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Rings of Champions

GHS Softball Receives Championship Rings



The 2025 Division III Champions show off their sparkling championship rings.

Story and photos by **Seti Long**

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - The conference room at Gridley High School was packed last Friday, Jan. 5 as the 2025 Gridley High School Girls Softball team gathered to receive something they have been patiently waiting for.

Earlier in the year, the Gridley High School Softball distinguished themselves as the Northern Section CIF Division III Champions after beating out the Lassen Grizzlies in a comeback win. Gridley was down but would rally against the Grizzlies for the 9-7 win on May 24, 2025.

According to MaxPreps statistics, Gridley High School Softballs



A close-up view of the championship ring shows a large blue "G" surrounded by gemstones and the title "Section Champions" on it.

Championship title was the first in the division in over 30 years.

Gridley High School Principal Rikki Lee Burreth and head Softball

Coach Tammy Carr both confirmed that records dating back to the 1980's had been reviewed and that to their knowledge, this was the first time the softball team had won a Division Championship.

Coach Carr spoke to ladies as she presented them with their rings, thanking them for their hard work and congratulating them again on the distinguished title, a new record for Gridley High School.

Nearly a year later, the ladies finally received their glittering rewards.

Carr told the Gridley Herald that the team chose the larger sized *Continued on page 2*

Sutter Buttes Land Trust Opens Photo Contest



By **Lloyd Green Jr.**

YUBA CITY, CA (MPG) - The Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust has opened submissions for its 22nd annual calendar photo contest, inviting photographers to help document the natural beauty and agricultural heritage of the Sutter Buttes region.

The contest is open to amateur, youth and professional photographers. Selected images will be featured in the organization's 2027 annual calendar, which serves as a key fundraiser supporting land conservation efforts in Yuba, Sutter, and Colusa counties.

Organizers are seeking photographs that reflect the character of the region. Subject matters include the Sutter Buttes, farms and ranches, agricultural activity, native plants and wildlife, waterfowl habitats, geological features and distinctive natural or weather landscapes. Aerial images are also accepted.

According to the land trust, the annual calendar has become an important source of support since it transitioned to a member-only benefit. The calendar has raised more than \$6,000 in recent years to help protect agricultural lands and natural resources surrounding the Sutter Buttes.

Each year, hundreds of photos are submitted for consideration. Twelve images are selected, with one full-page photograph featured for each month. All submissions are judged on originality, expression, quality and location. Photographers whose images are selected will be notified by May 15.

The deadline for submissions is Friday, April 24.

Photographers selected for inclusion in the calendar will receive complimentary copies and recognition. The photographer whose image is chosen for the calendar cover will receive two complimentary calendars, tickets to the organization's annual kickoff event, a gift certificate for an open hike and recognition. Full-page selections receive one complimentary calendar, a gift certificate for an open hike and recognition. All selected photographers will also be invited to a photographer reception later in the *Continued on page 4*

On Track

North State Model Train Show

By **Seti Long**

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Train aficionados from around the area turned out in force this weekend for the North State Model Train Show, hosted at the Butte County Fairgrounds.

The show returns courtesy of local Matt Padgett, collector and owner of Packratt Trains & Toys in downtown Gridley.

Padgett has been organizing the show since 2018, with a few years missed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and unforeseeable events. He tells the Gridley Herald that he usually holds two shows a year, one in October and one in June, and that months of planning go into each.

The most recent show held Saturday, Jan. 10, drew over 270 guests from across the north state and 35 vendors with all available tables for the show sold-out, reported Padgett. He added that he had vendors travel from as far as Oregon and the Bay Area to sell at his shows.

The fairgrounds Expo Hall was packed shortly after opening at 10 a.m., and Padgett shares they had a steady stream of patrons until closing at 3 p.m.

Vendors featured boxed and mint-condition collectors' items, used model pieces, tracks and accessories. Model trains and accessories were available at the North State Train Show in sizes from N-scale, which Padgett described as engines "small as your pinky finger," to G-Scale or "Garden Scale", which cars are



A vendor laughs as he answers questions while an array of colorful models entices buyers. Photo courtesy of Matt Padgett

comparable to the length of a large shoe. Also featured were the popular HO-scale, S-scale and O-scale engines and accessories.

Padgett said part of the draw to the shows is that unique opportunity to find a piece that may have been in someone's personal collection for years.

"That's what makes the meet, because you really don't know what's going to be out there!" Padgett said.

Padgett also shares the distinction between collectors, who are seeking high-quality, mint condition items and operators, who prioritize function *Continued on page 3*



Organizer of the North State Model Train Show and owner of Packratt Trains & Toys in Downtown Gridley, Matt Padgett. Photo courtesy of Matt Padgett

The New Pi-Line



By Josh Cook

Marble statues were very popular in ancient Rome. Families would have busts made of their family members; they also made statues of their Gods, favorite animals, noble people, and cute children. At the marble-ware marketplace, if there were a crack or flaw in the stone, less scrupulous vendors would fill it with wax. Later, when the heat would come, the flaws would be exposed, and the work of art would be turned from a joy to a tremendous disappointment. For this reason, stone masons who did things the right way would put up a sign at their shop that said simply "Sin Cera," or Latin for "without wax." They advertised that what you bought from them would be the real thing, no cheap shortcuts, no fraud, no deceit. To be sincere, made the artwork valuable and long-lasting. 2000 years later, we still exhume and exhibit marble works of art that were sincere. Much will be said

in the coming days about Doug LaMalfa, but having known and worked with Doug for more than half my life, he was sincere. Doug and his wife Jill came to understand that God loves his children (all of us) and wants us to live in Liberty. This love of freedom was the motivating passion that moved the Founding Fathers to create this nation. Doug and Jill sacrificed a significant part of their time, talent, energy, and wealth, and that of their parents and children, to advance the cause of American Liberty. Last week, I was doing a radio interview in Arizona, and the host asked me if I knew "Doug LaMalfa from California." I said I did and that Doug was a prototype of a time when politics actually functioned.

