



Former High Wheelers' are Teammates Again in Indy

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



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Order Up! Bulldog Brews Serves Fresh Java



The Adult Extensive Needs program at Gridley High School assists individuals with disabilities transition into the adult world.

Story and photos by Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) -Gridley Unified School District has multiple programs that facilitate the needs of their students, and when the time comes, the needs of those who aren't students anymore. Most notably the Adult Extensive Needs program, which is currently housed at the Gridley High School campus and assists individuals with disabilities transition into the adult world.



Bulldog Brews staff work out of a room in the Guardian Building in which they decorate and set up to reflect the atmosphere of a coffee shop.

This program is relatively new to the district and serves to expose participants to hands-on

experience in the hopes that they are more prepared when they encounter tasks while a part of working society.

"The program helps our students with special needs learn job related skills and develop communications skills based in customer service and the work industry," said Gridley High School Principal Rikki-Lee Buresch. "The goal is to develop job skills for life after high school."

Bulldog Brews is the

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Unstable Riverbed Conditions Derail Gridley Sewer Plans

By Susan Meeker

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Once again, Gridley's unusual subsurface conditions are disrupting a major public works project. The city, which was previously forced to alter infrastructure plans due to unexpected soil behavior, is now facing similar complications on its Feather River Sewer Crossing replacement effort.

During a Dec. 15 presentation to the Gridley City Council, City Engineer Dave Harden said new in river drilling conducted this fall revealed that the soil beneath the Feather River is far less stable than earlier borings suggested, eliminating micro-tunneling as a feasible option for replacing the city's 1967 sewer line that carries all wastewater across the river.

City officials said the discovery forces the city back into a full reevaluation of alternatives.

"The results here are not what we were hoping for," Harden told the council.

Chief Administrative Officer Elisa Arteaga said the city is working under a \$1.3 million Clean Water State Revolving Fund planning grant, with about \$520,000 remaining. Bennett Engineering Services is under contract to complete environmental review, permitting and preliminary design. All required permits have been secured, and the city had adopted its Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration when complications arose.

Harden said the new borings showed that the trench zone originally believed to provide 10 to 15 feet of suitable material pinched out to only a few feet, leaving the tunnel path dominated by gravels and cobbles that could collapse into the bore.

"To make micro-tunneling feasible, we would have to go roughly 35 feet deeper than planned, to nearly 100 feet below the river," he said. "That adds significant cost and risk."

Because the geotechnical results directly affect

Continued on page 3

Rising Waters

By Seti Long

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - After an atmospheric river hit the area over the Christmas holidays, the north state was left soggy and flooded in some areas, with rural road closures extending throughout the county.

The Department of Water Resources, California Data Exchange Center reported Lake Oroville reservoir levels at 799.15 feet on Dec. 24. At that time, water was released from the Oroville dam at 1,564 CFS but was slowly restricted to zero on Dec. 25. The California Data Exchange Center listed rain fall during that period ranging from 12.98 to 13.08 inches.

Over the next few days, lake levels would increase as expected

while the valley was pelted with heavy downpours, vicious winds and hail in some areas, prompting flood warnings and even tornado warnings in some areas and neighboring counties.

At the time of this article, Lake Oroville reservoir levels have increased to 821.18 feet, with storage at 2,345, 976 AF. According to the California Department of Water Resources, California Data Exchange Center website, as of Dec. 30 at 8 a.m., releases from the spillway have ceased.

Inflow to the lake continues with the latest data from the California Data Exchange Center showing a decrease from 12,621 CFS in the early morning hours of Dec. 30 to the current 10, 491 CFS.

As a reminder, outflow statistical data represents outflow from Lake Oroville, including the Hyatt Power plant, spillway and low flow outlet, according to the California Department of Water Resources website. In addition to those outflow currents, the River Release records all data including releases from the fish barrier dam, fish hatchery and Thermalito Afterbay river outlet.

Currently River Release has stayed rather consistent at 1,760 on Dec. 29, only dipping a small amount to 1,745 CFS.

Moving into the later part of the week and New Year, the north state is expected to receive more wet weather, suggesting that releases will begin again and continue. ★

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The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

For full disclosure, in the last episode of the Pi-Line, I mentioned the CalFire local 2881-the Union of CalFire Firefighters. In the past, I have worked for 2881 as a consultant. That does not prohibit me from taking to the keyboard this week to say that Chip Fowler, who is retiring as our area manager for fire services, was a genuinely effective and super successful fire chief. I have been on the front lines with Chip at wildfires as he had to make tough decisions - and he made good ones throughout his entire career, and saved many people's lives. It's one thing to run

into the burning building. It's another one to figure out which thousand soon to be burning buildings need helicopters, airplanes, water tanks, electrical shut-offs, roads reworked, and/or evacuations - in 30 minutes or less. Congratulations to Chip. Thank you for your service.

In February of 2026 candidates for Governor as well as the other statewide offices and the House of Representatives will have to file to run for elected office. Right now there's about 47 Democrats trying to decide whether or not they want to run for Governor. How it shakes out in February will be a matter of high drama. After the new special "redistricting" of election maps, there has been a run on western wear as Bay Area candidates who now have congressional seats drawn into the conservative parts of Northern California are buying cowboy hats and boots at such a pace

they've caused a shortage. Nothing can cover up a 100% certified liberal voting record like a pair of cowboy boots and a cowboy hat. I once knew a candidate for Congress who bought a partial interest in a cow, literally, so that he could legally declare his occupation as being a "rancher", even though he was a full time paid politician. He won. I'm thinking of putting an ad in the San Francisco Chronicle - Northern California "political cows for sale" - free boots and hat with purchase of over 50% of the bovine. Doug LaMalfa should offer to sell his Bay Area opponents a partial interest in a Rice Harvester. Then they could be "farmers" which polls as well as "rancher" on ballot materials. When Doug's Dad, Milt, put Doug in a harvester 40 years ago, he probably was not thinking about politics. The world has changed.

Josh F.W. Cook was born in Gridley. ★

Sky Beams Spotlight South Yuba City Holiday Display

Story and photo by Shamaya Sutton

YUBA CITY, CA (MPG) - Beams of light cutting through the night sky quickly drew the attention of Yuba-Sutter residents this past December. The mysterious lights were reported as far south as Elk Grove and as far north as Live Oak. Their origin: a residential home off Green Valley Road in south Yuba City.

"It's definitely been a game changer as far as our Christmas light display goes," said homeowner Jill Justice-Childs.

"Everybody knows to go to the other side of town, but nobody really knows that there's lights on this side of town, so we wanted something to draw attention," added her husband, Jason Childs.

For the first time this year, the Childs family mounted eight concert-style sky beams onto their roof. Typically, lighting of this caliber requires weatherproofing and protective housing. However, a new version released this year by Your Pixel Store in Southern California offered a more practical solution.

"It's really hard to find concert-rated outdoor lights or DMX lights that are moving without putting a cover over them," said Jason. "In the last couple years there's been a lot of people doing innovation and testing, and they are one of the first to come out with a UL-rated light that you can use without having to buy whole separate covers for."

The lights proved durable, even during the blustery winds that swept through the region over Christmas. Despite gusts exceeding 60 miles per hour, the display held steady.

Before mounting the lights, Jason conducted extensive research, including making multiple calls and sending emails to ensure the display complied with regulations. That process included contacting the Federal Aviation Administration regarding local ordinances.



Jill Justice-Childs and Jason Childs, creators of the Yuba Sutter Light Show, pose together during the holiday season

"It doesn't violate any city ordinance or county ordinance as long as we don't shine them at any roads or homes or anything like that," Jason said.

Programming the display took months, with careful attention to angles, color variation, height and timing.

"It's like dance choreography," said Jill Justice. "He had to figure out what he wanted them to do, when he wanted them to do it, what colors to turn to at every second of all the songs they're on. It's pretty crazy."

In addition to the overhead sky beams, the Childs have installed an RGB light display around their home. Viewers are encouraged to tune their radios to 92.1 FM to experience the synchronized music and lighting. Jason Childs has spent hours designing each song in the playlist, often taking requests and adding new selections.

"Some of the kids have requested K-Pop Demon Hunters, so that will be up tonight," Jason said during an interview on Dec. 26.

