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Kory Hamman

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Wings Return to the Sacramento Valley



A new visitor center at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex headquarters in Willows welcomes wildlife enthusiasts. Surrounding refuges and wildlife management areas provide Snow Goose Festival visitors plenty of places to explore.

Story and photos by Shamaya Sutton

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - What began as a modest outreach effort in the Yuba County foothills has grown into one of the region's most consistent senior-focused programs, and now "Seniors on the Go" is preparing to expand once again.

After six months of steady growth and increased participation in Marysville, organizers say the program will launch a new Olivehurst location at the end of January, bringing its signature mix of free meals, social connection

and health-focused resources to a broader portion of the community. "It's exciting to see, and I think we will continue to grow," said Margaret Fowler, the program's founder. "Seniors don't just need a hot meal — they need connection and community. That's what our program is about."

Fowler, chair of the Yuba County Commission on Aging, originally established "Seniors on the Go" three years ago in Browns Valley to address the limited availability of services in rural foothill communities. She later partnered

with Peggy DeHaan at the Tri-Counties Community Center to bring the model into Marysville. The Marysville chapter officially launched in May 2025 and has since offered monthly luncheons alongside rotating activities, guest speakers and access to community health resources, creating a consistent gathering space for older adults who may otherwise face isolation.

"This is a need in our community and definitely something close to my heart," said DeHaan, who helps coordinate the Marysville chapter. "I've

wanted to do this for years, and it's finally happened. We want to make sure everyone feels welcomed here."

On Dec. 17, more than 50 seniors gathered in the youth-side lobby of the Tri-Counties Community Center for a Thanksgiving-style meal. Free gifts were also distributed, including candle holders and Christmas decor left over from the center's Winter Wonderland event. One unshowered senior, Victoria Gillaspie, expressed particular gratitude for the gathering.

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LaMalfa, Longtime North State Congressman Passes



Doug LaMalfa represented California's 1st Congressional District since 2013. MPG file photo

By MPG Staff

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA (MPG) - U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa, a long-time Republican lawmaker who represented much of Northern California, has died, House Republican leadership announced Tuesday. He was 65.

LaMalfa, a fourth-generation rice farmer and business owner, built a reputation in Washington as a strong advocate for agriculture and rural communities. He represented California's 1st Congressional District since 2013, covering a wide stretch of the North State from the Oregon border to areas north of Sacramento.

In an official media release, Butte County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) states that their office received a call at approximately 6:50 p.m. on the evening of Jan. 5, from the residence of Congressman LaMalfa regarding a medical emergency.

Medical personnel arrived at the residence, and the Congressman was transported to Enloe Hospital in Chico for treatment.

"Upon arrival at Enloe Hospital, Congress LaMalfa was taken into emergency surgery. Congressman LaMalfa passed away during the surgical procedure," stated the Butte County Sheriff's Office release.

The Congressman's Chief of Staff, Mark Spannagel put out a brief announcement on behalf

Continued on page 5

HR 1 Bringing Major Changes to County Aid

By Susan Meeker

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Butte County Board of Supervisors was briefed in December on the significant federal impacts of House Resolution 1 on local public health and social services.

Tiffany Rowe, director of the county's Department of Employment and Social Services, and Public Health Director Monica Soderstrom outlined how the "Big Beautiful Bill," signed July 4, 2025, will affect California's CalFresh and Medi Cal programs, which serve tens of thousands of Butte County residents.

CalFresh, the state's



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, currently supports 42,539

county residents each month at a cost of \$8.67 million. Medi Cal provides

benefits to 74,971 residents, including more than 20,000 children and nearly 7,000 adults between the ages of 55 and 64.

Rowe told supervisors the new law imposes stricter work requirements on CalFresh recipients and eliminates several long standing exemptions. Waivers previously granted because of insufficient job availability will be removed, and eligibility will be limited for groups such as veterans, former foster youth, homeless individuals and some legally present immigrants.

Beginning in October 2026, federal funding

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The New Pi-Line



By Josh Cook

Incredibly important court ruling: California laws against being able to carry a sidearm on your hip (open carry) have been struck down as unconstitutional. This will surely go to the Supreme Court for further adjudication, but it continues the streak of ridiculous California gun restrictions - that are completely unconstitutional - being struck down when bumped up against the Second Amendment to the Constitution, which allows for people to protect themselves by having arms. Even though they keep losing, there are surely going to be another slew of gun control laws moving through the legislature

in California again this year.

Paul Scholl, publisher of the Gridley Herald, has purchased a printing facility capable of producing his small community newspapers (more than 10), independent of other ink slingers in the newspaper business. This is a significant protection for our freedoms, as far too many newspapers have merged and stopped printing in the last five years. The LA Times would print over 1 million copies a day in the early 1990s. They recently shut down their press and their last week of printing was only 100,000 copies a day. They now outsource that smaller amount to another printing facility. The state of California is looking for ways to tax Internet companies and subsidize newspapers. Not directly though, the state would get in the middle and administer the funds - pick which news is most deserving. This is actually a thing that's going on - with the major newspaper

association joyfully lining up in Sacramento to get on the government dole, and thereby place themselves under government control. The California Journalism Preservation Act is what it has been called, but it's really about government information control. The fact that Scholl can print his own papers, and maintain independence for his editorial perspective protects our freedoms. There is a reason The first amendment was first. You don't want to live in a world where the flow of information is limited to approved points of view funded by politicians. The independent community newspaper is a hallmark of American democracy. Good on Mr. Scholl for investing in America's 1st Amendment.

Butte College standout Aaron Rodgers advanced his NFL Pittsburgh Steelers to the playoffs. As a man over the age of 45, I like seeing old people do cool things.

Josh F.W. Cook was born in Gridley.

Gridley Little League Opens Registrations

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Gridley Little League has started registering players for the 2026 spring season. Registration started in October with the leagues popular "early bird special" discount for players that took advantage of



the early sign-ups. Those that are still interested in

registering a player have until Jan. 17. Gridley Little League offers Tee-Ball, Farm, Minor, Major and Junior league registration beginning at \$125 a player. You can register your player at Gridleylittleleague.com. ★

Gridley UPS Store Changes Hands



Scott Sewall and Sandy Adams say goodbye to the Gridley community after running the local UPS Store for almost a decade. Photo by Seti Long

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The UPS Store in Gridley is undergoing some changes. The UPS Store at the northern corner of the Heritage Oak Shopping Center has undergone a change of ownership and is expected to move to a new location in the mall. Sandy Adams, who has run the store with Scott Sewall for the last 8 years told the Gridley Herald that the future home of the UPS