A time when a "normal" person could look at the problems in government and sign up, get elected, and actually do something about it. In the tradition of the finest statesmen, he literally left his plow and went to work for his neighbors. I have been overwhelmed a few times in the last few days as prominent leaders from both sides of the political spectrum have shared stories about how Doug has improved their lives. Almost everywhere I go. I see things that Doug LaMalfa helped put together, particularly

after the disasters that our county has suffered in recent years. He made sure that the federal government kept its promises. As part of our instinct to stay alive, human beings constantly gather information. If you somehow think that Doug LaMalfa was not a truly remarkable and amazing person - I would ask you to check where you've been getting your information, because those of us who've known him, and I've known him for more than 30, can vouch for him. History will smile on Doug's legacy of service. He really was one of us, like his campaign signs used to say. At the same time, he was exceptional, his family is exceptional, he is an inspiration to every kid growing up in Northern California who wonders if it's possible for someone like "us" to make a difference in the world. I am honored to have served alongside him, to have stood with him as he talked with the President of the United States. In Washington I never stopped being amazed that his guy from Richvale, Milt LaMalfa's kid, had become a big deal, an influential person, a part of American history. He is loved by thousands of people he served. His memory is a blessing. Thank you Doug. ***

Josh F.W. Cook was born in Gridley. ★

Rings of Champions



Gridley High School Principal Rikki Lee Buresch, who's daughter was on the winning team last year, admires the impressive size of the rings as members of the team are awarded their personal piece of jewelry.

Continued from page 1
championship rings featuring a large G in the center and the saying "It's a good day to be a Bulldog." The coaching staff, including Assistant Coaches Amber Mendendall, Cody Cloyd and Tera Tuttle, chose a smaller version of the ring.

Of course, some of the seniors that played last season were not in attendance to receive their rings, such as graduates Charlee Sormano, Payton Buresch and Reese Stevens.

Since completing the 2025 spring softball season, three of this year's seniors have committed to college teams.

Senior Avery Mendenhall has committed to play softball at the college level for the Butte College Roadrunners, Alexis Alcantar has committed to Yuba College Softball and Alina Jackson will also be joining the Butte College Roadrunners for the 2026 season.

Principal Buresch thanked the girls for their commitment to their sport and for the new record that they have set for Gridley High.

Players were ecstatic as they pulled the championship rings from velvet

boxes and eyed their hard-won jewels, reminiscing about the win.

"It was a great accomplishment and nice to see all the work that we put in during the year get us to that point," said Avery Mendenhall, "Everyone worked together as a team to come back from 7-0 in the Championship game!"

After an exemplary performance last season, Gridley High School

Softball permanently leaves their mark in Gridley history.

Gridley Girls Softball Division III Champions (2024-2025) Are: Ava Campos, Reese Stevens, Delanie Cloyd, Tati Rivero, Alexis Alcantar, Alina Jackson, Rebecca Solis, Kaydenze Pruitt, Charlee Sormano, Chevie Crislip, Payton Buresch, Val Poyner, Elisa Bensing and Avery Mendenhall. ★



Alina Jackson Smiles as she holds up her Division III Championship ring, months after the victory.

MEMORIAL

SHARON EIDSON • 01/18/1945 - 12/22/2025

Beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, Sharon Eidson passed away on December 22, 2025 following a brief illness.

Sharon was born January 18, 1945 at the Stork Retreat in Gridley, California to Cecile Young. An only child, Sharon grew up in Live Oak, graduating from Live Oak High School in 1962. As a young girl, she enjoyed shopping trips with her mother to Sacramento and San Francisco, and fishing with her uncle and 3 cousins, Darryl, Gordon & Terry. Sharon was a Camp Fire Girl and a member of Live Oak High School's Girls' Athletic Association. As a teenager she worked at C & F Market.

In 1964 Sharon was introduced to the love of her life, Doug Eidson, by her future father-in-law, George. They were married on November 24, 1965 in Reno, Nevada, and settled in Gridley, where they made their lifelong home, raising their 4 children and volunteering in a variety of ways at schools and within the community.

Also in 1965, Sharon & Doug, along with Doug's parents Ann & George, opened the fondly remembered Bronze Cue in downtown Gridley. After selling it in 1968, they opened the Tack Room, also in downtown Gridley. When that establishment closed, Sharon began working retail jobs locally.

In 1974, Sharon began



coordinated trainings with local certified umpires and managed the scheduling for student umpires in the program.

Sharon was a doting "Grandma" & "Nana" to her 9 grandchildren. She loved babysitting when they were little and was their biggest fan as they grew up. She spent a tremendous amount of time at sporting & school events cheering each of them on in their individual endeavors (softball, volleyball, baseball, basketball, soccer, golf & theater). Her holiday care packages, as well as those that just showed up from time to time, brought joy and a reminder to each of them that Nana/Grandma was thinking of them.

Sharon is survived by her 4 children: Lisa Lotti (George) of San Jose, Linda Bagelmann (Kurt) of Antelope, Dean Eidson (Dori) of Susanville, and Debbie Lackie (Matt) of Mission Viejo; and 9 grandchildren: Kelsey, Kasey & Karson Bagelmann; Kylie & Tyler Eidson; and Ally, Maddy, Riley & Landry Lackie.

A Celebration of Life will be held on February 7th from 11:00 - 3:00 at City Café located at 667 Plumas Street in Yuba City. In lieu of flowers, donations to Wreaths Across America, specifying the Gridley-Biggs Cemetery or the Live Oak Cemetery, are suggested by the family.

