deol and Rajkamal Deol, 9410 Rose Court, Live Oak, CA 95953  
Date filed in Butte County: November 21, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
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: December 5, 12, 19, 26, 2025  
**UPS** 12-26-25

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000839**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Treebeard Landscape Maintenance, 23409 Hamilton Avenue, Gerber, CA 96035  
Lotter, Dustin Elliot, 23409 Hamilton Avenue, Gerber, CA 96035  
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: 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: Dec 12, 19, 26, Jan 2, 2026  
**TREEBEARD** 1-2-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000884**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: JT Inspections, 1840 Greenhead Court, Gridley, CA 95948  
Jairo Tena, 1840 Greenhead Court, Gridley, CA 95948  
Date filed in Butte County: December 3, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: August 29, 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: Dec 12, 19, 26, Jan 2, 2026  
**JT** 1-2-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000743**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Chico Thai Cuisine, 407 Walnut Street, Suite A, Chico, CA 95928  
Golden Chico Valley LLC, 407 Walnut Street Suite A, Chico, CA 95928  
Date filed in Butte County: October 9, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: October 7, 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: Dec 12, 19, 26, Jan 2, 2026  
**CHICO** 1-2-26

## 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

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME**  
CASE #25CV04229  
Petitioner Audrey Jeanne Woods filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Audrey Jeanne Woods to Audra Jeanne Woods.  
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 October 29, 2025  
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court  
Publish: Dec 12, 19, 26, Jan 2, 2026  
**WOODS** 1-2-26

## 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

TS No: CA09000068-22-5 APN: 010-310-062-000 FKA 021-090-062 TO No: 2682930CAD  
**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE** (The above statement is made pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(1). The Summary will be provided to Trustor(s) and/or vested owner(s) only, pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(2).) **YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED August 17, 2021. 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 PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.** On January 7, 2026 at 03:30 PM, at the main entrance to the County Courthouse at 1 Court Street, Oroville, CA 95965, MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust recorded on August 24, 2021 as Instrument No. 2021-0037658, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Butte County, California, executed by PATRICK A BAYNARD, AN UNMARRIED MAN, as Trustor(s), in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., as Beneficiary, as nominee for LAND HOME FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 250 RANDOLPH AVE, GRIDLEY, CA 95948 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$172,358.52 (Estimated). However, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check 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, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial

Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. 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 visit the Internet Website address www.nationwideposting.com or call Nationwide Posting & Publication at 916.939.0772 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA09000068-22-5. 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. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Notice to Tenant NOTICE TO TENANT FOR FORECLOSURES AFTER JANUARY 1, 2021 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 916.939.0772, or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case CA09000068-22-5 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. Date: November 24, 2025 MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps TS No. CA09000068-22-5 17100 Gillette Ave Irvine, CA 92614 Phone: 949-252-8300 TDD: 711 949.252.8300 By: LOAN QUEMA, AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ONLINE AT www.nationwideposting.com FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: Nationwide Posting & Publication AT 916.939.0772 NPP0481661 To: GRIDLEY HERALD 12/05/2025, 12/12/2025, 12/19/2025  
**GRIDLEY HERALD** 12-19-25



## Council Honors Local Cross Country Student Athletes

## Butte County Extends Public Safety Hiring Bonuses

By Susan Meeker

**OROVILLE, CA (MPG)** - The Butte County Board of Supervisors has extended temporary hiring bonus programs for the Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office through June 30, 2026, citing ongoing recruitment and retention challenges in public safety positions.

The programs, first approved on Dec. 10, 2024, were designed to address staffing shortages that have persisted for several years, county officials said.

Human Resources Director Sheri Waters said the incentives have been successful in attracting new employees. Since implementation, the Sheriff's Office has hired 42 new staff members, while the District Attorney's Office has added three prosecutors.

Under the Sheriff's Office program, entry-level correctional deputies hired by the county receive a \$25,000 bonus upon hire. Lateral applicants for correctional deputy, deputy sheriff and public safety dispatcher positions receive \$50,000. The resolution notes the bonuses are non-pensionable and paid on the county's regular payroll cycle.