Store would eventually be the main section of the shopping center, allegedly going in between Dollar Tree and Gridley Express Laundry. The duo, supported by coworker Susie Snowden, served the Gridley communities printing and shipping needs, with Notary services provided by Sewall. Adams and Sewall site personal reasons for the change of ownership, with Adams looking to retire and Sewall wanting to be

closer to family. At the time of the interview, Adams and Smallwood told the Gridley Herald that they believed the transition would transpire smoothly and that services offered by the UPS Store shouldn't experience any disruptions. The UPS Store is Owned by Jaskaran and Rajkamal Deol of Live Oak and continues to operate at the same location offering services uninterrupted, including Amazon package returns. ★

Thank A Veteran Today

MEMORIAL

MARJORIE "GEGE" LEE DALTON - 06/13/50 – 12/27/25

Marjorie "Gege" Lee Dalton, age 75, passed away in the arms of her dear friend on Saturday, December 27, 2025 at her assisted living residence. She was born on June 13, 1950 to the late Bill and Francie Price in Gridley California. She also lived in Hawaii as a child and then most of her adult life in Naperville Illinois. She graduated from Naperville Central High School in 1968. After she retired she then lived her dream of moving back to Hawaii and did for 9 years before moving back to the midwest after suffering a stroke. Gege is survived by her devoted daughter, Vicki (Rob) Walz of Portage, WI; her son, Sam Freer of Tucson, AZ; three sisters, Trish Shetina of Romeoville, Illinois; Marilyn Howard of Biggs, California; Carolyn Gustafson of Albuquerque, New Mexico; three grandchildren, three great grandchildren and two special friends, Patty and Judy. She was preceded in death by her parents, one grandchild and her precious dog, Logan. There will be no service at her request. Rosman Uehling Kinzer Funeral Home, Beloit WI is assisting the family.

MEMORIAL

SANDRA ANNE WALLER • 04/25/1939 – 01/02/2026

Sandra Anne Waller, a life-long Gridley resident, passed away on January 2, 2026. Sandra was born April 25, 1939 in Scotia, CA, to Max and Eleanor (Soost) Schohr. Sandra attended Gridley schools, beginning at a one room school located South and East of the Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuge, Notre Dame High School, Gridley High School and Butte College. She was an orchardist with her husband, Bob (and later her grandson Peter) and bookkeeper for the family business. In the early years the couple had registered hogs they showed at area fairs, State Fair, the Cow Palace and Ark City, Kansas. Sandra was a member of the Gridley FFA Advisory Committee, Gridley Junior Women's Club; President, Shasta District Junior

Kristine Clavelle (Wallace), sister-in-law Christine Schohr and brother Paul Schohr. Survivors include son Erich Waller, grandchildren Chase Waller, Peter and Jenelle Waller and MacKenzie (Josh) Parreira. Favorite great-grandchildren Austyn Deal, Ben and Cash Waller and Cal Parreira. Nieces Martha, Tina, and Dawn (Wes) Harriger, Nephews Max Schohr (Celeste), Sean, Lawrence and Wallace Clavelle. And, many Soost and Schohr cousins. At her request, no services will be held. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to the Gridley FFA Barn Project c/o Gridley Education Foundation, 429 Magnolia St., Gridley, CA 95948. Manzanita 4-H Club, Gridley Friends of the Library, St. Judes, or to a charity of your choice.

Women's Club; Manzanita Elementary School Parent Teachers Club, as well as a volunteer with various youth organizations. Her personal interests included needlework, art, traveling with cousins, genealogy, reading and cooking. She was predeceased by her husband Bob, sons Russell and Rob, her parents, sister

MEMORIAL

ELIZABETH ANN SHARP • 7/12/1938 – 12/9/2025

Elizabeth (Betty) Ann Sharp passed away on December 9, 2025. Betty was born in Yuba City to Godfrey and Elizabeth Filter but was raised in the country near Lomo (Live Oak). She was the oldest of 4 girls and proud to be a farmer's daughter. Betty attended Encinal School for 8 years and was always proud that her grandchildren were the 4th generation to attend that school. Betty graduated from Live Oak High School as the valedictorian of the Class of 1956. She treasured the fact that her father, who was on the School Board at that time, was able to hand her her diploma. After graduating, Betty started working for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office in Yuba City. Coming from a farming family, she enjoyed her

work in the field of agriculture. She worked there from 1956 to 1967. In 1968, she began her career working in the school system and enjoyed working with students of all ages. She retired after 30 years of service. In her younger years, Betty loved to square dance and had great memories of dancing and making new friends. She was a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Live Oak where she served with the Catholic Guild and as a Eucharistic Minister. Betty enjoyed gardening and was very proud of her yard. She always had room for one more plant. Her pleasure of reading was evidenced by the number of books she bought, read and traded. She enjoyed many years volunteering at the Butte County Library Book Sales in Gridley.

Betty is survived by her daughter Michelle Dehart and her son Michael Sharp. She was proud of her 3 grandchildren—Chase Clegg, Cassandra Travis and Christiana Travis. Betty is also survived by her 2 sisters, Jane Dunbar and Elaine Filter, as well as her Aunt Mary Albertini. Those she has joined include her daughter Marjorie Sharp, her husband Peter Skuris, her parents and grandparents, her sister Joyce Hartman, newborn brother Godfrey Filter Jr. and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. A Memorial Mass will be said on Saturday, January 10th, 2026, at 9:30am at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Live Oak. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society in her memory.

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Two MESA Students Build STEM Leadership Skills in San Francisco

Christian Gutierrez, Butte College News Release

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (MPG) - Two Butte College MESA students, biology major Lali Gonzalez and mechanical engineering major LuisAngel Zepeda, spent a transformative weekend in San Francisco connecting with STEM leaders from across the state. Both were invited to attend the MESA Student Leadership Conference, an annual, state-wide gathering designed to help students strengthen their professional, academic and leadership skills.

Held at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis, the invite-only conference brought together top engineering and computer science students from 46 community colleges, CSUs, UCs and private universities. Students worked directly with company executives, engineers and recruiters in workshops, small-group sessions and a career expo.

Over the course of the conference, Gonzalez and Zepeda collaborated with peers on a fast-paced innovation challenge: design a product or service — in roughly 30 hours — that advances one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This real-world design sprint required students to think critically, communicate effectively and work under pressure, mirroring the pace and expectations of the STEM industries they aspire to join.



Biology major Lali Gonzalez and mechanical engineering major LuisAngel Zepeda, spent a transformative weekend in San Francisco connecting with STEM leaders from across the state. Photo courtesy of Butte College

In addition to the team challenge, students participated in leadership and communication workshops, engaged in small-group con-

versations with engineers and executives, and attended a company expo featuring top STEM employers. Many participants leave the conference with

connections that lead to internships or full-time positions.

This year's conference was supported by leading industry sponsors

including Carollo Engineering, Keysight Technologies, Edison International, PG&E, Qualcomm, and Uber. Professionals from these organizations — and others — volunteered their time throughout the weekend to host workshops, advise student teams, and share career insights.