The show currently features about an hour of programmed, holiday-themed music and lighting, alongside popular hits such as "Can't Stop the Feeling" by Justin Timberlake, "Blinding Lights" by The Weeknd and "Believer" by Imagine Dragons.

After mastering their

own display, the couple has begun offering personalized lighting design consultations for other local families and businesses. Those interested can contact Yuba Sutter Light Show at yubasutter-lightshow@gmail.com.

"It's more of a consultative approach," Jill said. "We ask about their budget, expectations, and then we can design a show around it — we don't do the install though."

The effort has paid off, particularly in the community response. The display has drawn families night after night, with some stopping to dance in the street.

"The kids, they just love it," Jason said. "They get to hear songs that both they and their parents like and watch the lights together."

"It's become a tradition with some of our neighbors," Jill added. "All the kids and their grandkids come over, and they just hang out the whole night watching the light show."

The display runs nightly from 5:30 to 11 p.m., with each hour-long show looping to help manage traffic flow. Weather permitting, the light show will remain up through Jan. 4. After that, the lights will be stored until fall, when the Childs plan to debut an early Halloween display. For more information, look for "Yuba Sutter Light Show" on social media. ★

MEMORIAL

LINDA BERNICE (PATRICK) CABRERA • 03/29/1959 – 12/09/2025

Linda Bernice (Patrick) Cabrera 66, was born on March 29th, 1959 in Indio, CA. She was one of 4 children born to Dovie and Dean Patrick.

Linda was a long time resident of Gridley, CA, where she raised 2 children and worked as a dedicated registration tech for nearly 25 years. She was known for her big heart and willingness to lend a helping hand for anyone in need.

Linda went to heaven on Dec. 9, 2025 in Chico, CA surrounded by her family and friends, after a courageous 3 year battle with cancer. She is preceded in death by her mother



Dovie, stepfather Wayne Griffin, brothers Jack and James Patrick, and sister Janice Gentry.

She is survived by her daughter Crystal(Kyle), son Thomas, and 2 granddaughters Cheyanne and Addie. Linda will be deeply

missed and forever loved. We love you mom(aka "cuckoo")

A funeral service will be held on Jan 13, 2026 at 10a.m. at Lighthouse Tabernacle 720 Ohio St, Gridley, CA. Burial will follow at Gridley-Biggs Cemetery.

Butte County Road Closures

Butte County Public Works News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - As of Dec. 26, Butte County have the following roads closed.

Afton Road at Aguas Frias to Glenn County Line, Aguas Frias Road from Afton Road to Hwy 162, Colusa Hwy from Cherokee Canal Road to Colusa County Line, Dark Canyon Rd from Paiute Drive to Oroville Lake, Durnel Road at Nelson to Grainland, Middle Honcut Road at Hwy 70 to Palermo Honcut

Hwy, Nelson Road at Wilbur Road Flooding, Stimpson Road from Cox Lane to Hwy 70.

For more information on road closures you can visit Butte County Public Works at: www.buttecounty.net/964/Road-Conditions

The website has an Interactive Road Conditions Map that is searchable for roads, addresses, etc., or zoom and pan into an area of interest to view road conditions. You can also click on a road condition for more details. ★

Little League Sign Ups

By Seti Long

LIVE OAK, CA (MPG)- Spring sports are around the corner and the Live Oak Little League is beginning the registration process.

The Live Oak Little League posted sign up and tryout dates online with special directions.

"If you child is over the age of 8, they need to attend one of these days for tryout dates to guarantee a spot on a team.

All sign-ups and tryouts will be at Berry Field."

Upcoming tryouts and sign-ups will be held on the following dates: Jan. 6 sign-ups from 5 to 6 p.m. with tryouts from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Jan. 10 sign-ups at 1 to 2 p.m. with tryouts 2 to 4 p.m., and Jan. 14 sign-ups at 5 to 6 p.m. with tryouts from 6 to 7:30pm.

For more information, contact the Live Oak Little League directly at Loll95953@gmail.com ★



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California Turns Winter Season Rain into Future Water Supply



Local agencies are working to collect as much of that stormwater as possible for future use. Photo courtesy Freepik

Governor Gavin Newsom's Office News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As California enters the upcoming season of winter rains, the Newsom administration and local agencies are working to collect as much of that stormwater as possible for future use.

California's winter rain season is a critical time of year when water managers need to capture, move and store as much water as possible for our dry summer months and potential future drought conditions. Following three weeks of dry conditions in most of California, reservoirs have room to assist flood managers. At Lake Oroville, the State Water Project's largest reservoir, storage is at 54 percent capacity, with plenty of available space in the reservoir to manage high inflows and capture storm runoff for future water supply.

California is taking a proactive approach to water management by capturing as much water as possible when seasonal rains arrive and storing it for the dry months ahead. With reservoirs ready and continued investments in storage and groundwater recharge, we're preparing for a future with more extreme weather while protecting our water supply for communities, farms, and ecosystems across the state.

Last month, thanks to years of planning and investment, local stormwater-capture projects turned a downpour into a valuable boost to the water supply. In Los Angeles alone, those November storms generated billions of gallons of captured water — enough to supply tens of thousands of households — with the potential for even more as new projects come online.

Building on the success of flood diversion efforts in 2023, the state has partnered with 14 local agencies in the Sacramento and San Joaquin regions to divert flood flows and prepare land for groundwater recharge. These preparations include pre-deploying 20 large-capacity pumps and clearing more than 650 acres of land. These efforts aim to reduce flood risk and enhance groundwater supplies by helping local agencies safely divert flows from

swollen streams into underground aquifers for storage. This builds upon an executive order from Governor Newsom in 2023 that authorized the diversion of flood flows for flood risk reduction and recharge benefits.

Along the Sacramento River Basin, the Big Notch fish passage project is now in action to both modernize and improve California's water system while also protecting juvenile endangered winter-run Chinook salmon. The Big Notch is a key State Water Project infrastructure investment, improving conditions for migratory fish while supporting the water supply depended upon by tens of millions of Californians. It's part of the State Water Project's ongoing efforts to balance water supply and environmental protection.

In August, California committed an additional \$219 million to the Sites Reservoir project. Sites Reservoir is a key component of Governor Newsom's water strategy — capturing water from the Sacramento River during wet seasons and storing it for use during drier seasons. These efforts will hold up to 1.5 million acre-feet of water, which is enough to supply over 4.5 million homes for a year. The project will help California maintain a resilient water supply in the face of climate change, weather extremes, and water scarcity.

In addition to surface water storage, the Newsom administration is working to improve California's underground water storage through groundwater recharge efforts. Data from the California Department of Water Resources confirms that the state's aquifers are improving year after year thanks to abundant precipitation and efforts by the state and its regional partners to capture and store more high flows during winter storms in groundwater basins, expand recharge basins, improve groundwater monitoring, and better coordinate among local agencies to reduce groundwater pumping.

These investments ensure that when water does arrive, we can store it, use it wisely, and build long-term resilience for the entire state. ★

CDFA Lifts Statewide Ban on Poultry and Dairy Cattle Exhibitions

By Lloyd Green Jr.

COLUSA, CA (MPG) - The California Department of Food and Agriculture has lifted its statewide ban on poultry and dairy cattle exhibitions at fairs and shows, clearing the way for animals to return to exhibition barns across the state.

The ban, which was put in place amid concerns over H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza, was lifted effective immediately following a review of current infection trends and mitigation measures, according to a letter issued by State Veterinarian Dr. Annette Jones.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture officials said the decision came after months of surveillance, analysis of viral trend data and consultation with state and federal epidemiologists and animal health partners.

"Based on a comprehensive review of current H5N1 infection trends, improved understanding of transmission dynamics, and enhanced mitigation measures now in place, CDFA has determined that the risk associated with poultry and dairy cattle exhibitions has sufficiently decreased," Jones wrote.

The ban had affected fairs, livestock shows, and youth programs statewide, including 4-H and FFA projects that rely on exhibition opportunities as part of their educational experience. With the restriction lifted, fair organizers may

resume planning poultry and dairy cattle exhibits for upcoming events.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture emphasized that the decision was made with both public health and agricultural interests in mind.

"CDFA recognizes the importance of protecting animal health, public health, and California's agricultural industries while also supporting youth programs, educational opportunities, and agricultural traditions across the state," the letter stated.