The District Attorney's program provides \$15,000 upon hire and an additional \$15,000 upon successful completion of probation for new deputy district attorneys. County officials said the program is intended to ease case-loads that have reached more than 400 cases per prosecutor.

Both programs are funded through the Community Corrections Partnership. The resolutions authorize the human resources director to resolve disputes over eligibility, timing or other issues, and allow the county to recover bonuses if employees leave before reaching defined milestones.

The Board of Supervisors approved the bonuses on Nov. 18 as a matter on the consent agenda. County officials emphasized the extensions are temporary measures and not precedent setting. The programs will be revisited when they expire in mid-2026. ★



The City Council recognized the Live Oak High School varsity cross country team for a great season. Photo courtesy of the City of Live Oak.

By Shaunna Boyd

**LIVE OAK, CA (MPG)** - The Live Oak City Council issued a proclamation honoring the Live Oak High School cross country team at the Dec. 3 meeting.

Mayor Jeremy Chapdelaine said this was the first year the team made it to the state championship, which was a "huge accomplishment for a young program" only in its fifth year.

Chapdelaine read the proclamation honoring the achievements of these student athletes, "who exemplify dedication, discipline, and excellence," and their outstanding commitment to "representing their school and community

with pride, sportsmanship, and resilience."

The varsity boys finished the season as Westside League Champions and then finished ninth at the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) state northern section finals, and second in Division 4. Chapdelaine said the girls' varsity team consisted of one girl, who was nearly undefeated in league meets and also competed at the state level.

All the council members congratulated the students on an impressive season.

The council then considered adopting updates the Live Oak Municipal Code to align with the 2025 California Building Standards Code. City

Manager Ben Moody said it will be two-part process to amend the ordinance, with the updates introduced in a first reading at this meeting and official adoption after a second reading at a future meeting.

The state requires updates to the building code every three years, and the city must make updates to ensure alignment with state standards. Moody said staff is not recommending any specific local amendments at this time.

Moody said there could be new costs for contractors and developers as a result of these building code updates, as building codes are shifting away from gas and toward more electrification requirements.

The council voted unanimously to approve the first reading of the code updates.

During city manager items, Moody updated council on the recent public workshop by the Sutter County sheriff and fire departments: "Really the takeaway is that over the next year we're going to busy working to resolve the contract and budget issues, to keep providing public safety for the City of Live Oak.

The council closed the meeting with a moment of silence for the children who were recently killed in a shooting in Stockton.

The next meeting of the Live Oak City Council is scheduled for Dec. 17. ★

# 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, Dec. 12:** Sure Start family play time, 9 a.m. to noon. (G)

**Saturday, Dec. 13:** Clothing swap, noon to 2 p.m. Let's help individuals and families find ethically sourced, new-to-them clothing. If you are interested in attending, please bring 5 to 10 quality items to trade. Think clean, gently used, and in great condition – things you'd be happy to give to a friend. All ages and sizes welcome. (G)

**Tuesday, Dec. 16:** Creative writing group for adults, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (G) Ugly sweater decorating party, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (B) LEGO Tuesday, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B)

Wednesday, Dec. 17: 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. 18:** Biggs Chess club, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B) Movie night for all ages, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (G)

**Friday, Dec. 19:** Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (G) Ladies' night out movie, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Light refreshments served, men and teens invited too. (G)

**Saturday, Dec. 20:** 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](http://www.chicorec.gov/chico-ice-rink) for tickets and latest schedule information.

**Continuing 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](http://www.fathershouseoroville.com/lights-of-hope)

**Friday, Dec. 12 and Saturday, Dec. 13**

## Unity in Motion

7:30 p.m. each night at the Harlen Adams Theatre, 400 W. 1st St., Chico. Join us for an evening of dance, celebrating a diverse range of styles and genres.

You'll see new and original works by Chico State faculty, guest artists, and students. Tickets available at the CSUC box office.

**Saturday, Dec. 13**

## Pioneer Christmas

Noon to 4 p.m. at the Pioneer History Museum, 2332 Montgomery Street, Oroville. Step back in time and celebrate the season the old-fashioned way, with a cozy, family-friendly afternoon full of holiday cheer. Free entry to the museum. Donations for activities will go to the Oroville Docents Association, helping bring more fun community events like this to life in the future.