Butte College's MESA program continues to provide life-changing opportunities like this to prepare students for successful transfer and careers in STEM fields.

Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) has a 55-year history of changing the face of science, technology and engineering by developing a new generation of STEM leaders. Now with a network of more than 250,000 alumni, MESA fuels diversity by propelling historically under-represented students toward STEM degrees and professional careers. Our students go on to be astronauts, educators, politicians and more.

Each year MESA serves over 20,000 students at the pre-college, community college and university levels across California. MESA bridges classroom learning with real-world applications, and employs rigorous academics, leadership preparation, a peer community and collaborative problem-solving training to produce highly skilled college graduates who meet 21st-century STEM workforce needs. ★

CDFW to Conduct Helicopter Capture and Collaring Efforts for Deer, Elk and Gray Wolves

California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

NORTHERN REGION, CA (MPG) - The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is initiating efforts in northern California to capture deer, elk and wolves by helicopter and outfit the animals with GPS collars.

Helicopter captures for deer and elk will be conducted in portions of Alameda, Colusa, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Santa Clara, Sierra, Siskiyou and Tehama counties throughout the month of January 2026.

Capturing and collaring mule deer, tule, and Rocky Mountain elk improves California Department of Fish and Wildlife's understanding of species distribution, habitat use, abundance, migration patterns, recruitment rates and survival.

Capture teams will



Capturing and collaring mule deer, tule, and Rocky Mountain elk improves California Department of Fish and Wildlife's understanding of species distribution, habitat use, abundance, migration patterns, recruitment rates and survival. Photo courtesy of California Department of Fish and Wildlife

be targeting wolves in Siskiyou, Lassen and Tehama counties and potentially other uncollared packs or wolf groups in Modoc, Shasta and

Plumas counties. Any captured wolves will be returned to the nearest suitable public land habitat after processing.

Deployed collars

will transmit data to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife scientists daily for up to three years and provide detailed information about animal

movements, habitat preferences and locations. For collared wolves specifically, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will share animal

location information with cattle and sheep producers with the goal of reducing negative interactions with the understanding GPS tracking collars do not transmit data in real-time. Wolf movement and location data will automatically feed into California Department of Fish and Wildlife's online Wolf Tracker mapping tool.

Wildlife capture operations will take place on land managed by California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDA), the Bureau of Land Management as well as on private properties with permission from landowners. California Department of Fish and Wildlife is grateful to the USDA Forest Service, BLM, timberland owners and other private parties for providing access to their lands for these wildlife capture efforts. ★

Wings Return to the Sacramento Valley

Continued from page 1

"Hot meals around this town really aren't here that often," Gillaspie said during a Dec. 17 interview with CBS Sacramento. "They're doing an extra thought for the seniors in this town. They're struggling like myself, I'm sure. There's someone out there saying, 'Hey, let's do something for these people and help them out some.'"

Monthly luncheons at the center regularly serve dozens of seniors, while additional programming throughout the week — including arts, crafts, recreation and outreach — has helped transform the facility into a reliable hub for older adults and their families.

County support has

played a key role in sustaining the senior program's growth. Funding provided through Yuba County Health and Human Services allowed the Marysville program to formally take root and expand its offerings, a move county leaders previously described as a first step toward broader regional access for seniors.

That expansion is now becoming a reality. Organizers confirmed the program will begin hosting "Seniors on the Go" gatherings in Olivehurst on Jan. 28, with meetings scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the VFW, located at 4956 Powerline Road.

"The success of the

original Seniors on the Go helped establish a model that continues to receive guidance and support as it is independently operated in new communities across Yuba County," Fowler said in a public statement.

The program, like its predecessors, will remain free to seniors and their guests — including a meal. The Olivehurst chapter will be led by commission member Marie Vue, who can be reached at 530-392-2187. Meanwhile, Marysville programming will continue uninterrupted, with monthly luncheons held on the third Wednesday of each month starting at 11:30 a.m. at the Tri-Counties Community Center, located at 1830 B St. ★



Snow geese feed in a Sacramento Valley rice field, fueling up for their winter stay along the Pacific Flyway and drawing birders from across the state and beyond.

DWR Begins Required Flood Control Releases from Lake Oroville

California Department of Water Resources News Release

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - Ahead of forecasted storms continuing through the weekend, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has increased water releases to the Feather River from the Oroville-Thermalito Complex to maintain flood protection for downstream communities. With runoff into Lake Oroville projected to range between 50,000 to 70,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) by early next week, the Department of Water Resources also expects to start using Oroville dam's main spillway on Jan. 5 for additional flood control releases.

Between mid-September and May, the Department of Water Resources is required to operate Lake Oroville for flood control under federal Water Control Manual Guidelines set by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These federal regulations establish a set storage space that is reserved to capture inflows from rain and future snowmelt, while protecting downstream communities from damaging flood events through coordinated releases. To maintain this storage space, the Department of Water Resources must increase releases from Lake Oroville.

While weather conditions were largely dry in



A drone view of Oroville Dam and main spillway at Lake Oroville in Butte County, California. Photo taken March 11, 2025. Photo courtesy of the Department of Water Resources

early December, northern California received a series of atmospheric river-driven storms in the past two weeks that boosted reservoir storage at Lake Oroville. Between Dec. 12 and Dec. 31, Lake Oroville's elevation rose approximately 58 feet.

Releases to the Feather River are coordinated closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other downstream water operators. Feather

River recreation users are advised to remain alert as river flows are expected to be swift and cold and may change based on projected weather forecasts.

The information below reflects current reservoir level estimates. Forecasts can change quickly and may affect the estimates provided.

Current Oroville Reservoir Level is 826 feet elevation, current storage is 70 percent of capacity and

total releases to the Feather River is 15,000 cfs; potentially increasing to 25,000 cfs as of Monday.

The Lake Oroville reservoir is the largest storage facility in the State Water Project, providing flood protection while supporting environmental and water delivery needs to 27 million Californians. The Department of Water Resources continues to monitor lake levels, weather forecasts,

and mountain snow levels to optimize water storage while allowing for carry-over storage into next year.

Current Lake Operations Lake Oroville is at 826 feet elevation and storage is approximately 2.41 million acre-feet (MAF), which is 70 percent of its total capacity and 126 percent of the historical average.

Feather River flows are at 3,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) through the City

of Oroville with 12,000 cfs being released from the Thermalito Afterbay River Outlet (Outlet) for a total Feather River release of 15,000 cfs downstream. DWR continues to assess Feather River releases daily.

The public can track precipitation, snow, reservoir levels, and more at the California Data Exchange Center. The Lake Oroville gage station is identified as "ORO." ★

Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

It was great to have a couple of sunny days. They were crisp sunny days but they allowed me to get out and spray the fruit trees for the first spray for leaf curl. I was also able to get a lot of perennial plants cut back. Got started with environmental clean-up of raking leaves and weeds from under the trees. Raked some rotted

fruit too. I'm getting ready to dig up some of the fabulous yellow reblooming iris. They spread rapidly so I have to thin them out regularly. They are worth the extra effort. Some are blooming right now. I'll dig them up and put some back which means I'll have rhizomes to give away.