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Gather 'Round at the ClayGround

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - A creative new venture quietly joined the ranks of downtown businesses last fall and is quickly becoming a popular destination for all ages of local artisans and a new place to host group events.

The ClayGround on Hazel Street made their debut at the Harvest Festival, and owners Bridget Ellis and Ron Rader had just four days to stock and open the store in time for the evening's festival.

Bridget laughed and shared that with a whole lot of hard work; the duo somehow purchased all their inventory and set up the store in that short time-frame. They officially opened in time for the holiday festivities and have been in operation for just under four months.



Between the three of them, these folks have you covered at The ClayGround! Pictured from left are, Itzel Cruz, Owners Bridget and Ron Ellis. Photo by Seti Long

To get in the spirit they even had Santa join them last minute for the Downtown Christmas Event.

The Rader-Ellis family moved to Gridley in 2020 and after taking time from her regular career

as a registered nurse due to complications with COVID-19, Bridget decided she wanted to open a place that would be a creative escape for people looking for something interesting to do in town.

"I decided to do something that I could still reach out to people and enrich people's lives...So even though I couldn't do nursing, because that was my passion, helping people, I felt that I could reach people in other ways," said Bridget.

Bridget and Ron began planning.

The ClayGround features children's toys, gifts, beads and a large stock of unfinished ceramic pieces that are meant to be painted by customers. From piggy banks to serving platters, there is something intriguing for all ages.

In fact, Bridget shares that her store transcends age and social barriers, bringing the artist out of even the most skeptical of patrons.

Since opening, The ClayGround has hosted team-building activities, book-club groups and girls' night parties, along with becoming a popular date-night location for youth.

Newly hired employee and local teen Itzel Cruz said that she fell in love with the place after the first time she came in and agrees that fellow teen couples really enjoy the activity.

"The fact that it's even young men who are coming in on dates and finding that they like to paint - it's awesome!" said Bridget. "There's kids that aren't really into sports, but they get the feeling of increased self esteem because they are good at painting."

Ron shared that a friendly local grandmother comes with her grandson, who she simply watches paint.

"It's something to do with a loved one when you want to bond - it's a neat way to connect with somebody," Bridget added.

Currently The ClayGround is not charging painting or firing fees until March, hoping that the promotional period entices more people to try their hand at painting a piece.

Since the business is



Locals can choose from a variety of pieces to paint, such as this lovely bird. Photo by Seti Long

family owned and operated, either Bridget, Ron, or their sons Christian and sometimes Lucas are available to help instruct amateur artists. Bridget has compiled samples of paint swatches so that guests can see what the paint will look like once fired, which is much different than one might expect when first applying the colors to a piece.

Bridget and Itzel are also Spanish speaking, further breaking down barriers between customers.

The duo reaffirms that The ClayGround is a gathering place for all ages, races and personalities to express and enjoy creativity and are excited to see a diverse range of patrons coming from the community.

Bridget reports that The ClayGround has one of the largest kilns available for firing

pieces and that turn-around time is usually within 48-hours, even for classes or group parties.

One of the most fun parts of the experience is the expression on customers faces when they return to retrieve their fired pieces.

"It's so exciting!" said Bridgett.

The ClayGround is currently open Tuesday through Saturday, but is expecting to post new hours as they further dial in the best times to suit patrons. They can be reached at 530-908-7203 or you can stop by the store at 853 Hazel Street, Gridley.

Special thanks to Jill Phillips for supporting the launch of The ClayGround and the other surrounding downtown businesses that have all given The ClayGround a warm welcome. ★



This little girl chose a mermaid to paint and is prepping the surface to apply the specialized ceramic paint. Photo by Seti Long



Itzel Cruz helps this little boy learn how to paint his ceramic piece. Photo by Seti Long



Ron Ellis prepares to unload a batch of freshly fired ceramic pieces from the large kiln on site. Photo by Seti Long

On Track



A "G" scale model train whizzes around the train at the North State Model Train Show. Photo by Seti Long

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over the condition of the piece.

Various railroad clubs also traveled to the event, helping to raise funds for their clubs and recruit others that share a love of model trains. Padgett often donates tables to the non-profits so that they can have successful shows.

After closing, Padgett reported a highly

successful event.

"It was our biggest crowd ever," he said happily.

Padgett hopes for a second show this year but has many items for sale at his shop, including other collectible toys and memorabilia located at 546 Kentucky Street in Gridley. Packratt Trains & Toys can be reached at 530-797-9264. ★

Butte County Hall of Records Valentine's Day Wedding Ceremonies

Butte County Clerk-Recorder's Office News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Love is in the air at the Butte County Clerk-Recorder's Department this Valentine's Day, as the office invites couples to say "I do" during special Saturday wedding ceremonies in a charming and intimate setting.

Couples tying the knot on Valentine's Day will enjoy a heartfelt experience, complete with a complimentary rose to help mark the occasion. Ceremonies will be held in the Clerk-Recorder's private ceremony room, which comfortably seats up to 18 family members and friends, allowing loved ones to share in the celebration.

For couples wishing



Couples tying the knot on Valentine's Day will enjoy a heartfelt experience in the Clerk-Recorder's private ceremony room. Photo by How Far From Homevia Pexels

to commemorate their union with a keepsake, his and hers sterling silver wedding bands will be available for purchase.

The Butte County Clerk-Recorder's Department

looks forward to helping couples begin their happily ever after on this special day. For more information and to schedule your ceremony call 530-552-3400. ★

Explore Butte County Targets New Visitor Markets

By Susan Meeker

CHICO, CA (MPG) - Explore Butte County outlined an ambitious year of marketing, destination development and sports tourism investment in its 2026 Annual Report, submitted to the Butte County Board of Supervisors in December. While the report focuses on planned activities rather than performance metrics, statewide tourism data shows Butte County's visitor economy has continued to grow.