## Parade of Lights & Craft Fair

2 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Historic Downtown Oroville. While you're in Oroville, don't miss the Craft Fair at Kingdom Community Church, 1235 Lincoln Street. Shop for last-minute gifts and stay to enjoy the Parade of Lights starting at 6 p.m. as it winds through Downtown with decorated vehicles, floats, and walking entries.

## A Jazzy Nutcracker

2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Butte College Main Campus – Black Box Theater, 3536 Butte Campus Drive, Oroville. Celebrate the season in style with this reimagining of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" created by Duke Ellington and Bill Strayhorn, performed by an all-star big band. Tickets and more information at [www.butte.edu/campus-events](http://www.butte.edu/campus-events)

## Fashion Show & Bazaar

6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Eagles Hall, 1940 Mulberry Street, Chico. See vintage fashions from Bootleg Vintage, 6th Street Thrift, Opium Den, BettyRocketVintage, and Sentimental benefitting Friends United in Rescue (FUR), a Chico non-profit cat rescue. Also featuring a no-host bar, bazaar with local craft vendors and a bake sale. Tickets \$25 at the door. More information at [www.butte365.com](http://www.butte365.com)

**Sunday, Dec. 14**

## Little's Lunar Market

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Barn at Meriam Park, 1930 Market Place, Chico. We will be showcasing more than 20 little business owners, artists, makers, and vendors, all under 18 and still in grade school. Enjoy live music and carolers, sip and shop bar, snacks, ice cream and other foods.

## Happy Winter – A Holiday Concert from the Children's Choir of Chico

3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 285 E. 5th Street, Chico. Join us for a heartwarming afternoon filled with festive music performed

by our talented singers. Reception to follow concert. Reserve tickets at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/silver-jubilee-season-happy-winter-a-holiday-concert>

**Thursday, Dec. 18**

## Santa on a Fire Engine

6 p.m. in downtown Live Oak. See Santa and his friends ride through town. Brought to you by Live Oak Parks & Recreation.

## Campana Sobre Campana: Christmas in Mexico

7 p.m. doors open, show begins at 7:30 p.m. at Laxson Auditorium, 400 W. 1st Street, Chico. Join Mariachi Garibaldi de Jaime Cuéllar and Ballet Folklorico del Rio Grande for an unforgettable program where every note and dance step embodies the rich cultural tapestry of Christmas in Mexico. Tickets and more information at [www.chicoperformances.com](http://www.chicoperformances.com)

**Saturday, Dec. 20 and Sunday, Dec. 21**

## Celebration Market Two-Day Holiday Pop-Up Event

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at Lassen Traditional Cidery, 643 Entler Ave., Suite 52, Chico. Discover unique, one-of-a-kind gifts made by talented artisans from Butte County. Perfect for last-minute holiday needs. Enjoy live local music and delicious food & desserts from local food vendors. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

## 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. 23 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@butte-county.net](mailto:literacy@butte-county.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. 15.

**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. Due to the holidays, the next meeting will be in January, 2026. 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. Next meeting is Wednesday, Dec. 17. 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. 17.

## 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. 2026 dates for next distribution are pending. 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. 2026 dates for next distribution are pending. 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. ★

# Jury Finds Double Murder Suspects Guilty

**Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release**

**BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Two Humboldt County men were each convicted Dec. 8 after a jury trial in Butte County Superior Court for a gruesome double murder in the rural Cherokee area of Butte County.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said Samuel Ashley, 43, and Wesley Evans, 45, were each found guilty of two counts of first-degree murder. Additionally, the jury found a special allegation of multiple murder to be true for each defendant.

A homicide investigation was initiated on Jan. 30, after the badly burned remains of two men were discovered in a vehicle on Condor Road in Cherokee. The investigation found that Ashley and Evans had traveled with the victims from Humboldt County to Butte County.

The victims, Juan Daniel Arreola Solano, 26, and Esequiel Velle Arellano Jr., 22, were identified through DNA samples obtained from family members.

One of the victims repeatedly stated he had a deal for firearms with Ashley and Evans.

The five-week jury trial began Nov. 3, and the jury deliberated for about 5 hours



before reaching their verdict late Dec. 8.