Our neighbors have four avocado trees. The fruit is big and very creamy flesh with thin skins. They gave us five of these big avocados. I was thankful but how much avocado can two people eat? A friend said she freezes avocado in pieces and takes out what she wants a small amount at a time. So, I ate some and froze some. We'll see how that goes. Several people have been surprised

that these trees produce so well in Gridley. I'll have to ask what types these trees are then I can share their names with those interested in growing them.

This is a good time to day dream with seed catalogs. I've already decided to buy a new small watermelon presented this year from Burpees. It is designed to grow vertically with smaller melons and it has a 60-day mature date. This is about five days sooner than most watermelons. My husband is thrilled with the idea of small, vertical and early ripening. I like most melons but watermelon is not a "go to" for me. The days will be getting longer and before you know it we will be planting again. ★

HR 1 Bringing Major Changes to County Aid

Continued from page 1

for CalFresh administrative costs will be reduced, shifting more responsibility to counties. Rowe said the change will increase Butte County's share by about \$1.3 million annually. Starting in October 2027, states will also be required to pay a portion of CalFresh benefits if their payment error rate exceeds federal thresholds. California's current error rate of 11.3 percent could result in an estimated \$2 billion in additional state costs.

Medi Cal recipients ages 19 to 64 will be required to participate in 80 hours per month of work, education or community engagement activities beginning in January 2027. Rowe said the requirement will apply to about 55 percent of Butte County's Medi Cal population. The law also requires eligibility redeterminations every six months instead of annually.

"This will result in a significant increase to administrative workload for county staff, nearly doubling their workload," Rowe said.

Soderstrom told the board the stricter Medi Cal rules may increase demand for

indigent health care services, as more residents could lose coverage. The shift could affect the County Medical Services Program, which provides basic medical care to uninsured adults. She said the county may need to reinstate previously waived participation fees or redirect funds to cover rising costs.

The directors also reported that federal funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education program, or SNAP Ed, was eliminated effective Oct. 1, 2024. Soderstrom said Public Health is working with local partners to transition remaining resources and sustain nutrition education and obesity prevention programs.

Supervisors expressed concern about the financial impact on the county and the challenges of serving vulnerable residents under the new requirements. County staff said they are continuing to review federal guidance and explore funding options as implementation deadlines approach. Board members agreed to monitor developments and prepare for adjustments to county budgets and services as HR 1 is phased in. ★

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Butte County Adds Four More Deputies

By MPG Staff

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Butte County Sheriff's Department expanded their staff by adding four new correctional deputies to their ranks.

A swearing in ceremony was held the first week of January, with Sheriff Honea welcoming Correctional Deputy's Jose Barreto, Randy Sousa, David Bowdy and James Her to the department.

“Our Jail Expansion Project is very close to being complete, and we are still looking to add additional correctional deputies to our growing team,” said a post made on social media by the Butte County Sheriff's Department.

More information on a career with the Butte County Sheriff's Department can be found at www.joinbuttesheriff.com. ★



Officers of the Butte County Sheriff's Office flank newly installed correctional deputies David Bowdy, James Her, Jose Barreto and Randy Sousa, with Sheriff Kory Honea. Photo courtesy of Butte County Sheriff's Office

Pallet Shelter Drug Dealer Pleads Guilty

Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - A Chico man pleaded guilty on Dec. 31, 2025, in Butte County Superior Court to two felony charges of possession of drugs for sale, one for fentanyl and one for methamphetamine, in connection with his large-scale drug dealing at a Chico homeless shelter.

Michael Terrance Harrigan II, 45, of Chico, had been arrested in early December by the Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force (BINTF) and the Special Enforcement Unit (SEU) of the Butte County Sheriff's Office after investigators developed information that he was selling large amounts of illegal drugs to other residents of the Genesis (“Pallet Shelter”) community in Chico where he lived.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said that after Harrigan was identified as a potential dealer of these drugs, including fentanyl and methamphetamine, agents obtained a search warrant with assistance from the Butte County District Attorney's Office. Agents found methamphetamine, fentanyl packaging materials, digital scales, a money counter and over \$10,000 in cash in Harrigan's possession. A search of Harrigan's bank account revealed almost \$40,000 in additional funds. These funds were seized under asset forfeiture laws.

Ramsey said this amount of currency indicated that Harrigan had been substantially profiting from his decision to sell fentanyl and methamphetamine to residents of the shelter who were struggling with addiction.

Ramsey said that based upon the task force investigation, it was determined Mr. Harrigan had been staying at the Genesis shelter for multiple months. Evidence obtained during the search warrant revealed Harrigan recently sold



approximately four ounces of fentanyl in just two days.

Also of note, between August 2024 and September 2025, Ramsey said four people died at the Genesis site from fentanyl and methamphetamine overdoses. A fifth person died in June of this year at a “sidewalk encampment” on Silver Dollar Way (near Genesis), also from a fentanyl and methamphetamine overdose. In addition, two people were transported to the hospital during that incident due to suspected overdose. Agents are continuing their investigation to determine whether those deaths can be tied specifically to Harrigan's sales.

As a result of Harrigan's plea to those felony charges, he faces up to 4 years and 8 months in county jail.

After he entered his plea, Ramsey said that Harrigan tried to convince the judge to release him back into the community before his sentencing date, but the assigned prosecutor successfully argued that Harrigan posed a significant public safety risk because he targeted particularly vulnerable people in the community who had recently been homeless and were struggling with substance abuse issues. The judge agreed with these arguments and ordered Harrigan held without bail until his sentencing date of Jan. 28. ★

LaMalfa, Longtime North State Congressman Passes

Continued from page 1
of LaMalfa's office sharing the unprecedented news and commenting on the legacy he left behind him.

“Congressman LaMalfa cared deeply for the people he served and worked tirelessly to hold the government to its word to fix our failing forests, build water storage and leave people to be free to choose what is best for themselves. His tragic and unexpected passing leaves a deep impact on many.”

House Majority Whip Tom Emmer confirmed LaMalfa's death in a statement Tuesday Jan. 6.

“Jacquie and I are devastated about the sudden loss of our friend, Congressman Doug LaMalfa,” Emmer said. “Doug was a loving father and husband, and a staunch advocate for his constituents and rural America. Our prayers are with Doug's wife, Jill, and their children.”

LaMalfa served as chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus and

sat on the House committees on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Transportation and Infrastructure. He was influential in congressional responses to major wildfires that affected Northern California in recent years.