While exhibitions are now permitted, the California Department of Food and Agriculture strongly encouraged fairgrounds, organizers, and exhibitors to continue enhanced biosecurity and disease prevention practices. Animals showing signs of illness should not be transported or exhibited, and veterinarians should be contacted promptly if disease is suspected.

Suspected cases of H5N1 in poultry or cattle should be reported to the California Department of Food and Agriculture Sick Bird Hotline at 866-922-2473.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture officials said the department will continue close monitoring of H5N1 activity statewide and will work with fair organizers and animal owners to ensure safeguards remain in place. Additional guidance for exhibitions will be posted on the California Department of Food and Agriculture website. ★

Order Up!

Continued from page 1

Adult Extensive Needs-run coffee shop at the Gridley High School campus that helps program participants hone a few of those skills needed for success.

Each week instructor Jessica Paiva provides an order form to staff members with the current menu and Bulldog Brews offerings. The menu varies based on "customer" feedback and helps students learn new recipes as they create and fill each order.

Bulldog Brews staff work out of a room in the Guardian Building in which they decorate and set up to reflect the atmosphere of a coffee shop, with tables, barista area and even a greeter. Bulldog Brews staff handle everything

from preparing the order to managing the cash box, taking tender and serving customers.

"If a person is unable to pick up their order, the Bulldog Brew staff has been known to go the extra mile and deliver their drink," said Burresch.

The Gridley Herald happened to run into the Bulldog Brews staff doing just this, delivering multiple orders to staffers before the holiday break.

The group smiled excitedly, careful with their cargo and went on their way to deliver while the coffee was still hot.

Proceeds generated from the coffee sales at Bulldog Brew return to the program and help fund the purchase of additional supplies. ★

Unstable Riverbed Conditions Derail Gridley Sewer Plans

Continued from page 1

the selection of a feasible alternative, Bennett Engineering has paused the Draft Feasibility Study until the city determines a new path forward. Harden said the city will meet with tunneling contractors and industry specialists early next year to evaluate constructability and cost. With micro tunneling no longer viable at the planned depth, the city is revisiting alternatives previously set aside, including rerouting the sewer line north to cross the Feather River at the East Gridley Road bridge.

Harden said the option would add roughly two miles of pipeline and require evaluating pump station upgrades, levee adjacent construction and permitting implications. He also noted the State Water Resources Control Board may require the city to revisit regionalization concepts, including potential connection to Biggs, depending on long term feasibility and funding.

Arteaga recommended, and the council supported, a no cost amendment to the Bennett Engineering task order. The

amendment reallocates funding from the design phase to feasibility and environmental tasks and limits design work to the 30 percent level until a viable alternative is selected.

The council authorized a budget transfer that shifts \$60,000 into the feasibility task and \$30,000 into environmental documents, reducing the plans and specifications budget by \$90,000. No additional city funds are required, Arteaga said.

The city will also request a grant extension from the State Water Resources Control Board. The current final disbursement deadline is Aug. 27, but the city is seeking an extension to Jan. 30, 2029, to allow time for additional analysis, revised environmental documentation, and development of a new amended project report.

Harden emphasized that the existing river bottom pipe remains operational but cannot be replaced in its current location under modern permitting rules.

"Our job now is to find the most fiscally and technically feasible solution," Harden said. ★

California Schools Will Have to do More to Prevent Sex Abuse

By Carolyn Jones, calmatters.org

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- Facing a mountain of lawsuits, California K-12 schools will have a system in place beginning this year to prevent teachers and other staff from sexually abusing students.

A new California law creates an array of measures to educate school staff, beef up reporting requirements and stop teachers credibly accused of abuse from getting jobs at other districts.

The law, Senate Bill 848, goes into effect Jan. 1 and schools must have protocols in place by July. The law applies to all schools, including private schools.

"I'm proud to see this bill move forward. It's been really personal for me," state Sen. Sasha Renée Pérez, the bill's author, told CalMatters after it passed. "For survivors, this is an important step toward justice."

Avalanche of Lawsuits

The law stems from a previous California law that made it easier for victims to sue school districts and counties. Under AB 218, which went into effect in 2020, victims can file suit until age 40 or even older if they didn't remember being abused until later in life. That's led to an avalanche of lawsuits and much greater public awareness of the scope of the problem.

So far, victims have filed more than 1,000 lawsuits against school districts and counties, with some resulting in enormous payouts. A jury in Riverside County in 2023 handed



California K-12 schools will have a system in place beginning this year to prevent teachers and other staff from sexually abusing students. Photo courtesy of Freepik

Moreno Valley Unified a \$135 million verdict over abuse allegations, and Los Angeles Unified faces more than \$500 million in claims.

Overall, California schools face nearly \$3 billion in sex abuse claims from former students, according to the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team, a state agency that helps school districts with financial matters. Some of the incidents occurred decades ago, as early as the 1940s, and some of the payouts have been so large that they've led districts to financial insolvency.

School Accountability

While the new law doesn't address the lawsuits, it does institute measures intended to stop future abuse and hold schools more accountable. It requires schools to write comprehensive policies on appropriate behavior, and train students, teachers, coaches and other school staff on recognizing and reporting misconduct. It also broadens the number of staff who are required to report abuse allegations.

Perhaps the most noteworthy requirement is creating a database of teachers credibly accused of abuse. The database, to be administered by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, will be available to schools during their hiring processes. The aim is to stop teachers who've abused students from quitting and getting rehired elsewhere, only to abuse more students. Teachers who've been cleared of wrongdoing will be removed from the database.

Pérez, a Democrat from Alhambra, said she was inspired to author the new law after reading about generations of abuse at Rosemead High School, which is in her district. She also told CalMatters that she was the victim of a teacher's unwanted attention when she was in high school.

"There are now dollars and cents being assigned to these cases," she said in September. "It's really opened up this conversation about what can we do to better prevent this abuse from happening." ★

The SNC Board Approves Wildfire and Forest Resilience Grants to Help Protect Communities

Sierra Nevada Conservancy News Release

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA (MPG)

- On Thursday, Dec. 11, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC) Board approved three separate grants totaling nearly \$4.6 million to fund projects that will reduce fuels and create fuel breaks in efforts to restore forest health and protect nearby communities from wildfire. The grants, funded through Proposition 4 that voters passed in 2024, are the first awarded from the more than \$33 million allotted from the state to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for Wildfire and Forest Resilience programs.

"I'm excited by the actions of our Board to approve these projects so our valuable partners can continue the vital work in the Sierra-Cascade that is restoring forest health and resilience to help protect both the natural landscape and nearby communities from major disturbances, such as damaging wildfire," said Angela Avery, executive officer with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.



With the help of a recently established fuel break, firefighters were able to contain the Tiger Fire before impacting a nearby community. Photo courtesy of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy

was awarded to Chico State Enterprises for a fuel-break project that will establish 6.5 miles of continual fuel breaks in the footprint of the Park Fire in Big Chico Creek Canyon. The fuel breaks are part of the larger Butte County Community Fuel Break Project and will help protect residents in the towns of Cohasset, Forest Ranch, and the city of Chico. This project utilized the Statewide Fuels Reduction Environmental Protection Plan (EPP), which was developed to fulfill Governor Newsom's State of Emergency Proclamation and expedite fuels-reduction projects. The amount of \$1,493,192 was

awarded to the California Deer Association to reduce fuels and improve forest health on more than 400 acres near the town of Mammoth Lakes in Mono County. The project is in the Inyo National Forest, within the Hot Creek-Owens River watershed and the larger Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project.

Finally, the Board approved \$1,896,856 to the Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council for a project that will reconstruct a 4.7-mile, 300-acre fuel break on Sierra National Forest lands in Madera County. The fuel break will help protect the

communities of Oakhurst, Bass Lake, Coarsegold, North Fork, and the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians.

Wildfire and forest resilience funds expanded

The three Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Program grants approved at the meeting are funded by Proposition 4, which voters passed in November of 2024 and allocates a total of \$1.5 billion for wildfire and forest-resilience programs across the state.

Of this amount, Prop 4 includes \$33.5 million to Sierra Nevada Conservancy for wildfire-resilience projects. Thanks

to early action by the Governor and the legislature, \$30.9 million of Sierra Nevada Conservancy's wildfire resilience funds were made available in April 2025. At the June 2025 meeting, the SNC Governing Board opened a \$10 million Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program.