Ashley and Evans remain in custody without bail and are scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 9 2026, for sentencing. Ashley and Evans each face a life sentence without the possibility of parole.

"The nature of the case presented significant investigative challenges, but the Butte County Sheriff's detective unit did outstanding work," Ramsey said.

Ramsey also noted that the complex prosecution of the case was ably handled by the trial prosecutors, Chief Deputy District Attorney Mark Murphy and Deputy District Attorney Megan Grow, during which 23 witnesses and over 200 exhibits were presented to the jury. ★



## Autumn Rains Hasten Persimmon Harvest

California's persimmon harvest accelerated last month as crews worked to pick fruit ahead of mid-November rainstorms. Persimmons withstand rain better than some fruits, but after multiple storms, "the fruit gets riper and breaks down faster," Yuba County farmer Steven Springer said. The Golden State grows most of the nation's persimmons, though at roughly 3,000 bearing acres in California, the crop's footprint is smaller than other relatively niche fruits such as pomegranates and kiwifruits. Production is concentrated in the San Joaquin Valley, with some acreage in the Sacramento Valley and in central and southern coastal areas. In 2022, California's persimmon crop was valued at \$35 million. "It's a growing commodity," said Dillon Luallen, sales representative at Sierra Sun Fruit Marketing in Fresno County. "It's relatively easy to farm, and it seems like consumption of persimmons has been going up year after year."

## New Clean Water Act Rule Provides Clarity for Farms

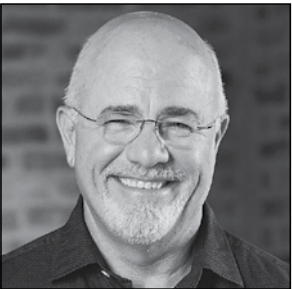
A new rule by the Trump administration is expected to narrow the scope of federal oversight on the nation's wetlands and other waterways. The proposed rule clarifies what "waters of the United States" means and carries out directives from a 2023 U.S. Supreme Court ruling about how the Clean Water Act applies to working farmland. It aims to ensure that only relatively permanent, enduring or continuously flowing bodies of water—such as streams, oceans, rivers and lakes—and

wetlands that are connected to and indistinguishable from such water bodies are federally regulated. Farm advocates say the rule could save farmers time and money by reducing permitting requirements for activities on their land. "The Supreme Court clearly ruled several years ago that the government overreached in its interpretation of what fell under federal guidelines," American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall said, adding that the new rule "protects critical water sources while respecting the efforts of farmers to protect the natural resources they've been entrusted with."

## Specialty Crop Growers Face More Risks and Fewer Tools

For specialty crop farmers, 2025 has offered little relief from mounting financial pressures. Markets that once promised stable margins are now defined by volatility, with production expenses outpacing price gains and exports at risk under global trade uncertainties. Despite contributing more than \$75 billion in farm-gate value—over a third of all U.S. crop sales—growers of specialty crops such as fruits, nuts and vegetables have fewer risk-management and safety-net options to help weather these challenges. The result is a widening gap between cost and revenue that threatens profitability across much of the farm economy. The diversity that defines the sector also amplifies its vulnerability. Each crop relies on distinct production systems, marketing channels and labor demands, making it difficult to design one-size-fits-all safety nets or risk-management tools. ★

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## Dave Ramsey Says The Importance of Employee Buy-In

are open to feedback, humble and willing to grow. They lead by serving. And most teams will follow a good example, so lead with confidence, focus and transparency.

Next, define your mission, vision and values. Your mission describes what you do and why it matters. Your vision paints a picture of what the future will look like when your mission is lived out, and your values declare what your company stands for and guide how you make decisions. Share these often, and be very clear when you do. If these principles aren't firmly in place and understood, you're asking your team to navigate without a map.

Also, communicate consistently and clearly. Your team members aren't a bunch of mind readers. Share all your expectations and goals frequently, along with the why behind your plans. Make time for questions and mentoring, too. Your ability to communicate well goes a long way

toward determining team satisfaction and retention, along with the quality of your relationships and the level of trust you earn.