President Donald Trump offered praise during remarks to the House Republican Conference on Tuesday, calling LaMalfa “a fierce champion on California water issues” and a leader who fought for rural communities and families.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom also issued a statement, ordering flags at the State Capitol flown at half-staff in LaMalfa's honor.

“Congressman Doug LaMalfa was a devoted public servant who deeply loved his country, his state, and the communities he represented,” Newsom said. “While we often approached issues from different perspectives, he fought every day for the

people of California with conviction and care.”

LaMalfa had planned to seek reelection in 2026 despite major changes to his district boundaries under a ballot measure approved by voters in November. The redistricting effort, backed by Democrats, was expected to make his reelection more difficult, making his future one of the most closely watched races in the state.

Newsom is required to call a special election to fill LaMalfa's seat. His office said the election could be held as late as June, when California conducts its 2026 primary.

LaMalfa was born in Oroville and graduated from Biggs High School, in 1978 according to his biography on Congress.gov. He was a fourth-generation rice farmer and business owner that resided in Northern California.

LaMalfa is survived by his wife, Jill, four children, and one grandchild. ★

Community Calendar

Butte County Libraries

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

Friday, 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)

Tuesday, Jan. 13: LEGO Tuesdays, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B)

Wednesday, Jan. 14: 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. 15: Biggs chess club, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B)

Friday, Jan. 16: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (G)

Saturday, Jan. 17: Afternoon kids' club, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (B)

Monday, Jan. 19: Libraries closed for Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

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

Saturday, Jan. 17

California Waterfowl Association's Gridley Banquet

5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, 267 Sycamore St. The popular event is limited to 350 people and is predicted to sell out, so get your tickets early! This fundraiser for CWA includes dinner, raffles, door prizes, auctions, and more. Hosted bar starts at 5 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. by Silver Sage. Tickets and more information at www.calwaterfowl.org or contact Jon at 530-682-2914.

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, from 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@butte-county.net for more information.

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

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. 21. 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. 21.

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. ★



New Year May Entertain Political Junkies, but Sluggish Economy Deserves the Spotlight



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

As the new year begins, there's no shortage of political trends to keep Californians preoccupied, entertained or perhaps appalled — particularly the state's transcontinental feud with President Donald Trump.

There is Gov. Gavin Newsom's all-but-announced campaign for president, centered on his self-appointed role of resistor-in-chief to Trump. As Newsom continues to troll Trump this year we may learn whether it continues to advance Newsom as a White House frontrunner or becomes tiresome and off-putting.

As 2025 ended Axios, a news website, reported that Newsom's potential rivals are ratcheting up efforts to undermine his bid, arguing that, as a California progressive, he's unelectable.

Another point of political fixation is Newsom's successful effort to gerrymander California's 52 congressional seats to help Democrats recapture control of the House in 2026. Whether it works is a question hanging over his presidential ambitions.

Still another is the campaign to choose a successor to Newsom. It so far has attracted a large contingent of Democrats without, as yet, a clear leader. There's a theoretical possibility that with as many as a dozen Democrats in the field, the

two Republicans could finish first and second in the June 2 primary and face each other for the governorship in November, despite the GOP's very weak standing among voters.

This year's election cycle also promises to be another showdown of moneyed interests via dueling ballot measures, with those either increasing or decreasing taxes at the top of the heap.

While political junkies can feed their habits this year, the more profound issue that faces California will be its moribund economy.

Newsom often brags that California's \$4 trillion economy, were it a nation, would rank fourth in the world. However, it has seen zero net job growth since the COVID-19 pandemic ended and recently has experienced employment shrinkage.

More than a million Californians in the labor force are jobless and the state's unemployment rate, currently 5.6%, has been the highest or near the highest of any state for several years.

Employment doldrums have affected even the state's hallmark sectors, most obviously Southern California's withering film and TV production industry and the Bay Area's high technology concentration.

The latter has almost single-handedly propped up the state's economy and generated a huge portion of tax revenues, but layoffs have proliferated as artificial intelligence is increasingly employed — a syndrome that also affects Hollywood.

Stubborn, or even increasing, unemployment makes it more difficult for state and local governments to cover their budget deficits — thus underpinning the

thrust for tax increases on state and local ballots. The sluggish economy also hampers efforts to improve two of the state's most pressing socioeconomic issues, its highest-in-the-nation poverty and homelessness levels.

Even Californians who have homes and jobs are feeling the economic pinch. Combining economic data with polling results, the Public Policy Institute of California recently discovered rising economic angst among California residents.

"California is one of the largest economies in the world, but many working Californians do not feel economically secure (and) they struggle to pay their bills, save for the future, and balance the demands of work and daily life," PPIC reported, adding that polling data "indicate that pessimism about future economic opportunity has become even more pervasive amid recent economic volatility."

As he shifts into presidential campaign mode, Newsom has every reason to keep bragging about the state's economy. But those running to replace him and state legislators should make 2026 the year to recognize that California has serious problems, to bore into the underlying causes and to do what they can to once again make California thrive.

History tells us that taking prosperity for granted — think Detroit — is an invitation to economic ruin.

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



On Dec. 27 the Sacramento Kings treated the hometown fans to a post-Christmas treat with a stirring 113-107 victory over the visiting Dallas Mavericks. It was a reminder that although Dallas is a notable team with playoff intentions, the Kings have the talent to match up nightly with any team in the NBA. They have demonstrated this repeatedly, but the conundrum has been a complete lack of consistency as it relates to game over game results.

Why, you ask? The singular question that begs for an answer.

Injuries have played a role to be certain, but every NBA club must contend with injuries.

If I had to answer this question as honestly as I could, I would turn to the one player on this year's squad that has the greatest impact and that is none other than Domantas Sabonis. Over the past 3 1/2 seasons Domantas hasn't just led the NBA in rebounding and double-doubles, he's been the singular stabilizing influence on a team that needs a leader like none-other. Sabonis' nightly consistent reinforcement of the fundamentals in playing the paint the old-fashioned way, gives every player on the floor a boost of confidence.

Domantas has a motor that just won't quit, and his enthusiasm for the game of basketball is simply contagious. Players want to play with this guy, and former King Jonas Valanciunas was vocal in his admiration for Sabonis and his desire to play alongside the Kings big man.

Unfortunately, the Kings did not value the talent that Valanciunas brought to the floor and allowed him to walk out the back door. Denver did not hesitate to provide their multiple MVP center Nikola Jokic with a resplendent backup, and Valanciunas has thrived this season in his new role.

The number one problem the Kings have had to face this season is not having Domantas on the floor, and their record shows it. 8 wins in 35 contests matches the worst start for an NBA season in the Sacramento Kings franchise history, and this is not a record you want to be a part of. Getting Sabonis back on the floor will be the first step in establishing what this year's team really is, but the Kings face a real dilemma.

GM Scott Perry is making noises that this year's team is about to receive a complete face lift, and Domantas Sabonis name has been mentioned or at least rumored in possible trade rumors. That would be mistake of herculean proportions.