Due to the robust list of eligible, quality projects submitted, Sierra Nevada Conservancy staff recommended the Board increase available funding under the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program from \$10 million to \$15 million. The Board approved the \$5 million increase, ensuring more funds may be awarded for eligible, shovel-ready projects at future meetings.

Projects contribute to state climate targets

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program seeks to create more resilient forest landscapes and watersheds, reduce wildfire risk, and protect communities. All grants awarded in this program will reduce fuels near communities to prevent wildfire. Fuel-reduction work contributes towards the state-wide Nature-Based Solutions wildfire-risk-reduction targets. Beginning in 2030, California aims to complete 700,000 acres of fuel-reduction work annually. ★

Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

While staying inside because this gardener is now a wimp about the cold, I start trying to solve gardening problems. The problem I've been mulling over for some time is, "Why are my mandarin skins so thick this year?" It was a lower fruit year for me and the fruit looks huge because it has mega-thick

skins. So, I looked up this problem. I realized I've been very casual about citrus care. The orange tree is always loaded and we keep it a manageable size. It was here when we moved in. It was way to big and the limbs were like a rat's nest. We've pruned it down to about 12-15 ft. We've cut out twisted, rubbing limbs. No matter what we do it always has a ton of great fruit. I laughingly say that the neighbors do most of the watering for this tree. It is next to the fence and it survived for a long time with neglect before we arrived on the scene. My theory is that it has sent its roots under the fence to a well-watered part of the neighbor's yard. I

planted the mandarin about 10 years ago. It has always grown well and I feed it once in a while. I water it once in a while. It does get some drip sprinkler watering but not much and none of that water is directed at the tree, it is overspray. From what I can see the thick skins are a couple of things. Maybe too much nitrogen and not enough potassium. Maybe irregular watering when under stress, like in our hot summers. My careless ways are showing in the thickening fruit skins. Who knew? My first New Year's resolution is to treat the mandarin with care. May 2026 be kind to all of you and that someone takes good care of you. ★

Closed Wildlife Refuges

By Seti Long

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA (MPG) - In the wake of the heavy storms that hit the area over the Christmas holiday and following weekend, some Sacramento area National Wildlife Refuges will be closed due to flooding.

As of Dec. 26, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services website lists the Colusa NWR Hunt Area (east side), Colusa NWR Auto Tour and Sutter NWR Hunt Area as closed until further notice.

The website notice reminds recreational hunters that "other areas are subject to closure without notice. Please use extreme caution when visiting during or after bad weather, as flooding can occur without warning and road shoulders are soft and will not support your vehicle."

The Delevan NWR hunt area, Colusa NWR rail and observation platform, Colusa NWR hunt area (west side), and Sacramento River NWR remain open at the time of this article, per the fws.gov/refuge/Sacramento website. ★

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California Rolls Out 2026 Laws

By Susan Meeker

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA (MPG) - California ushered in a new set of laws this week, and while many were shaped by urban concerns, several will still influence daily life in rural Northern California.

Under Assembly Bill 1087, signed in 2024, probation terms for individuals convicted of vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated will increase from two years to between three and five years. Lawmakers said the change is intended to strengthen deterrence and bring sentencing in line with similar offenses.

Traffic safety rules will also expand. AB 390 broadens California's "slow down and move over" requirement to include any stationary vehicle using hazard lights, not just emergency or tow trucks. Drivers must reduce speed and change lanes when safe, a shift the California Highway Patrol says is intended to reduce roadside collisions.

Another measure, AB 382, allows cities and counties to lower school zone speed limits from 25 mph to 20 mph through 2031, giving rural districts more flexibility on streets where children often walk or bike.

Assembly Bill 1299, authored by Assemblymember Juan Carrillo (D-Palmdale) allows cities and counties to waive or reduce parking penalties for low income and homeless residents and requires agencies to offer payment plans upon request. Lawmakers said the

change is intended to keep "vulnerable" Californians from falling into escalating fines, towing, or vehicle loss that can make it harder to keep jobs, attend school, or access services.

California is also targeting tools used in property crimes. AB 1085 establishes a \$1,000 infraction for manufacturing devices designed to obscure or interfere with automated license plate readers. Senate Bill 586 formally classifies off highway electric motorcycles, known as eMotos, as off highway vehicles, requiring helmets, DMV issued ID plates, and compliance with existing OHV rules.

Electric bicycle riders will see new requirements under AB 544, which mandates a rear red reflector or red light at all times. Minors who receive helmet citations may also be required to complete an online safety course developed by the California Highway Patrol.

Consumer protections are expanding statewide. New rules eliminate thicker reusable plastic bags under California's existing plastic bag ban, and AB 578 requires food delivery platforms to provide full refunds for missing or incorrect orders, disclose itemized pay and tips to drivers, and offer human customer service when automated systems fail.

Individually, these laws may not dramatically reshape rural communities. But together, legislators say they will set the stage for policy shifts that will reach every corner of the state, from its largest cities to its smallest agricultural towns. ★

Cause of Big Chico Creek E. Coli Outbreak Unknown

By Susan Meeker

CHICO, CA (MPG) - County health officials say the source of the toxic E. coli strain that sickened five people over the summer has still not been identified, despite months of testing along Big Chico Creek and extensive investigation by local, state and federal agencies.

The June outbreak involved a dangerous Shiga toxin-producing strain of E. coli that likely came into contact with swimmers.

Dr. Jarett Beaudoin, Butte County's Public Health Officer, told the Board of Supervisors during a Dec. 16 presentation that the infections were linked to water and sediment in Big Chico Creek, including areas around Sycamore Pool and as far as five miles upstream.

"E. coli is a very common bacteria, but this is a particularly toxic variant," Beaudoin said. "It landed three children in the hospital and two on dialysis. It is very serious for us."

The county issued a no swim advisory in June and began working with the California Water Board and state health authorities to conduct repeated testing. Retesting in October showed no presence of the outbreak strain, and the advisory was lifted on Oct. 21.

Even with the clearance, investigators have not been able to pinpoint the original source of contamination. The leading hypothesis from the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention, the California Department of Public Health and county investigators points to cattle or other ruminants, such as goats and sheep. Tests on geese and deer near the creek were negative, Beaudoin said.

Although not a current theory, sediment movement from burn scar areas, including land affected by the Park Fire, may have contributed to the spread or persistence of bacteria during the summer.

"It is something we want to keep watching for, and we are," Beaudoin said. "If we get a case of this type of E. coli, we're probably going to do aggressive monitoring."

There are no immediate plans for additional source tracking work. Public Health will continue monitoring for human cases next season and is coordinating with the California Water Board and the City of Chico on preventive water testing. Any new cases of the same strain would trigger an immediate no swim advisory, Beaudoin said.

With winter rain, Beaudoin said there is concern that runoff could reintroduce contamination. However, similar outbreaks in past years have not returned the following season, suggesting the bacteria does not persist long term in creek sediment, he said.

All five individuals affected in June are reported to be doing well with no known lasting complications. ★

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.

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

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

Tuesday, Jan. 6: Creative writing group for adults, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (G) LEGO Tuesdays, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B)

Wednesday, Jan. 7: Color your world, 11 a.m. to noon. Adult arts and crafts. (G) Afternoon kids' club, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (G)

Thursday, Jan. 8: Biggs chess club, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B) Celebrating Winter: Pajama Party, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. All ages welcome to come in your coziest pajamas and warm up with hot cocoa while you decorate a paper cocoa mug. (G)

Friday, Jan. 9: Sure Start family play time, 9 a.m. to noon. (G)

Saturday, Jan. 10: Adult ugly art club, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Materials provided, absolutely no skills required. (G)

Continuing through Sunday, Jan. 4

Chico Ice Rink

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

Saturday, Jan. 3

Preserving Food with Friends – Canning 101

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Garden at St. Timothy's, 410 Jackson Street. Learn how to safely preserve your favorite fruits and veggies during our canning demonstration class. Perfect for beginners or anyone wanting to refresh their skills. This class is not hands-on. We welcome you to observe, take notes and ask questions. More information on our Facebook page.