Finally, have a solid strategic plan. Don't just relay a vague outline your company's destination, map out a clear path of how to get there with all your leaders. A strategic plan with actionable steps shows your team what winning looks like and what it'll take to succeed.

And when the plan is specific and achievable, your team will rally around it.

— 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.* ★

Dear Dave,

How do I get my employees to buy-in to the company mission, and really get onboard with what I want to accomplish and the steps toward making it happen? I feel like I have a lot of good people working for me, but I'm not sure I'm getting the message across in terms what I expect and what it will take for them and the business to succeed.

— Franklin

Dear Franklin,

It's a no-brainer that employee buy-in is great, even essential, for your business. But actually getting buy-in? That can be tough. Here are four steps I believe are essential to setting the stage for winning employees over and gaining their trust, their loyalty and their respect.

First, evaluate your leadership. Ask yourself, Would I follow the leader I am today? Great leaders

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# 71 and Strong

Gridley Invitational Basketball Tournament Kicks Off

By Seti Long

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - The 71st Annual Gridley Invitational Basketball Tournament (G.I.B.T) celebrates as the action hits the court at Farmers Hall, Gridley, beginning Thursday, Dec. 11.

The legendary Gridley Invitational Basketball Tournament historically invites Sacramento and Bay Area teams to play top-tier hoops with the Gridley High School Bulldogs.

Tradition continues as veteran Salesians and Dublin return, joined by Saint Mary's, Modesto Christian, Clovis North, Folsom and Branson teams.

Game play begins at 4 p.m.

Thursday and Friday, with Saint Mary's initiating tournament play as they take Dublin. Saturday, consolation rounds begin at 2 p.m., with the championships rounds starting at 5 p.m.

Gridley boys take on Salesian at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 11.

Tickets can be purchased at the door with a credit card or on GoFan.com. The tournament will also be live streamed at NorCalSportsTV.com for those that cannot attend in person.

Tickets are \$11/adult, with tournament passes for \$28. Seniors, Military and Students without ASB cards are \$9. Children and students k-5, and 6-12th grades with ASB card get in for free. ★



Pictured is the Gridley Boys Basketball. Back row from left are, Ulysses Anguiano No. 22, Jorge De La Torre Valle No. 4, Tanner Abbott No. 21, Jeffery Taranto No. 55 and Jacob Boyan No. 23. Front Row from left are, Israel Garcia No. 2, Saulo Ramirez No. 24, Thiago Rosales No. 11, Marcus Duncan No. 3, Rafel Franco No. 0 and Noe Moran No. 5. Photo courtesy of Libby Tolman

# Bulldogs Come Inches Short of State Title Opportunity

By YSBC

**SAN JOSE, CA (YSBC)** - The Gridley Bulldogs best season in program history ended on Friday, Dec. 5 as the Lincoln Lions (San Jose) prevailed 28-20 in the CIF 6-AA Nor Cal title game.

Gridley head coach Daniel Zumwalt expressed to Yuba Sutter Butte Colusa Sports that the send off the Bulldogs received in the early afternoon from their classmates and community members was one that they will never forget.

Zumwalt added that words couldn't amount to what the experience of that sendoff felt to him as a coach and the boys on the team.

The Bulldogs couldn't have asked for a better start as senior quarterback Eli Punzo found senior wide receiver Canon Moore for a long touchdown pass to take an early 7-0 lead.

Lincoln fired back and tied the game with two

minutes left in the first as senior running back Lucas Martinez scored on a 22-yard touchdown rush.