Breaking news, the grass is not always greener on the other side.

Do you not remember what the organization did just one year ago when it inexplicably sent face of the franchise DeAaron Fox to the San Antonio Spurs?

DO NOT trade Domantas Sabonis. Draw a line in the sand, NOW, and build around a player that gets fans on their feet every game!

Stop trading away talent that makes other NBA teams stronger such as Davion Mitchell, DeAaron Fox, Issac Jones, and Boston Celtic starting center Neemias Queta. Yes, Neemias Queta, that the Kings had the good sense to draft 39th overall in the 2021 NBA draft and then send him to the G league where he thrived.

Fans saw something in this raw rookie and gave him more votes than any other King when it came to All-star voting that season.

The front office saw things differently and waived Queta in August 2023, and he was immediately scooped up by the Boston Celtics. Signed to a 2-way contract, Queta went on to help Boston win and NBA championship that same season and has since worked his way up to become this year's starting center. In the recent 120-106 loss to the Celtics, Queta provided the Kings with an up front and personal look at why their decision to let him go should have been reconsidered. Queta held down the paint efficiently all night, while posting 13 points, 5 rebounds, and 3 big blocks.

Simply stated, the Sacramento Kings must stop giving away valuable NBA talent and find someone in the organization that can effectively grade players and determine who is and who is not a viable NBA player.

Stay tuned Kings fans because Domantas will hopefully return soon, and then we can see what this team can do with a true NBA center on the floor.

Happy New Year Kings fans and by all means do not give up hope! ★

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4. Have your heating equipment inspected and cleaned every fall just before heating season.
5. Never use or store flammable or combustible liquids near or in rooms with heaters.
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7. Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home.
8. Cooking appliances should not be used to heat a home.

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Ask DR. UNIVERSE

What came first, the chicken or the egg?

-Everybody

I get amazing questions from curious kids all over the world. So many of you want to know whether chickens or eggs came first. It turns out, that's one of the first questions I ever received—way back in 2001. A lot has changed since then. But a lot has stayed the same, including my answer, which was originally in the form of a comic.

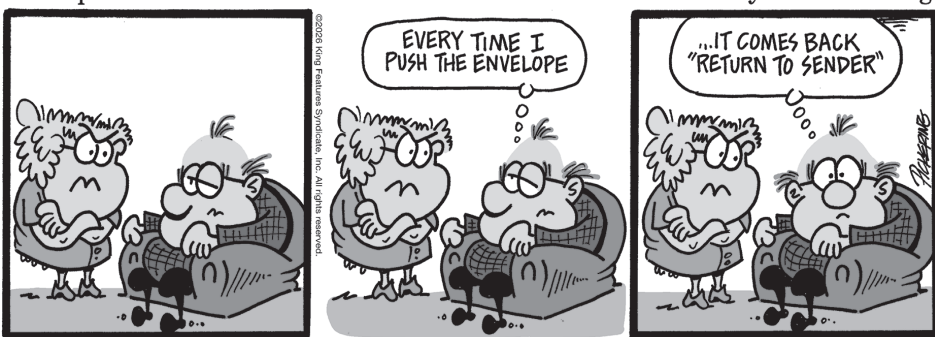


To find out the answer, I read my notes from my late friend Ken Kardong, former zoologist at Washington State University. He had told me the chicken evolved millions of years after the egg. Amphibians were the first vertebrates to crawl up from the water onto land. Even today, amphibians lay their soft-shell eggs in water or moist places, so they don't dry out. Reptiles evolved from amphibians. Their eggs are hard shelled. This keeps them from drying out and allows reptiles to reproduce on land. Modern life is the result of millions of years of species adapting to their environments. That's how the eggs of some amphibians gradually got harder. It's how a branch of amphibians with harder eggs became reptiles. And reptiles gradually evolved into birds—like chickens. I guess it was a long journey from the first egg to the very first chicken. Here's to 25 more eggcellent years as your resident science cat.

Sincerely,
Dr. Universe

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



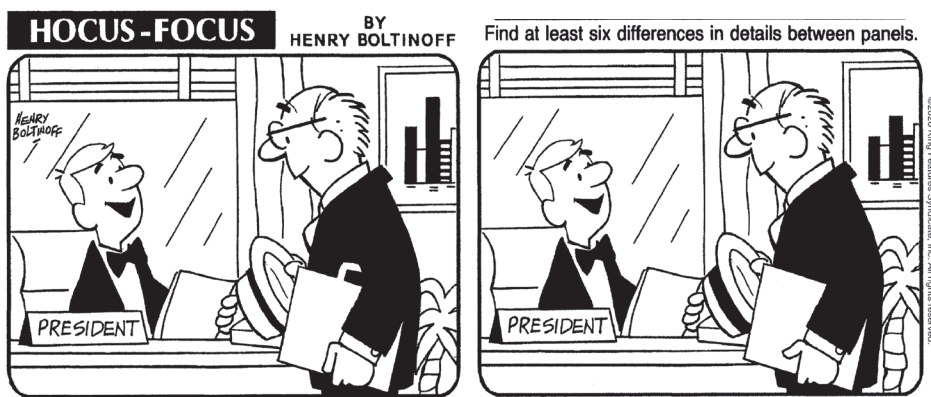
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



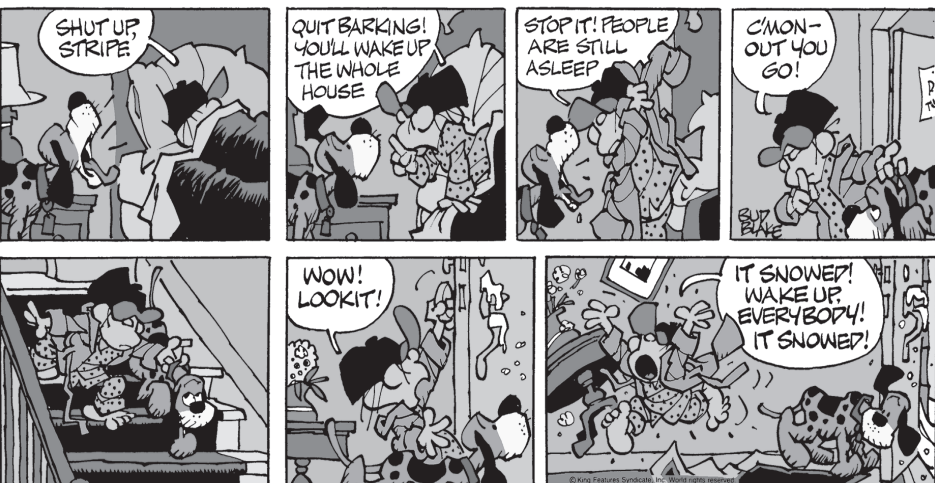
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