Saturday, Jan. 10

Sunset Birding Trek: Oroville Wildlife Area

3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Oroville Wildlife Area, 945 Oro Dam Blvd. W., Oroville. Join us for a sunset trek through one of the Sacramento Valley's hidden gems for winter waterfowl. Participants will enjoy easy trails and observation points while guides share tips for identifying birds, spotting behaviors, and understanding winter wetland ecology. Bring binoculars, warm layers, and a flashlight with a red lens for the return walk if needed. Attendance is free, but participants must fill out a liability waiver. More information at www.zeffy.com

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 Jan. 13 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 Jan. 13 and more information is available at 530-552-3300.

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

Gridley City Council meets on the first and third Monday each month, 6 p.m. in the council chambers, 685 Kentucky St. Meeting agendas are posted to the following site on the Friday prior to each meeting: <http://gridley.ca.us/government-and-departments/city-council>

The next meeting will be Monday, Jan. 5. **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. 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, Jan. 7. 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, Jan. 7.

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, Jan. 25. Call 530-695-2894 for more information.

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

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

North State Food Bank, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. monthly at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 410 Jackson St., Gridley. Next distribution on Tuesday, Jan. 13. Call 530-712-2600 for more information.

North State Food Bank, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Biggs Methodist Church, 441 C St., Biggs. Next distribution on Tuesday, Jan. 13. 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. ★



Gridley Police Report



December 13, 2025 - December 23, 2025

Dec. 13: At 7:30 p.m. on the 1500 block of SR 99, Gridley, Paul Edward Menchaca, 45, was arrested on suspicion of Disorderly Conduct: alcohol (M) (647(f) PC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

Dec. 17: At 9:15 p.m. on the 1600 block of SR99, Gridley, Spencer T Folkman, 35, was arrested on three separate Outside Agency – Misdemeanor Warrants and was booked into Butte County Jail.

Dec. 18: At 8:09 p.m. on the 1400 block of SR 99, Gridley, Marshall James Hollingsworth, 35, was arrested on suspicion of Possessing Unlawful Paraphernalia (M) (11364(a) HS) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

Dec. 20: At 12:34 a.m. on SR99 and Cherry Street, Gridley, Melchor Salgadomedina, 32, was arrested on suspicion of possession of unlawful paraphernalia (M) (11364(a) HS) and Outside Misdemeanor Warrants and was booked into Butte County Jail.

Dec. 20: At 8:36 p.m. on SR99 and Township Road, Gridley, Pedro Arciniega Lepe, 65, was arrested on suspicion of DUI Alcohol (M) (23152(a) VC) and DUI Alcohol/0.08 Percent (M) (23152(b) VC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

Dec. 23: At 10:24 a.m. on the 1500 block of SR99, Gridley, Ronald Alan Camilleri, 63, was arrested on suspicion of Disorderly Conduct: alcohol (M) (647(f) PC) and was booked into Butte County Jail. ★

LOCAL ARREST RECORDS

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

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GRIDLEYHERALD.COM

ARREST LOGS UPDATED DAILY

Very Odd Election Year Starts with Republicans Possibly Leading the Governor's Race



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

The 2026 campaigns for governor, a raft of other statewide offices, 52 congressional seats and 100 slots in the state Legislature officially begin today with the onset of candidate filing. It could be one of the oddest election cycles in California's 175 years as a state, albeit one that puts the state's convoluted politics in the national spotlight.

There are so many Democrats running for governor that it's theoretically possible for a Republican to win the office, despite the state's deeply blue political profile, especially with the possibility of even more Democratic hopefuls jumping into the mob -- as a herd of kangaroos is dubbed in Australia.

Meanwhile, both incumbent members of Congress and aspirants will be running in districts that have been radically gerrymandered to shrink Republicans' tiny delegation even more, as Democrats seek to regain control of Congress.

The possibility of a Republican governor, although very scant, stems from the state's top-two primary election system. All candidates, regardless of party, will appear on the same June 2 primary election ballot, and the two with

the highest percentages of the vote -- no matter how small those shares may be -- will face each other in the November election.

With upwards of a dozen Democrats now running and the possibility of others, it's possible the two Republicans in the mix so far -- Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco and former television commentator Steve Hilton -- could theoretically finish one and two with perhaps as few as 10-15% of the votes each.

It's not likely if the Democratic cohort shrinks in the next few months as the weakest contenders drop out, lacking enough money or poll support to continue. However, the lack of a natural Democratic frontrunner and the seeming lack of party leadership strong enough to cull the herd bolster the mathematical possibility of a GOP upset.

Had former Vice President Kamala Harris or U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla decided to run, either would have been the immediate frontrunner. But by opting out, they left a vacuum.

At the moment, former Congresswoman Katie Porter is leading the Democratic pack, albeit with scarcely double-digit support in the polls. She and former Controller Betty Yee are the only two women now running with Harris. Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis and former state Sen. Toni Atkins out. Porter also gained recognition during her unsuccessful bid for a U.S. Senate seat last year.

Billionaire Tom Steyer is currently the most visible contender, spending some of his immense

wealth on television and internet ads to depict himself as a populist who rails against "Sacramento politicians" and promises to reduce electric bills -- not unlike how Donald Trump achieved success.

Beyond Porter, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and former Attorney General and Biden cabinet member Xavier Becerra appear to be the strongest Democratic strivers. However, everyone is still waiting to see whether Attorney General Rob Bonta or Los Angeles businessman Rick Caruso will opt in.

Having so much uncertainty this late in the game is very unusual. However, at some point, perhaps around February or March, when the Democratic field finally begins to shrink, it will be possible to sort out the truly viable candidates from the wannabes and do some realistic handicapping.

Until then, as Willie Brown, the former state Assembly speaker and San Francisco Mayor and one of the state's most astute politicians, put it to Politico:

"The field is not considered of a quality that you as a Democrat would expect in California. We're still pretty much carried away with stardom, with individuals who have some impact ... We don't have any candidates like that at the moment."

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



The holidays are almost behind us, but our beloved Sacramento Kings saw to it that Kings fans were treated to an early Christmas gift. Two unlikely wins in the past four games, thrilling the hometown fans with electric wins over the Houston Rockets and the Dallas Mavericks gave every Kings fan a gift to remember.

A closer look at the Mavericks game gave fans a chance to stare and wonder, who is that guy sinking 3 for 6 shots from the 3-point line and adding 9 big points to the win total. None other than all but forgotten Doug McDermott, who ignited the team and created havoc for the visiting Mavericks team.

As I have expressed, McDermott is a weapon and should be used as such. He presents an immediate problem for opposing defenses when he enters a game, and against Dallas he was exactly that.

The Kings lit the beam with a 113-107 win over the visiting Mavericks, and for once McDermott had a reason to shower after the game.

I was pleased to see that his insertion into the Dallas game was not an anomaly, as McDermott saw action in Sunday night's game against the Lakers as well. Despite the fact that McDermott was only 1 for 4 from 3-point land, just seeing a rotation that had him playing a part was gratifying for me, and I hope it marks a change in Doug Christie's approach to in-game rotations moving forward.

In spite of their record, the Kings have real talent on this team and were it not for injuries and the inability to put lineups on the floor that represent sense, the likelihood of Sacramento approaching a 500 record at this point in the season is not out of the question.

Are there moves that need to be made? Yes, and they will come, but in the meantime, let's use the talent we currently have and see more wins like the ones over Houston and Dallas.

Not to be overlooked is the sensational play of ageless wonder, Russell Westbrook. A pivotal piece in the win over Houston, Westbrook added 21 crucial points, sinking 5 shots from beyond the arc, while adding 13 rebounds and 4 assists. King's fans are watching a legend

in action, and as he thrives on both ends of the court each night, no one would believe he is 37 years old. If you haven't yet bought a ticket to see this future hall-of-famer play, I exhort you to do so as quickly as you can. He is worth the price of admission, and you will say you've seen one of the great basketball players of all time.

In the Kings' recent win over Dallas, Westbrook passed Magic Johnson on the all time assists list, moving into 7th place. It remains to be seen if this will be Westbrook's last season, but if he continues to play at the pace he is now, there's every reason to believe that Kings fans may be in for one more season.

Domantas Sabonis is sorely missed, yet Sacramento finds ways to win in spite of their focal piece missing, and in the win over the Mavericks the Kings did not have the services of either Zach Lavine or Keegan Murray.