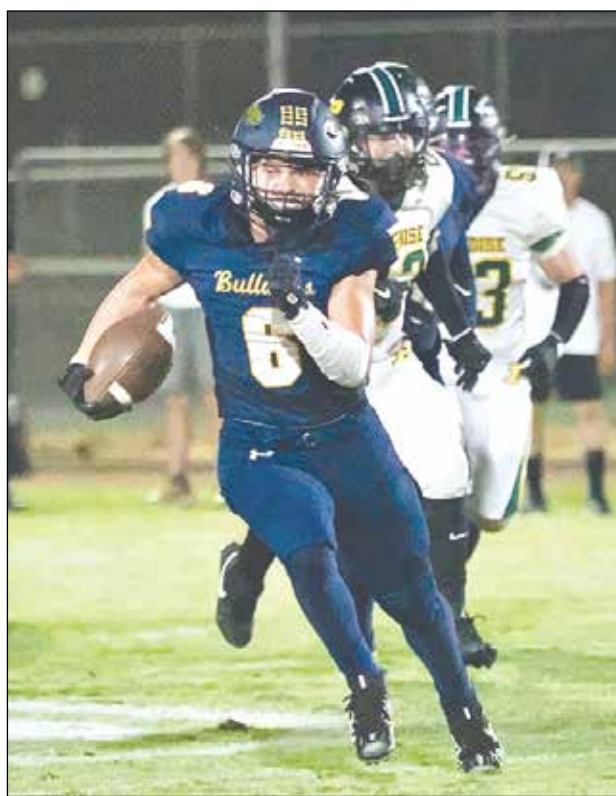
Zumwalt expressed multiple times throughout the season that if Gridley was able to hold onto the ball and keep the turnovers down, they'd be in a successful spot to win.

The Bulldogs didn't win the turnover battle and the Lions took the lead 14-7 inside a minute to go in the first.

As another week had passed, Gridley junior tight end Jace Griggs scored on a long rushing attempt for a touchdown as he scored from the Lincoln 32.

The point-after-attempt (PAT) struggles continued for the Bulldogs as they missed a crucial one to go up seven half way through the third.

Griggs led Gridley with 91 yards rushing and found the end zone twice. Griggs added his second touchdown of the night when he rushed into the end zone for



Gridley junior running back Marcus Duncan (6) rushes the ball during the Bulldogs' 7-3 victory over Paradise on Sept. 26. Photo by Chris Pedigo

six yards during the final minute of the first half.

The Gridley defense stuffed the Lions offense as they attempted to convert a

fourth-and-short, but were denied and gave the ball off to the Bulldogs.

Punzo tossed an interception halfway through

the fourth quarter inside the red zone and it shifted the momentum and gave Lincoln the push they needed to get back into the swing of things with the home crowd behind them.

Lincoln tied the game at 20 with four minutes to go in the game after there was a 65-yard pass connection and took a single-point lead with a made extra point.

On the ensuing kickoff, there was a fumble on the kickoff return that gave the ball back to the Lions on short field and they quickly extended their lead on an easy score.

The Bulldogs were driving with time going quickly off the clock and the season came down to three yards needed for a first down.

Gridley ran the ball up the middle and it appeared Duncan crossed the plane, but was a few inches short as the first-down chain stretched past the ball.

Duncan rushed for 63 yards in the loss and

Zumwalt told YSBC that he couldn't be prouder of the boys for everything that they have accomplished this season.

Zumwalt added that the leadership that Punzo created this season and transformed it from the pre-season to the final snaps in December was tremendous.

He said that Punzo was a phenomenal leader this year and left a legacy of being a supportive leader of all of his teammates. Punzo finished with 87 passing yards and 73 yards on the ground in the loss.

As much as it's expected to hurt for a while, the Bulldogs had their best season in school history. They won their first section title in 36 years and they defeated two teams twice in the same season (Orland and University Prep).

The Bulldogs will take a few weeks. For more updated sports coverage on all local sports, go to ysbcsports.com and subscribe today! ★

# Tournament Season Kicks Off in Full Swing

By YSBC

**SUTTER AND BUTTE COUNTIES, CA (YSBC)** - The first complete weekend of basketball tournaments concluded last weekend and each weekend for the rest of 2025, boys and girls' basketball squads will be playing multiple back-to-back games.

Yuba Sutter Butte Colusa Sports looks forward to covering all 24 of our teams in this time span to share highlights with great performances and notable milestones.

## Girls Basketball

**Live Oak** - The Live Oak Lions program is an upcoming program as they are having one victory of having as many wins as they did in 2024-25. Live Oak's athletic



Gridley sophomore Iris Counihan (10) puts a shot up during the Bulldogs' victory against East Nicolaus on Dec. 4. Photo by Steven Bryla

department has made changes throughout multiple programs throughout the last few seasons.

The Lions picked up

their first win of the season in the opening round of the Lois Langford tournament with an impressive win over Bradshaw Christian.