The Butte County Tourism Business Improvement District, first established in 2015 and renewed in 2020, is a countywide funding district where every hotel, motel and short term rental in Biggs, Chico, Gridley, Oroville, Paradise and unincorporated communities collects a tourism assessment that pays for Explore Butte County's marketing and development programs.

According to the report, the district is designed to provide specific benefits directly to payors by increasing room night sales. The document does not include year over year comparisons or measurements of marketing effectiveness, but it outlines a full slate of initiatives intended to drive overnight stays.

In 2026, Explore Butte



County plans to continue its partnership with Madden Media, entering the third year of a multi channel strategy targeting the Sacramento Valley, Bay Area, and Los Angeles. A brand audit is planned to evaluate tone, voice and visual elements. Paid media efforts will expand into new channels, guided by data from Visa Vue, AirDNA and Kalibri to identify markets most likely to travel to Butte County.

According to the report, public relations work will increase through expanded media pitching, monitoring and individual press trips. Sports tourism remains a priority, with efforts to recruit outdoor sporting events and strengthen relationships with event planners. The organization will also attend its first consumer travel show in the Bay Area this winter and continue developing a regional travel trade program with Discover Siskiyou.

Local partnerships will grow through Butte365, including co branded campaigns and micro influencer collaborations. Resident engagement will continue through the Butte County Mile campaign.

Destination management efforts include supporting regional marketing committees, maintaining Travel Chico under contract with the city and advancing sports tourism infrastructure recommendations from a recent master plan.

The 2026 budget totals \$1.51 million, including \$1.26 million in TBID assessments. Marketing activities account for \$980,000, with additional funding for micro zone marketing, administration, collections and destination development. Up to \$53,000 in reserves may be used this year to update the Feather River Scenic Byway designation and invest in marketing technologies.

While the annual report does not quantify results, the latest statewide data from Visit California shows visitor spending in Butte County reached \$378.7 million in 2024, a 2.3 percent increase from the previous year. Explore Butte County also earned national accreditation through the Destination Marketing Accreditation Program, a designation awarded to organizations that meet industry standards for governance, finance and marketing ★

North State Auctioneer Advances to World Championship



Travis Moniz of Princeton qualified for the 2026 World Livestock Auctioneer Championship after placing in the top 10 at the Bowman, N.D., regional competition. Courtesy photo

By Susan Meeker

BOWMAN, ND (MPG) - A Northern California native is among the top 10 livestock auctioneers advancing to the 2026 World Livestock Auctioneer Championship, earning the distinction as the only Californian to make the cut.

Travis Moniz of Princeton qualified during the regional competition held Jan. 6 at Bowman Livestock Marketing in Bowman, N.D. The event drew 27 auctioneers from across the United States, Canada and Mexico, all competing for a spot in the final round of the international championship.

Moniz, 24, who began auctioneering as a child, now calls at fairs and expositions throughout the North State, including the Silver Dollar Fair, Butte County Fair, Yuba Sutter Fair, the Glenn County Dairy Heifer Sale and the Contra Costa County Fair in Antioch.

Auctioneering has been part of Moniz's life for as long as he can remember. He learned the craft from his father, longtime auctioneer Brian Moniz, and later refined his skills by studying champion callers online before attending the Western College of Auctioneering in Bozeman, Mont.

"My lifelong goal was to always be better than my dad," he said.

Moniz grew up deeply involved in youth agriculture programs. He served as a 4 H president in Princeton, where he helped secure funding to purchase a livestock scale for local beef exhibitors. In high school, he continued in FFA, competing in speaking contests and livestock judging, including a trip to the state finals his freshman year.

After returning from auction school, Moniz began selling at the Orland Livestock Commission Yard, where he has now worked for six years.

In addition to his auction work, Moniz remains active in his family's cattle operation in Princeton, where he and his parents run a registered cow calf program. The family raises Red Angus, South Devons and Herefords, selling show heifers and steers to youth exhibitors and supporting customers at shows across California.

He will compete in the 2026 World Livestock Auctioneer Championship in St. Onge, S.D., with associated convention events scheduled in Deadwood, S.D., June 17-20, 2026.

Moniz joins finalists from Montana, Colorado, Manitoba, North Dakota, Alberta, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Nebraska in the Top 10 lineup. He said preparing for competitions requires discipline and vocal conditioning much the same as for professional singers, including regular warmups and exercises to protect and strengthen the voice. ★

Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

With this crisp winter weather, it's time to hunker down with seed catalogs and tool cleaning. I tend to go the catalogs more than cleaning tools. I'm trying to have clean and sharp tools but it is a major weakness of mine to ignore the tools I need and then fight with them to get jobs done. So much easier to make sure they are

oiled and sharpened but hey we all have our weird lazy places and this is one of mine.

We've already used the Burpee's catalog to order a new watermelon. It is called Mini Me. Designed to grow vertical. Small in size with stripes and seeds and an early production time. It's always fun to try something new. That's how we found the Green Griller zucchini we cannot live without. It's a prolific small roundish zucchini with less moisture and it is great to grill and to cook with. No extra water in your zucchini lasagna. Not prone to viruses. It is a hybrid so seeds do not grow true. I've found these seeds at Hoss. It's also how we found the

Honey-nut winter squash we cannot live without. It too is small. We now grow smaller things with two eaters in the home. This is a dense squash. It is not as sweet as Butter-nut but it makes perfect, creamy mashed squash. Mash, add butter and no milk a bit of pepper and YUM. My holiday guests loved it as did I. That one my daughter started for me and I've now found it at Johnnys Seeds.

One thing I love about seed catalogs is the "window shopping." I will not buy all the flower seeds I like but it is so much fun to dream about them. Stay warm, spray your trees and clean up when you can while leaving some debris for the bugs. ★

Sutter Buttes Land Trust Opens Photo Contest

Continued from page 1

year, where the calendar will be unveiled and featured images displayed.