What that should tell Kings fans is that not only is there talent on this team, but team chemistry and rotations matter. I am hopeful that the appearance of Doug McDermott is just one small step in the right direction.

What will this team resemble with a healthy Domantas Sabonis in the paint, and Christie making rotations that make sense?

If there is anything good about an injury, in the case of Domantas, it forced Christie into playing 7' rookie Max Renaud, and he has responded in a big way.

Renaud had 12 points and 14 rebounds in the win over the Rockets and added 19 points in the win over Dallas.

Can Domantas and Renaud play side by side? Only time will tell, but I have long wondered if Sabonis could thrive as a number 4, and with Renaud in the lineup there is a chance we could witness just that.

Stay tuned Kings fans, because a move is in the offing, and it's my prayer that this next move is auspicious.

All the best for a happy and prosperous New Year!

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

SPARKY'S CORNER

Christmas Trees

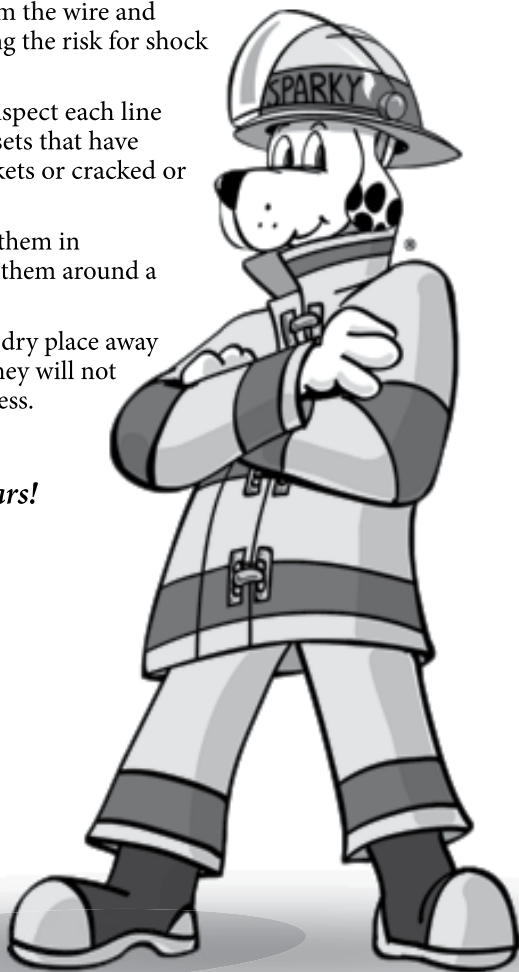
With the holiday now behind us, O Christmas tree, how saggy are your branches? The gifts have been removed from under the pine, the tree is swiftly losing its coat of green, and the needles are piling up on the floor, which means it's time to remove the tree from your home. Christmas trees are very flammable; dry out the longer they remain in the home, and can be consumed by fire in a matter of seconds.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) statistics indicate that nearly 40 percent of home fires that begin with Christmas trees occur in January. Although these fires are not common, they are much more likely to be serious when they do occur. On average, one of every 31 reported home structure Christmas tree fires resulted in a death. Compare that to an average of one death per 144 total reported home structure fires.

NFPA also offers tips on removing lighting and decorations from trees to ensure they are taken down safely this year and in the right condition for Christmas next year:

- Use the gripping area on the plug when unplugging electrical decorations. Never pull the cord to unplug any device from an electrical outlet, as this can harm the wire and insulation of the cord, increasing the risk for shock or electrical fire.
- As you pack up light strings, inspect each line for damage, throwing out any sets that have loose connections, broken sockets or cracked or bare wires.
- Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags, or wrap them around a piece of cardboard.
- Store electrical decorations in a dry place away from children and pets where they will not be damaged by water or dampness.

Thanks You
and Happy New Years!
Gridley
Fire Station 74



Ask DR. UNIVERSE

What is the most poisonous thing in the world?

- Macmillan, 16, India

Dear Macmillan,
There are some amazing deadly things out there. Like a frog that oozes poison from its skin. Or a jellyfish that uses itty bitty hooks to inject venom into its prey.

But it turns out the most poisonous thing on Earth is everywhere. It's in our soil. It's in our water. It might be in your kitchen.

It's a species of bacteria called *Clostridium botulinum*.

I talked about it with my friend Susie Craig. She studies food safety at Washington State University.

She told me that *C. botulinum* makes the toxin that causes botulism. People can get it by eating food that wasn't preserved the right way.

"I don't think people recognize how powerful the toxin from *Clostridium botulinum* really is," Craig said.

Botulinum toxin targets the place where nerves and muscles talk to each other. It blocks a chemical the muscles need to work. Without it, they get weak, droopy and paralyzed. It can be deadly if it affects the muscles we use to breathe.

Luckily, there's an antitoxin for botulism. It grabs the toxin still traveling in the blood. But it doesn't reverse any damage. So,

people may need medical care to keep them breathing while they recover.

So, how does that bacteria get into preserved foods?

C. botulinum thrives in places with low oxygen—called anaerobic. When there's too much oxygen or other unfavorable conditions, it forms a spore. That's a hard, protective coating that encases the bacteria. It can stay safe inside that spore for years.

When conditions are just right, *C. botulinum* sheds its spore coat. It becomes active again. It starts making botulinum toxin.

Let's say we want to can green beans from our garden. But we don't bother to look up the food safety rules for preserving them. We just drop our jars in boiling water to seal them.

Spoiler: this is a rotten plan.

Green beans are a low-acid veggie—which *C. botulinum* likes. The space inside our sealed jar is low oxygen—which *C. botulinum* loves. If our green beans have spores on them from the soil, boiling water won't get the jar hot enough to kill them.

C. botulinum can sense our jar is cozy. It can shed the spore and start cranking out toxin. When we pop open those green beans, they'll be poisonous.

We should have used a

pressure canner. That raises the boiling point of water, so it gets hot enough to kill any spores. Or we could have frozen our green beans instead.

You don't have to worry about canned food you get at the store—unless it's super dented, puffy or leaking. We have strict food safety rules to make sure companies do it right.

Craig told me it's totally safe to preserve food at home as long as we follow the rules.

"You're at risk for botulism if you preserve food with an untested recipe, especially if the food has a relatively low acid content," she said. "You should use recipes from the National Center for Home Food Preservation."

There's one more food safety rule for avoiding botulism. Never feed honey to a baby.

Sometimes bees bring *C. botulinum* back to the colony. It winds up in their honey—which is no big deal for people with strong immune systems. But babies are still building theirs, so it can make them sick.

And there's nothing sweet about that.

Sincerely,

Dr. Universe

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LEGAL ADVERTISING

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Gridley, CA 95948

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000897
The following person(s) are doing business as: Stormys Calming Currents, 1560 Humboldt Road, Suite 5, Chico, CA 95928

Stormy Weston, 1502 Pomona Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965

Date filed in Butte County: December 8, 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 19, 26, Jan 2, 9, 2026

STORMYS 1-9-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000889
The following person(s) are doing business as: XRV, 204 Sheldon Avenue, Gridley, CA 95948

Schnepel, Anthony, 204 Sheldon Avenue, Gridley, CA 95948

Date filed in Butte County: December 4, 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 19, 26, Jan 2, 9, 2026

XRV 1-9-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000911
The following person(s) are doing business as: Criddle Farming & AG Repair, 606 Justeson

Avenue, Gridley, CA 95948
Jim Criddle and Claudia Criddle, 606 Justeson Avenue, Gridley, CA 95948

Date filed in Butte County: December 11, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 2009

This Business is conducted by: A Married Couple 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 26, Jan 2, 9, 16, 2026

CRIDDLE 1-16-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000918
The following person(s) are doing business as: La Perla Taqueria Mexican Grill, 450 Broadway Street, Chico, CA 95928

Gary A Sanchez-Hernandez and Juan F Sanchez-Hernandez, 450 Broadway Street, Chico, CA 95928

Date filed in Butte County: December 12, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: December 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: Dec 26, Jan 2, 9, 16, 2026

LA 1-16-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000916
The following person(s) are doing business as: El Reparo Taqueria Cocina Mexicana, 2190 Esplanade, Chico, CA 95926

El Reparo LLC, 2190 Esplanade, Chico, CA 95926

Date filed in Butte County: December 12, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: December 12, 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 26, Jan 2, 9, 16, 2026

EL 1-16-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000912
The following person(s) are doing business as: Paradise RV, 958 Bille Road, Paradise, CA 95969

William A. Blalock and John II Whitaker, 6150 Bowman Drive, Paradise, CA 95969

Date filed in Butte County: December 11, 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: Dec 26, Jan 2, 9, 16, 2026

PARADISE 1-16-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000939
The following person(s) are doing business as: Ornamental Iron Works, 135 Meyers Street, Chico, CA 95928

Christian P Nairz, 135 Meyers Street, Chico, CA 95928

Date filed in Butte County: December 23, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: February 25, 1997

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: January 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

ORNAMENTAL 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 #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

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #25CV04433

Petitioner Bruce Tou Her filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Bruce Tou Her to Bruce Tou Yang.