TIGER



by Bud Blake

GRIN THE BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • THE GRAMMYS

CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Inundated
 - Word before humbug
 - Jim Carrey's 1994 disguise
 - Rough, as in voice
 - Kimono sash
 - Misrepresent
 - Do like ivy
 - Go for the bronze?
 - Poem of lament
 - *Grammy nominee Bad Bunny's first language
 - *KPop Demon Hunters' nominated song
 - Sought at crime scene
 - Lord's worker
 - Rob Manfred's org.
 - Jab, in speech
 - *...com Arena
 - Rowboat engine, pl.
 - *... gum, ingredient
 - Cowboy's cry of joy
 - Big attraction
 - Spring holiday honoree
 - Live bait
 - Daytime moth
 - Puerto follower
 - Finger move
 - Colonnade
 - Invitation letters
 - "Zip it!"
 - Trash bag brand
 - Polar helper
 - *Lady Gaga's nominated album
 - *Tyler of CHROMA-KOPIA, with The
 - Prejudiced one
 - Busy one
 - Do penance
 - Approves
 - Make a mistake
 - Sans-... font
 - "I, Claudius" role
 - Jack and Jill did this
 - Changes to a manuscript
- DOWN**
- Parentheses, e.g.
 - "Star Trek" speed
 - Away from port
 - Not be frugal
 - What TikTokers are often doing
 - This and that
 - Legal grp.
 - Door holder
 - Mix together
 - Away from wind
 - Leo or Libra, e.g.
 - *Wonda's "Songs in the ____ of Life," Album of Year (1977)
 - Where bats are?
 - Eurasian goat-like antelope
 - Middle-earth dweller
 - Pelican or albatross, e.g.
 - Person in an ad
 - One of Florida Keys
 - Health food pioneer of liquid aminos fame
 - *Nominated "Drop Dead Years" comedian Bill
 - Swerves
 - Sound units
 - Synagogue scroll
 - Zing or pizzazz
 - *Justin Bieber's nominated song
 - Fabled fliers
 - Red one, send somebody over!
 - Unalienable ones are in the Declaration of Independence
 - Draft pick
 - Give satisfaction
 - Spot for prehistoric fly
 - Doomed
 - *MCA, Ad-Rock and ____ D, Grammy-winning Beastie Boys
 - Culture-growing turf
 - Walk-the-dog toy
 - What concerning and discernable have in common
 - *Nine-time Grammy-nominated Amos
 - Fonzie's comeback: "Sit ____"
 - Whistle blowers
 - *...lver of SABLE, fABLE fame
 - Historical period

CROSSWORD															
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

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 #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. 25PRO0545

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
Publish: January 2, 9, 16, 2026
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 to 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 800-280-2832 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-25-1017171-CL. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: 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 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 1/9/2026
GRIDLEY HERALD 1-09-26
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
Published 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026
GRIDLEY HERALD 01-09-26



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BEFORE THE CITY OF GRIDLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Gridley will hold a public hearing on the project described below. The hearing before the Planning Commission will be held at a special meeting scheduled **Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.** in Gridley City Hall Council Chambers, 685 Kentucky Street, Gridley. All interested persons are invited to attend in person, attend remotely, and/or submit comments in writing until 4:00 pm on Tuesday, January 20, 2025, via email to planningdept@gridley.ca.us or via the payment/document drop box at Gridley City Hall and will be conveyed to the Planning Commission for consideration.

The information to connect to the Zoom meeting in order to view the meeting, will be provided on the Planning Commission agenda available to the public on Friday, January 16, 2025, located on the City of Gridley website.

Extension of a Site Development Plan Review for the development of a mixed commercial use fuel station for automobiles, a convenience store, and a drive-thru coffee kiosk located at 1225 Hwy 99. (APN 021-270-043 & -044)

Recommended Action(s):

a. City staff recommends approval to extend the Site Development Plan Review 1-22 to develop the 3.41-acre site with a fuel station, convenience store, and a coffee kiosk.

In accordance with Government Code Section 65009, if any person(s) challenges the action of the Planning Commission on these projects in court, said person(s) may be limited to raising only those issues that were raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk or Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing. For further information regarding these projects, please contact Christopher Smith, Principal Planner at (530) 846-3631 or email at planningdept@gridley.ca.us

Gridley Herald 1-9-2026

Beale Airmen Demonstrate Wing Capabilities During 16th AF Command Chief's First Visit

By Senior Airman Alexis Pentzer, 9th Reconnaissance Wing

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - The 9th Reconnaissance Wing (RW) hosted U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Andrew McKendree, 16th Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) command chief, for the first time, Dec. 17, 2025. The visit provided the wing an opportunity to demonstrate Beale's capability in providing high altitude reconnaissance, mission ready Airmen and combat ammunition expertise to combatant commands, while integrating new capabilities.

The 9th RW, one of nine wings under the 16th AF, keeps our military fast, resilient, and fully integrated in competition, crisis, and conflict. It accomplishes this by leveraging information warfare at both the operational and tactical levels.

"16th AF is the home of the intelligence enterprise for the department," McKendree said. "Beale has been a key component of that enterprise for a long time and will continue to be as long as there is a 9th RW. Team Beale needs to know that the 16th AF is not the only one that values the mission that they execute every day. Our Air Force and nation are thankful to have you all on the watch."

McKendree first visited the Airmen dorms, witnessing improvements to Airmen's living



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Andrew McKendree, Command Chief Master Sgt. of the 16th Air Force, was briefed by Airmen assigned to the 9th Maintenance Squadron (MXS) on Beale Air Force Base, California, Dec. 17, 2025. The 9th MXS Airmen gave a briefing on how their unit is responsible for providing worldwide maintenance support for the U-2, which fulfill the global reconnaissance missions and supports worldwide taskings for operating locations. Photo courtesy of U.S. Air Force, photo by Senior Airman Alexis Pentzer

conditions. His tour continued to the Contrails dining facility to have lunch with junior enlisted members from all squadrons.

During an all call, McKendree addressed senior enlisted leaders about the importance of Beale's mission. He explained how it strategically supports the 16th

AF by converging capabilities to generate information warfare outcomes for combatant commanders and air components.

"I wanted to get a sense of the culture in this demanding environment," McKendree said. "What I found are Airmen who are engaged, have a desire to

make things better and take great pride in what they contribute to the mission. We are operating in unprecedented times. I take heart in the fact that the dedicated men and women of Beale Air Force Base are on our team."

In the afternoon, McKendree visited three Beale units, the 9th

Medical Group, 9th Maintenance Group and 9th Physiological Support Squadron, where he received briefings highlighting Airmen resiliency, readiness and mission lethality. The visits showcased secure mental health resources that help Airmen remain the strong and lethal. U-2 Dragon Lady maintenance that enables global reconnaissance and full pressure suit operations that ensure pilot safety during high-altitude missions. Together, the briefings emphasized Beale's contribution to building a ready, lethal force and reestablishing deterrence in support of achieving Peace through Strength.