Specific technical requirements apply. Images must be sized at 8.5 by 11 inches, landscape orientation, and a minimum of 200 to 300 dpi. Portrait and panorama

images may be accepted with permission to crop. Photographers may submit up to five images.

To begin the submission process, photographers must email info@sutterbutteslandtrust.org to receive upload instructions and access to a designated Google Drive

folder. A signed non-exclusive license release form is required. Questions about the contest may be directed to Olivia Moore at 530-755-3568 or info@sutterbutteslandtrust.org. Complete contest rules and details are available at sutterbutteslandtrust.org/photo-contest. ★

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Hard Rock Sacramento Named Third Best Casino Outside Las Vegas

Second Best Casino Concert Venue in the Country

By Shamaya Sutton

WHEATLAND, CA (MPG) - Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain has earned national recognition as one of the top casino destinations in the United States, ranking third best casino outside Las Vegas in "Newsweek's 2026 Readers' Choice Awards."

The annual rankings are determined through a nationwide reader vote alongside the opinion of "expert panelists" highlighting top casino destinations beyond the Las Vegas market. Hard Rock Sacramento's placement among the top three reflects its growing reputation as a premier destination for gaming, entertainment and hospitality in Northern California.

In addition to its overall casino ranking, Hard Rock Live Sacramento — the resort's concert and entertainment venue — was

also recognized in the same "Newsweek Readers' Choice Awards," earning the No. 2 spot for best casino concert venue in the country.

Industry recognition extended beyond public voting. According to rankings published by "Pollstar," Hard Rock Live Sacramento ranked among the top-performing venues nationally and globally in 2025 for both gross ticket sales and total attendance, placing first in California among casino venues. The rankings reflect a strong year of live entertainment programming and sustained audience demand.

"We are humbled to be recognized for these extraordinary achievements by two world-class organizations," said Mark Birtha, President of Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain. "We pride ourselves on creating an integrated

destination resort in Northern California that offers outstanding and unparalleled service, amenities and entertainment programming in the region. Our guests and these authorities recognize that commitment."

Yuba County Economic Development officials praised the recognition, calling it a significant win for the county and the broader region.

"Hard Rock Casino has earned national recognition as one of the top casino destinations in the country, a huge win for Yuba County and the region as a whole," the agency said in a statement shared on social media. "This achievement illustrates the scale and quality of tribal investment taking place in South Yuba County and reinforces the region's growing profile as a destination for tourism, entertainment, and economic activity."



Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain in Wheatland was recently ranked third best casino outside Las Vegas in "Newsweek's 2026 Readers' Choice Awards." Photo by Shamaya Sutton

The county emphasized that the ranking highlights more than entertainment success, pointing to the region's infrastructure, workforce and long-term growth potential. Officials noted that continued partnerships and investment are helping drive job creation, visitation and economic momentum across the county.

Local coverage has previously highlighted the role Hard Rock Sacramento has played in elevating Yuba County's visibility statewide and beyond. Operated by the Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria, the resort features a full-service casino, hotel, dining options and a major entertainment venue

that attracts both regional and out-of-area visitors.

With multiple national rankings and industry accolades, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento continues to position Yuba County as an emerging destination for tourism, entertainment and economic development as it moves into 2026. ★

PG&E Coworkers Fund More Than \$300,000 in College Scholarships

Applications now open for Northern and Central California students

Pacific Gas and Electric Company News Release

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA (MPG) - On Jan. 12, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) announced that scholarship applications are now being accepted for college-bound high schoolers as well as current college and continuing education students with a primary residence in PG&E's service area in Northern and Central California.

More than \$300,000 is available through scholarships created and funded by PG&E's 11 employee resource groups (ERGs) and two engineering network groups (ENGs). These groups help advance a culture at PG&E where all coworkers are valued, included and supported. The funds are raised entirely through coworker donations, coworker fundraising events and the company's coworker giving program.

These scholarships are awarded annually to help offset the cost of higher education. Employee resource groups and engineering network groups scholarship winners will each receive awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$6,000 for exemplary scholastic achievement and community leadership.

PG&E employee resource groups and engineering network groups scholarship information, including criteria and applications, is available on PG&E's website. To be considered for a scholarship, all applications must be submitted by Feb. 28.

"Our ERG and ENG scholarships support the ambitions and dreams of young people in the hometowns we serve. They help open doors to develop future leaders and breakthrough thinkers. The scholarships are part of how we're living our purpose at PG&E, delivering for our hometowns, serving our planet and leading

with love," said Deb Sinta, PG&E Senior Vice President, Talent, Culture and People.

Voices from past recipients "I hope to work as either a software engineer or cybersecurity analyst to ensure a world where everyone may stay secure in this digital age," said 2025 employee resource groups scholarship recipient Lina Kaci, a computer science major at UC Berkeley.

2025 employee resource groups scholarship recipient Kirby Fung, an engineering and applied science major at the California Institute of Technology added, "My career goal is to become a researcher to create efficient power solutions to address global energy challenges and mitigate the risks of environmental and climate changes."

A history of giving Since 1989, PG&E's employee resource groups and engineering network groups have

awarded more than \$6 million in scholarships to thousands of recipients. More than 6,500 of PG&E's 28,000 coworkers belong to employee resource groups and engineering network groups. Each group is open to all coworkers and helps further the company's commitment to serving its hometowns and increasing coworker engagement.

PG&E's employee resource groups and engineering network groups scholarships are available through these 13 groups: Access Network (individuals with disabilities), AAPI (Asian American, Pacific Islander), Black, Latino, Legacy (tenured coworkers), MEENA (Middle East, Europe, and North Africa), National Society of Black Engineers (STEM career coworkers), NuEnergy (newer coworkers), PrideNetwork (LGBTQ+ coworkers), Samahan (Filipino), Society for Hispanic Professional Engineers (STEM



career coworkers), Veterans and Women's Network.