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 28, 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 December 11, 2025
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Dec 26, Jan 2, 9, 16, 2026

HER 1-16-26

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF BRANNON E. BYRNE CASE NO. 25PR00545

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate of Brannon E. Byrne.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Julie Sannar Byrne, in the Superior Court of California, County of Butte, requesting Julie Sannar Byrne 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: February 3, 2026, 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 Attorney for Petitioner is: Terri L. Easlon, 4180 Truxel Road, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95834; 916-419-2100

BYRNE 1-23-26

TRUSTEE SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. CA-25-1017171-CL Order No.: FIN-25007093 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 6/10/2004. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, or cash equivalent if deemed acceptable to the trustee, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee.

The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s): Nicole M Riddles Recorded: 6/21/2004 as Instrument No. 2004-0037355 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of BUTTE County, California; Date of Sale: 2/4/2026 at 03:30 PM Place of Sale: At the Main Entrance of the Butte County Courthouse, 1 Court Street, Oroville, CA 95965 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$120,716.72 The purported property address is: 905 FAIRVIEW DRIVE, GRIDLEY, CA 95948-2206 Assessor's Parcel No.: 010-221-014 Legal Description: Please be advised that the legal description set forth on the Deed of Trust is in error. The legal description of the property secured by the Deed of Trust is more properly set forth and made part of Exhibit "A" as attached hereto. The Easterly 110 feet, with lines parallel to lot lines, of the North half of Block 2, as shown on that certain map entitled, "Map of Serviss Subdivision No. 1, adjoining the City of Gridley, Butte County, California being a portion of the SW 1/4 of Sec. 31, TWP 18 N., R. 3 E., M.D.B. & M.," which map was recorded in the Office of the Recorder of the County of Butte, State of California, on April 8, 1924, in Book 9 of Maps, at Page(s) 32. All bidders, at the date, time, and place of the scheduled sale, will be required to show satisfactory support to the auctioneer of their ability to pay the amount they intend to bid, unless arrangements have been made with the trustee prior to the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (800) 793-6107 or visit this Internet Website www.auction.com, using the file number assigned to this case 25-15241. 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 Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (800) 793-6107, or visit this internet website www.auction.com, using the file number assigned to this case 25-15241 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. NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT: Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE POST-SALE OVER BIDDERS: For post-sale information in accordance with Section 2924m(e) of the California Civil Code, use file number CA-25-1017171-CL and call (866) 645-7711 or login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com>. The above statutorily mandated notices to Tenant, Prospective Owner-Occupant, and Prospective Post-Sale Over Bidders are brief summaries of what may be required under Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. Compliance with all relevant provisions will be required. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 800-280-2832 Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Post-Sale Information (CCC 2924m(e)): (866) 645-7711 Reinstatement or Payoff Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION TS No.: CA-25-1017171-CL IDS Pub #0282148 12/26/2025 1/2/2026

GRIDLEY HERALD 1-9-26

T.S. No.: 25-15241 Loan No.: *****225 APN: 063-250-013-000

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/24/2020. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably

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 619-645-7711, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-25-1017171-CL 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. NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT: Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE POST-SALE OVER BIDDERS: For post-sale information in accordance with Section 2924m(e) of the California Civil Code, use file number CA-25-1017171-CL and call (866) 645-7711 or login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com>. The above statutorily mandated notices to Tenant, Prospective Owner-Occupant, and Prospective Post-Sale Over Bidders are brief summaries of what may be required under Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. Compliance with all relevant provisions will be required. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 800-280-2832 Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Post-Sale Information (CCC 2924m(e)): (866) 645-7711 Reinstatement or Payoff Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION TS No.: CA-25-1017171-CL IDS Pub #0282148 12/26/2025 1/2/2026

GRIDLEY HERALD 1-9-26

T.S. No.: 25-15241 Loan No.: *****225 APN: 063-250-013-000

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/24/2020. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably

estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: LAURA ARDEN, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN AS TO AN UNDIVIDED 50% INTEREST AND BRYAN HAYWOOD, A SINGLE MAN AS TO AN UNDIVIDED 50% INTEREST Duly Appointed Trustee: Prestige Default Services, LLC Recorded 8/24/2020 as Instrument No. 2020-0033914 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Butte County, California, Date of Sale: 1/21/2026 at 3:30 PM Place of Sale: Main entrance Butte County Courthouse, 1 Court Street, Oroville, CA 95965 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$423,150.09 Street Address or other common designation of real property: 4620 WENDLIS RD FOREST RANCH, California 95942 A.P.N.: 063-250-013-000 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. 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. All checks payable to Prestige Default Services, LLC. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (800) 793-6107 or visit this Internet Website www.auction.com, using the file number assigned to this case 25-15241. 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 Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (800) 793-6107, or visit this internet website www.auction.com, using the file number assigned to this case 25-15241 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: 12/19/2025 Prestige Default Services, LLC 1920 Old Tustin Ave. Santa Ana, California 92705 Questions: 949-427-2010 Sale Line: (800) 793-6107 Nida Taylor, Foreclosure Coordinator PPP #25-009723

GRIDLEY HERALD 01-09-26

Published: 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026

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Prior Chico State Embezzler Charged with New Embezzlement

Butte County District Attorney News Release

CHICO, CA (MPG) - On Dec. 26 a Chico man, previously convicted of embezzlement from Chico State, was in court facing new charges of embezzlement from a Chico optometry business.

Daniel Hicks, 47, of Chico, appeared in Butte County Superior Court and was arraigned on a grand theft by embezzlement charge.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said Hicks is accused of embezzling \$39,941 while he worked as an accounting and benefits coordinator at

a local Chico optometry business from January 2019 through July 2025.

Ramsey said the theft was discovered after the business received an anonymous letter in July 2025 urging them to conduct a more thorough background check on Hicks. This revealed Hicks had sustained a prior embezzlement conviction from Chico State in 2018.

The business then conducted a forensic audit, which uncovered a significant discrepancy between the cash collected by the business and the amounts Hicks reported as deposited into company accounts on an ongoing, systemic basis. Hicks was terminated from the business, and the Chico

Police Department conducted a criminal investigation.

In 2018, Hicks was convicted of grand theft by embezzlement from his previous employer, Chico State. In the Chico State case, Hicks used debit card transactions to fraudulently transfer funds into his personal bank accounts. Hicks was placed on three years of felony probation and, as conditions of his probation, was ordered to serve 90 days in jail, pay a \$2250 fine, and pay \$54,374 in restitution to Chico State.

Hicks did not make significant payments towards the restitution owed to Chico State before the end of his probation in 2021, and the debt has since been referred to Central

Collections with the Butte County Treasurer. The amount owed has increased to \$86,256, with statutorily required interest.

Ramsey cautioned employers to conduct thorough background checks on all employees entrusted with their companies' finances.

After his arraignment, Hicks was remanded to Butte County Jail on \$100,000 bail, with an order that any money posted for bail be first examined by the judge to determine whether it is from a legitimate source prior to his release.

Hicks' next appearance will be on Dec. 31, 2025, after press time, for further arraignment. ★

Gridley Man Heading to Trial on Child Molestation Charges

Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - A Gridley man was held to answer on multiple charges of child sexual abuse on Dec. 23, following a preliminary hearing on Dec. 23 in Butte County Superior Court.

Marcus Johnson, 36, faces life imprisonment based on charges that he had sexual intercourse with a child under the age of ten.

Johnson was arrested by Gridley Police Department officers in October 2025 after an investigation into a report of sexual abuse by a five-year-old girl to her mother.