Live Oak head coach Ty Prince expressed to YSBC that he is focused on a strong defensive presence and that it will come over time.

The Lions picked up their second win of the season with a 48-point win over Williams on Monday night.

**Gridley** - The Gridley Bulldogs picked up two victories last weekend in their Lady Bulldog classic.

Gridley forced a lot of turnovers in the East Nicolaus game and capitalized on some easy buckets and multiple outlet passes.

The Bulldogs are led by

a pair of sophomores, Iris Counihan and Madi Carey as the top two scorers on the roster.

Gridley head coach Becca McCray told YSBC that she is excited for what this season will bring and can't wait to continue it.

## Boys' basketball

**Live Oak** - The Live Oak Lions begin year two of the rebuild process under head coach Anthony Ellis.

Ellis expressed that he has a talented group this year and they will be highly competitive.

The veteran-heavy squad has plenty of experience and is hosting their annual tournament throughout the weekend.

For more updated sports coverage on all local teams go to ysbcsports.com and subscribe today! ★



Live Oak senior guard Farron Gomez (13) drives into the lane on Dec. 3 in the Lions' loss to Dixon. Photo by Steven Bryla



Live Oak sophomore Meredith Bole (4) lays the ball up on Saturday, Dec. 6 during the Lions' defeat to Marysville. Photo by Chris Pedigo



Live Oak junior Rhyen Bidasha (10) shoots a long jumper on Saturday, Dec. 6 in the Lions' loss to Marysville. Photo by Chris Pedigo

# Bulldogs Head to State



Gridley Titans players cheer on the Gridley High School Football team. Photo by Seti Long

By Destiny Hutchison

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Gridley High School was buzzing with excitement as the Bulldogs football team prepared for their state championship run, and the campus was getting into the holiday spirit with a packed calendar of events leading into winter break.

sports rally last Friday, honoring not only the football team's incredible journey to state but also celebrating the start of winter sports season. Then this Friday, we are holding the 71st annual Gridley Invitational Basketball Tournament (GIBT). This long-standing tournament brings competitive basketball teams from across the region to Gridley, giving the Bulldogs a chance to face off against some seriously intense competition right here on their home court.

The energy on campus has been electric as students rally behind their teammates heading into this historic opportunity.

### Holiday Spirit Fills the Halls

While Gridley High won't have a traditional Christmas light display this year, the school is planning to bring festive cheer inside with decorations in the hallways and at the front entrance. Leadership is working to transform the campus into

a winter wonderland for students to enjoy during the final weeks before break. The holiday festivities continue with a Christmas-themed movie night scheduled for Monday, Dec. 22, giving students a chance to unwind and celebrate together before finals week.

### Finals Week Support and Sweet Surprises

To help students power through the stress of finals during the last week of school,

leadership will be offering hot chocolate to keep everyone warm and energized. Additionally, students can spread holiday cheer by purchasing Candy Grams throughout December, a popular tradition that lets Bulldogs send sweet messages to friends and classmates. With state championship dreams, winter sports in full swing, and holiday activities around every corner, Gridley High students have plenty of reasons to celebrate this December. ★



Gridley High School Football moms cheer on the team after an incredible season. Photo by Seti Long

# Live Oak Stroll Kicks off the Holiday Season



Santa and the Grinch enjoyed visiting with the children and taking pictures. Photo by Mickey Mrakuzic

By Seti Long

**LIVE OAK, CA (MPG)** - Snow blew into Live Oak the night of Dec. 5, as the Grinch and Santa got together with the community to celebrate the coming holiday season.

Live Oak's Community Center served as the venue for dozens of vendors peddling hot and tasty food, crafts and more.

Live Oak High School's FFA class helped run some of the games and entertainment as the community gathered to flip the switch on the holidays and official light the city's Christmas tree.

Live Oak Vice Mayor Aaron Pamma and

Councilman Bob Woten led the countdown for the lighting of the 2025 tree, which instead of a typical evergreen tree such as a spruce or a pine, decorated

a tree shaped much like their oak tree.

The tree remains lit outside the Live Oak community center for all to enjoy throughout the season. ★



City residents braved the cold evening to celebrate this year's tree lighting. Photo by Mickey Mrakuzic



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