Other scholarship opportunities Besides the employee resource groups and engineering network groups scholarships, the Pacific Service Employees Association (PSEA), a nonprofit mutual benefit organization serving PG&E coworkers and retirees, also provides scholarships for dependents of company coworkers. In addition, The PG&E Corporation Foundation provides STEM scholarships through its Better Together STEM scholarships program. ★

Gallagher's License Plate Modernization Bill Advances, Carrying Forward LaMalfa's Decade-Long Advocacy

Assemblyman James Gallagher News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Jan. 12, in a meaningful tribute to the late Congressman Doug LaMalfa, Assemblyman James Gallagher's (R-East Nicolaus) legislation to modernize California's vehicle license plate system cleared the Assembly Transportation Committee after being placed on the committee's consent file.

Assembly Bill 1091 updates California law to allow eight-character license plates, expanding personalization

options for drivers while establishing a voluntary specialty plate program. Revenue generated by the program would support open space preservation, agricultural lands, local fairs, and outdoor recreation programs throughout the state.

The bill directly continues a policy effort long championed by Congressman Doug LaMalfa, who first introduced AB 1454 in 2012 after state budgets cut nearly all funding for the Williamson Act, county fairs, and agriculture activities. Assemblyman Gallagher has proudly carried forward



Assemblyman James Gallagher

LaMalfa's vision, fighting to update outdated rules while supporting rural and local communities.

Gallagher highlighted LaMalfa's personal passion for the issue, recalling the Congressman's frequent advocacy for eight-character plates.

"Doug would always call me because he really wanted to have eight-letter license plate," Gallagher said. "I've been running this bill for three years now... he would call me and say when are they going to get that bill through."

AB 1091 was approved without objection, reflecting bipartisan support of the measure. Gallagher noted that while

this milestone is important, additional work remains as the bill moves through the legislative process.

"This one's for Doug," Gallagher added. "His persistence and commitment to rural California live on in this legislation."

The measure will next be heard in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

Assemblyman James Gallagher represents the 3rd Assembly District, encompassing all of Butte, Glenn, Sutter, Tehama, and Yuba counties and portions of Placer County. ★

Two Arrested Following Traffic Stop and Drug Investigation

Gridley Police Department News Release

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - On the evening of Jan. 9, at approximately 9:22 p.m., officers with the Gridley Police Department conducted a traffic enforcement stop on a black Toyota after observing the driver fail to stop for a red light at the intersection of East Gridley Road and State Route 99.

Officers contacted the driver,

Dale Brooks age 39 of Yuba City, and the passenger David Compton age 26 of Olivehurst. During the contact, officers observed several vehicle modifications that prompted a vehicle inspection. Officers also observed Compton in possession of an open container of an alcoholic beverage.

For officer safety, Brooks and Compton were asked to exit the vehicle while the inspection was conducted. Compton began to



resist officers and was subsequently arrested. During a search incident to arrest, officers located approximately 14 grams of

methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia on Compton's person.

A subsequent search of the vehicle resulted in the discovery of approximately 4 additional grams of methamphetamine, a handheld police scanner actively monitoring local law-enforcement radio traffic and an imitation firearm.

Brooks was arrested for possession of a controlled substance for sale, transportation of a controlled substance for sale and

possession of a scanning device.

Compton was arrested for possession of a controlled substance for sale, transport of a controlled substance for sale, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a scanning device and resisting or obstructing a peace officer.

The Gridley Police Department remains committed to proactive traffic enforcement and addressing criminal activity that threatens public safety. ★

Urgent Issues Loom Over Newsom Campaign



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Political California cranked up for the New Year Monday.

The Legislature reconvened after a 114-day recess, Gov. Gavin Newsom renewed his nascent campaign for president and the dozen or so men and women who covet his job continued to seek ways to reach a so-far-uninterested electorate.

Newsom's interview Monday on MS NOW, the cable channel beloved by Democratic politicians and activist voters, implied anew that his final year as governor will be dominated by his all-but-certain bid for the White House in 2028. He spent much it criticizing President Donald Trump for refusing aid to Los Angeles fire victims and cracking down on undocumented immigrants.

Newsom's preoccupation will color whatever he and the Legislature do about a deficit-ridden state budget and a half-dozen or so other stubborn issues that have emerged or become more acute since Newsom took office seven years ago.

In past years Newsom has been lackadaisical about delivering the annual State of the State message to the Legislature that the state constitution requires. But he'll perform the chore later this week, then unveil his response to the projections of semi-permanent, multi-billion-dollar deficits.

Gabe Petek, the Legislature's budget analyst, sees an immediate \$18 billion gap between income and outgo that could mushroom to \$35 billion if not closed. He's warned that Newsom and legislators can't count on a sluggish economy to solve their problem.

They have used a variety of gimmicks, including raids on emergency reserves, off-the-books loans and deceptive accounting gambits to stave off the day of fiscal reckoning, but the shortfall, born of overspending revenues, has continued.

"If our estimates hold, the Legislature will face a fourth consecutive year of budget problems — all during a period of overall revenue growth," Petek said in a November analysis. "As it stands — with larger forecasted deficits and many fewer tools available to address them — California's budget is undeniably less prepared for downturns."

The Legislature's leaders, pressed by a powerful progressive contingent, don't want to reduce the health care and income support services they so willingly enacted after Newsom declared, erroneously, that the state had a \$97.5 billion surplus three years ago.

Progressives and their allies in public employee unions and other left-of-center groups want to close the budget gap with new taxes and are sponsoring two ballot measures, one to extend a surtax on the highest-income taxpayers that's due to expire and a second to impose a new wealth tax on the state's billionaires.