District Attorney Mike Ramsey stated that at today's hearing, Special Victim Unit prosecutor Stephanie Roose presented evidence that Johnson was a friend of the child's family and had recurring access to the now 5-year-old girl over the course of more than a year, during which he would babysit the child and her younger brother.

The evidence showed that after the victim's mother filed the report, the child was interviewed by a specialized forensic child interviewer as part of the Butte County District Attorney's Office's Child Abuse Response Team protocol. During that interview, the child provided a graphic account of multiple instances of sexual abuse by Johnson.

A Gridley Police Department detective testified at the hearing that corroborating evidence supporting the child's statements was found during a search of Johnson's home and vehicle prior to his arrest.

Ramsey stated that at the end of the hearing, a Butte County Superior Court Commissioner found there was sufficient evidence to hold Johnson to answer the charges and bound him over for trial. The court commissioner remanded him to the custody of the Butte County Jail on a no-bail hold.

Johnson's next court date is scheduled for Jan. 7, when a jury trial date on his charges will be set. ★

Arson Charges Filed, Suspicious Death Investigation Ongoing

Sutter County Joint News Release

SUTTER COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On Dec. 18, 2025, at approximately 6 a.m., the Yuba County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a fire in the area of Parks Bar Road near Smartsville. When deputies arrived, Smartsville Fire personnel were extinguishing a fire just off the roadway. Deputies observed that it was a human body that had been on fire.

Yuba County detectives determined that there were multiple jurisdictions involved in this crime. Over the next two days, law enforcement personnel from the Yuba City Police Department, the Yuba County Sheriff's Office, CAL FIRE and the Yuba and Sutter County District Attorney's

Offices, worked together to investigate the incident. Based on their investigation, Vincent Dorell Ciulei, 50, of Yuba City, was arrested for arson by Yuba County detectives Friday evening on Dec. 19.

The Sutter County District Attorney's Office filed arson charges against Ciulei on Dec. 23 and he was scheduled to be arraigned in Sutter County Superior Court at 3 p.m. that same day.

Investigators have identified the human remains as belonging to Ciulei's aunt, Constance Laurel, 82, of Yuba City. Her death is considered suspicious, and the investigation is ongoing. If you believe you have information about this case, contact Yuba City Police Department at 530-822-4661. ★



Almond Board Votes to Stop Funding USDA Crop Forecast

The Almond Board of California's board of directors voted this month to discontinue funding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Objective Measurement Report, which is a pre-harvest forecast that can affect market behavior. Many growers complained that this year's USDA forecast overestimated the size of the crop, causing almond prices to plummet just as the new crop was hitting the market. "I know we've all been frustrated with the market volatility we've experienced as an industry, especially following the release of the objective estimate this past July," ABC President and CEO Clarice Turner said. Turner acknowledged the USDA objective forecast has been a useful tool for the industry. "However, when the crop shifted from growing to consolidating and declining acres, like we've seen over the last four years, the calculation started to become problematic," she said.

Hemp Producers Weigh Potential Fallout of New Law

A new federal law that revises what qualifies as legal hemp has California growers, regulators and other stakeholders assessing what impact the changes could have on the fledgling industry. Signed into law in November as part of a broader spending package to reopen the federal government, H.R. 5371 narrows the federal definition of hemp by imposing strict limits on intoxicating hemp products. The new law, which takes effect November

2026, adopts a total delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, limit of 0.3%, a threshold so low that hemp advocates say the new federal limits could criminalize hemp with trace amounts of THC that naturally occur in the plant but are not enough to be intoxicating. The trade group U.S. Hemp Roundtable has asked the federal government for more time and to meet with hemp stakeholders to talk about "robust" regulation of industrial hemp rather than a product ban.

Marin County Ranch Honored With Top Conservation Prize

Stemple Creek Ranch of Marin County is the 2025 California Leopold Conservation Award recipient. The \$10,000 award honors farmers, ranchers and forestland owners who go above and beyond in their management of soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat on working land. Loren and Lisa Poncia, owners of Stemple Creek Ranch in Tomales, were presented with the award during the California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Dec. 8. The ranch raises organic, grass-finished beef and lamb and pastured pork, which it sells directly to consumers, grocery stores, restaurants and butcher shops. The 650 acres they own and much of what they lease has Marin Agricultural Land Trust agricultural conservation easements on them. This ensures that the land will be conserved as open space and in productive agricultural use in perpetuity. "We're trying to dance with Mother Nature within our fencelines," Loren Poncia said of his family's approach to conservation. ★

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Former High Wheelers' are Teammates Again in Indy

By YSBC Sports

YUBA-SUTTER, CA (YSBC) - As the Yuba-Sutter High Wheelers completed their first season in our area this past summer, there's no question they made a positive impact on the community.

The High Wheelers brought excitement and a new brand of baseball as they competed in the Pioneer League.

As the new athletes joined the community this past summer, some made immediate impacts within the Yuba-Sutter area and were clear fan favorites.

Two former High Wheelers infielders will be missed next season as Kirkland Banks and Bobby Lada were big favorites among the Yuba-Sutter faithful.

Banks would hangout with his KB "fans of the game" after a home game and Lada's energy and late-game heroics added him towards the team in a YS uniform this past season.

Banks was on the team until mid-August where he was let go on waivers. Banks hit .278 and had 32 runs batted in (RBI) before he was released after 55 games played this past season.

Lada completed his second-full season with the High Wheelers' organization where he finished second overall on the team with 122 hits and posted a .312 batting average and with 21 home runs and 75 RBIs.

Banks was later picked up by the Idaho Falls Chukars towards the end of the PBL regular season where he participated in the final 10 regular-season games where he ended the season with their remarkable playoff run to the PBL Championship series before falling to the Oakland Ballers.

Banks and Lada set their sights out for a new identity of baseball as the Banana Ball Championship League had open tryouts as the league was expanding from four to six-full teams.

Banks expressed to Yuba Sutter Butte Colusa Sports that his age (26) is considered older in the



Yuba-Sutter infielder Bobby Lada (middle) cools off with an ice bath after he hit the walk-off grand slam in the High Wheelers' 7-6 victory on June 29 against the Rocky Mountain Vibes. Photo by Steven Bryla



High Wheelers infielder Kirkland Banks (2) turns a double play in their victory over Glacier on June 10. Photo by Steven Bryla



Yuba-Sutter infielder Bobby Lada (11) cranks the first of four High Wheelers' home runs on June 20 in their 23-2 win against Northern Colorado. Photo by Steven Bryla

game to get picked up by a professional club.

Banks added that he was contacted previously by the banana ball organization for joining in the past.

"After they contacted me this year, I said I might as well try it since they play in front of big crowds," Banks said. "Everyone is going crazy about them and at the end of the day I'm still playing baseball."

Lada added that having friends and seeing how much fun they have experienced throughout their times within the Banana Ball brand.

"It's a new opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and continue to grow," Lada said.

Both Lada and Banks told YSBC that the adjustments of their fielding game from just fielding ground balls in a routine baseball to adding flare of flips and tricks took time.

"It comes a little bit more natural

baseballer Ryan Howard.

"It was nerve wracking until the call came in," Banks said. He added that you had no idea how to think, but it was an unforgettable experience that he'll never forget.

Lada said that it doesn't feel like a reality that he got signed by the Clowns because it's so exciting and he can't wait to get started soon.

Banks and Lada expressed that when Banks was selected by Indianapolis he was excited to reunite with his teammate from the past couple of seasons and ready to do it on a big stage.

Lada said that he is excited for doing all of the fan experience encounters that makes the Bananas organization different from any other type of baseball.

"We get the opportunity to go out and play baseball freely," Lada said.

As Banks and Lada will both attempt things out of their comfort

for Bobby and I," Banks said. "We like the opportunity to add a little more to a routine play if we can."

Lada was drafted in the second (10th overall) and Banks was drafted in the ninth round (72nd overall) by the Indianapolis Clowns.

The Clowns will be managed by former Philadelphia Phillies first

zone in a new world, both are excited for the opportunity and experiences they will endure in 2026.

They are scheduled to begin their journey in the middle of January 2026. For more information on tickets and schedules of the Banana Ball World Tour 2026, go to thesavannahbananas.com. ★



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