McKendree finished the tour in an all-terrain vehicle ride-along of the base perimeter with Airmen from the 9th Security Forces Squadron. This final segment of the tour showcased the 23,000 acres of Beale AFB that the 9th SFS is charged with securing.

"Coming in, I had a good working knowledge of the intelligence insights that the 9th RW provides our nation," McKendree said. "However, seeing firsthand the support that goes into generating those insights highlighted the diverse skillsets of our dedicated Airmen that drive our vital mission. Additionally, spending some time with our munitions warriors gave me a great appreciation for Beale's diverse mission that I will carry with me in my role as your 16th AF Command Chief." ★



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Food & Farm NEWS

New state Laws Affecting Farms Take Effect Jan. 1

Several new state laws set to take effect this week will impact agriculture in California. Beginning Jan. 1, the cost of agricultural labor will rise as California's minimum wage increases in 2026 from \$16.50 to \$16.90 an hour. A new state law will affect the way counties in California address abandoned orchards and vineyards, which have increased pest pressures in neighboring farms in recent years as lower prices for winegrapes and tree nuts resulted in a surge in abandoned acreage. A pair of new laws will give California farmers and ranchers more options for disposal of organic waste. A different new state law will provide more opportunities for agritourism operators by reducing regulatory barriers to hosting overnight campers on working lands. And while immigration law is federal, a new California law bans the use of face coverings by law enforcement officers, possibly affecting immigration enforcement operations in the state.

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 fence-lines," Loren Poncia said of his family's approach to conservation. ★

Winegrape growers Continue Removing Vines Amid 'Challenging Times'

California winegrape growers continued this year to remove vineyards as the sector contends with an oversupply of grapes due to a global downturn in wine sales. Sonoma County grower Andrew Forchini said his 2025 crop turned out well, but like many winegrape growers, he struggled to sell the fruit. "It was hard to find a buyer. If you're lucky and have your crops sold,

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Serving Butte and Sutter Counties

Published Every Friday • USPS Permit 245

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In Live Oak and Biggs - \$62 year (Mail only)
In rural Butte or Sutter County - \$72 year (Mail only)

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is Friday noon for the
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**Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl**

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Pirates Late Surge Earns Victory Over Wolverines

By YSBC

WHEATLAND, CA (YSBC) - The Wheatland Pirates opened 2026 with a 55-45 in a cross-section victory over the Biggs Wolverines on Saturday, Jan. 3.

This was the first meeting between the schools since the 2021 season and their first games of 2026.

Wheatland wrapped up 2025 a few days earlier as they went 1-2 in the Lindhurst Holiday Tournament, with their lone win coming over East Nicolaus.

Biggs had an extended break between games, as they had a two-week break following their 2-1 performance in the Kelseyville tournament from Dec. 18-20.

Both teams shrugged off rust from 2025 as it took a bit for each team to find their groove in the new year and the first quarter



Wheatland junior guard Noah Xiong (22) drives into the lane on Saturday, Jan. 3 during the Pirates' victory over Biggs. Photo by Steven Bryla

ended tired at eight.

Wolverines seniors Hunter Seipert and Skyler Long split with two baskets apiece in the first quarter for Biggs, while Pirates senior Jordan James and junior Josh Xiong, each scored three in the first for Wheatland.

Xiong was lights out from the free-throw line as he converted six out of his

seven attempts at the charity stripe in the first half.

Biggs struggled from the free-throw line as Wolverines head coach Roscoe Deel expressed to Yuba Sutter Butte Colusa Sports that it's a clear point of something to work on.

The Wolverines went 3-of-14 from the free-throw line in the loss. The Pirates led 21-16 at the half.

At the start of the second half, Xiong came out on fire as he scored 11 of his game-high 19 points in the third quarter for Wheatland.

Seipert and fellow senior Ryan Flowers kept Biggs afloat in the game as they scored seven points each in the third, and the Pirates held onto a 42-35 lead heading into the final quarter.

Flowers and Seipert led Biggs with 15 points each in scoring during the loss.

The Wolverines built some momentum early in the fourth as they had the potential to close the gap, but Long got hurt early in the fourth and didn't return for the rest of the game, and that's where Wheatland capitalized and kept a consistent lead of double-digits. Wed

Pirates head coach Mike Bartolomei told YSBC that he was satisfied with the win



Biggs senior guard Hunter Seipert (4) drives to the basket on Saturday, Jan. 3 during the Wolverines' 55-45 defeat to Wheatland. Photo by Steven Bryla

as his team played a collective and consistent game, but they still need to improve as Pioneer Valley League play begins this week.

Wheatland hosted Gridley on Tuesday in their final non-league game of the season, and began PVL play on Wednesday, Jan. 7, at Oakmont.

Biggs will start

Mid-Valley League play on Tuesday, Jan. 13, as they will host Quincy, but the Wolverines had non-league action against Colusa and Live Oak remaining this week on Wednesday and Thursday.

For more updated information on all remaining sports, go to ysbcsports.com and subscribe today. ★

Upcoming Highschool Sports Schedule

By Seti Long

BUTTE-SUTTER COUNTY, CA (MPG) -

As winter break wraps up for local school districts, action resumes on courts and fields throughout the area. The following are the upcoming games scheduled for the next week, featuring winter sports each school offers.

wrestling will be competing at the Tim Brown Memorial meet held in Sacramento Friday and Saturday, Jan 9-10.

Girls Wrestling – The Gridley High School girls wrestling team will be traveling to Napa Friday and Saturday, Jan. 9-10 to compete in the Napa Valley Girls Classic.

when they host Orland Trojans.

Soccer – After taking on Hamilton City on Thursday, Jan. 8, the boys and girls teams travel to Gridley, Tuesday Jan. 13 to play 3:30/5:30 p.m.

Wrestling – The Lions travel to Napa to compete in the Napa Valley Girls Classic, Friday and Saturday, Jan. 9-10.

Live Oak High School

Boys Basketball – The Lions will take on the Maxwell Panthers at home, Jan. 9, 1:30/4:30 p.m. The Lions won't hit the court again until Tuesday, Jan. 13, to take on visiting Orland at 5p.m./8 p.m.

Girls Basketball – The Lady Lions travel to Maxwell to take on the Panthers Friday, Jan. 9, with a short break until Tuesday, Jan. 13

Biggs High School

Boys Basketball – After taking on the Live Oak Lions, the Wolverines host the Quincy Trojans Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Girls Basketball – The Lady Wolverines host the Mt. Shasta Bears, Friday, Jan. 9 at 5:30 p.m. They break until Jan. 20, when they travel to Portola to take on the Tigers. ★



Gridley Bulldogs captain pushes up field looking for a goal in a game played earlier this season. Photo by Christopher Pedigo. ★



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