Newsom has steadfastly rejected tax increases to deal with the deficit, unwilling, obviously, to become a pro-tax presidential candidate. But neither has he offered, so

far, anything other than gimmicks to solve the problem his wildly off-base 2022 surplus declaration created.

The state's stubborn budget deficit is just one of the issues that continue to defy resolution as Newsom's final year begins. Other issues include high levels of homelessness and poverty, a housing shortage that's just as acute as when he took office in 2019, an insurance crisis born of chronic wildfires, a woebegone bullet train project, soaring costs of living, persistent water supply uncertainties and a looming shortage of gasoline as refineries close due to hostile state regulation.

On top of everything, California's \$4 trillion economy is more or less stuck in neutral, with the nation's highest unemployment rate, no net job growth since the COVID-19 pandemic and severe employment cutbacks in signature sectors, such as film and TV production technology.

The stark existence of such issues during Newsom's final year as governor is not only a potential drag on his presidential campaign, but it colors the cast-of-thousands campaigns to elect a successor.

Will the would-be Democratic governors be willing to point out Newsom's leftover issues — especially the budget deficit — and tell voters how they would approach the challenge? Or would they merely joust over who can be the loudest?

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



Hello Kings fans, and welcome to the land of misfit toys. Yes, Sacramento fans have had to endure a nauseating start to the 2025-26 season, and I can say with some certainty that fans are not satisfied with the lack of transparency coming from the organization.

General manager Scott Perry and owner Vivek Ranadive have not given the Sacramento fan base a true picture of what the future holds, and that makes for nervous and unhappy fans.

On a positive note, if you're a fan that believes staying away from attending games when the big ballers come into town is a good idea, you had better think again.

Your Sacramento Kings, largely shorthanded for most of the season, have registered wins against the Warriors, Nuggets, Bucks, Mavericks, Timberwolves, Heat, and the Houston Rockets twice!

Yes, the 22-13 Houston Rockets have suffered defeat at the hands of the Kings twice this season, and this should give every Kings fan a glimpse into the possible with this year's team.

Center piece and focal point of the team Domantas Sabonis has been relegated to the bench with injuries for the largest part of this season, and you can add to the list Keegan Murray, Zach Lavine, Malik Monk and many others.

That is not to say that other teams aren't suffering with the injury bug as well, but what every fan should find solace in is the fact that this team can defeat any team in the NBA on any given night.

So, will Scott Perry blow up this team, or take the conservative route, and take note of the upcoming draft and simply try to add key pieces where the team is weak? The vast majority believe this could turn into a complete blowup year that could see some of your favorite faces donning the uniform of a different team soon.

I for one, am not in favor of turning things upside down and starting from scratch. Not if Domantas Sabonis is being included in the new makeover. If building around this enigmatic big man is in the cards, count me in. Domantas adds a dimension that shows up in the scoring column and in rebounding too, and no one

has a bigger motor or a better attitude than the Sacramento Kings center. His double double prowess and even triple double capability is worth the price of admission and then some.

The real question is how attached are the Kings to 4th year man Keegan Murray? Like Sabonis, Keegan has been a fan favorite and so far, the Kings have been reluctant to include his name in trade talks. But is Keegan the next Kevin Martin? A 1st round draft choice that was always just this far from taking the next step but never quite being able to get there.

Stats show that Martin played six seasons for the Kings averaging 17.0 points per game, 3.2 rebounds and 1.9 assists.

Murray in 3 1/2 seasons has averaged 13.0 points per game, 5.6 rebounds and 1.4 assists. Neither player has played in an all-star game, and of the two, Keegan is a decidedly better defender. But have the Kings already seen the best of Keegan Murray? If that is the case, by all means pick up the phone when teams call with an interest, and at the very least get a draft pick instead of trading away our draft picks as former administrations have done.

Are we in uncertain times with this franchise? Yes, unequivocally yes! But at some juncture someone has to have the internal fortitude to make what are probably going to be unpopular decisions.

For this writer, I'm heartened that Scott Perry had nothing to do with trading away DeAaron Fox. I would like to think this general manager has real NBA brain power, and that positive changes are just around the corner.

On the flip side, if NBA teams are calling to make unreasonable demands that will only weaken an already weak franchise, then hold pat and wait for the draft!

OKC, Indiana, Detroit, and others have developed their teams via the draft and there's no reason the Kings can't do the same.

Don't lose heart Kings fans. Your Sacramento Kings just handed the Houston Rockets a double-digit defeat Sunday afternoon, and word has it Domantas Sabonis will be back before much longer!

All the best!

SPARKY'S CORNER

Vehicle Fires

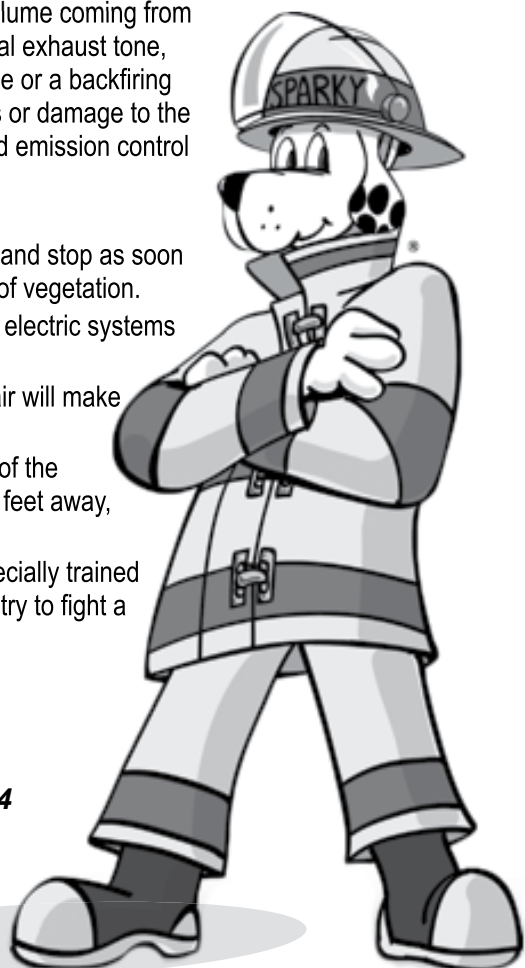


On average, 33 vehicle fires are reported per hour, and these fires kill one person a day. Cars and other passenger vehicles account for the vast majority of vehicle fires and associated losses. While only about 19% of vehicle fires actually occurred on highways and 17% were in parking lots; 33% occurred on streets, roads or driveways. When vehicles burn in driveways the fire often spreads to the home causing more damage and endangering the lives of people inside. CAL FIRE/Gridley Fire Department would like to offer these helpful tips:

- Most vehicle fires resulted from mechanical or electrical failures or malfunctions.
- Have your vehicles inspected at least annually by a trained, professional mechanic.
- Watch for fluid leaks under vehicles, cracked or blistered hoses, or wiring that is loose, has exposed metal or has cracked insulation.
- Have any fluid leaks, damaged hoses or wiring repaired as soon as possible.
- Be alert to changes in the way your vehicle sounds when running, or to a visible plume coming from the tailpipe. A louder than usual exhaust tone, smoke coming from the tailpipe or a backfiring exhaust could mean problems or damage to the high-temperature exhaust and emission control system on the vehicle.

If a vehicle fire occurs:

- Pull off to the side of the road and stop as soon as safe to do so. Avoid areas of vegetation.
- Turn off the ignition to shut off electric systems and stop the flow of fuel.
- Keep the hood closed, more air will make the fire bigger.
- Make sure everyone gets out of the vehicle and stays at least 100 feet away, be aware of traffic.
- Call 9-1-1. Firefighters are specially trained to combat vehicle fires; never try to fight a vehicle fire yourself.



Thank You,
Sparky the Dog
Gridley Fire Station 74

Ask DR. UNIVERSE

How do Scientists Know the Mass and Size of Planets?

- Lucy, 10, Illinois

When I go to the veterinarian, they measure how big I am. They use a scale to check my weight. They find my length and height with a measuring tape.

But nobody can put a planet on a scale. Or wrap a measuring tape around it.

I asked my friend Katie Cooper about it. She's a geologist at Washington State University. She studies our planet and other planets, too.

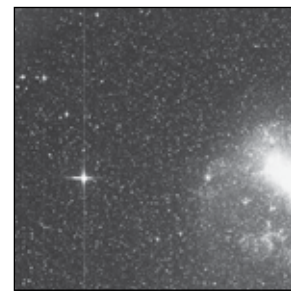
She told me we send satellites to orbit our solar system. When a satellite swoops around a planet, it snaps pics and takes measurements. Those images and measurements help scientists estimate the planet's size and shape.

Scientists also measure how strongly the planet pulls on the satellite. That pull relates to the planet's mass. They also calculate how much space the planet takes up.

Then scientists can figure out what the planet's made of.

Scientists on Earth use seismometers to get a more detailed picture of what the inside of the Earth is made of. Those seismometers record vibrations from earthquakes. The vibrations change depending on the material they travel through. Then scientists can map inside the Earth.

Scientists have even set



This image came back from TESS when it first when live in 2018. The bright star on the left is R Doradus. The bright area on the right is a nearby galaxy. Any astronomer can use TESS data, including professionals and people who watch the sky for fun. Courtesy photo NASA

up seismometers on the Moon and Mars to "see" if they have similar interiors to Earth.

But what about exoplanets? They're outside our solar system, orbiting stars trillions of miles away. It's way too far to send satellites or put seismometers on them.

That's why astronomers watch how exoplanets move through the sky every night. The motion is sometimes smooth. But sometimes it has a little wobble. The wobble depends on the planet's mass and shape. It's also affected by the gravity of nearby objects. Sometimes the planet pulls on its star's orbit, too.

"When you throw a football, it may wobble," Cooper said. "It wobbles based on the ball's mass distribution as well as its shape and its size. It's

similar with planets."

As an exoplanet orbits, it passes in front of its star. That blocks some light. So, it appears dimmer to astronomers on Earth at regular intervals. The dimming pattern is called a transit.

Astronomers track an exoplanet's wobble and transit. They use math equations to calculate mass and size.

Some astronomers use public telescope data to find transits. Like the data from NASA's space telescope named TESS. It records dimming patterns. Then astronomers comb through the data for clues about unknown exoplanets.

"Now we have computers that can search through these data systematically," Cooper said. "That's how we've gone from knowing about a handful of exoplanets to thousands."

It's not that different from how ancient people learned about planets in our solar system. They combined observation and math to estimate size and mass—long before satellites.

It turns out humans are amazing at finding patterns and asking out-of-this-world questions. Just like yours.

Sincerely,

Dr. Universe

COMICS & PUZZLES

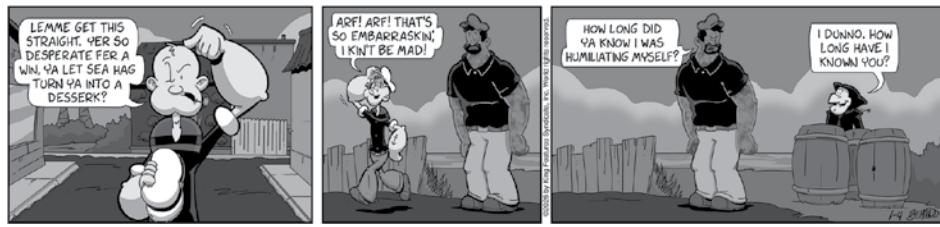
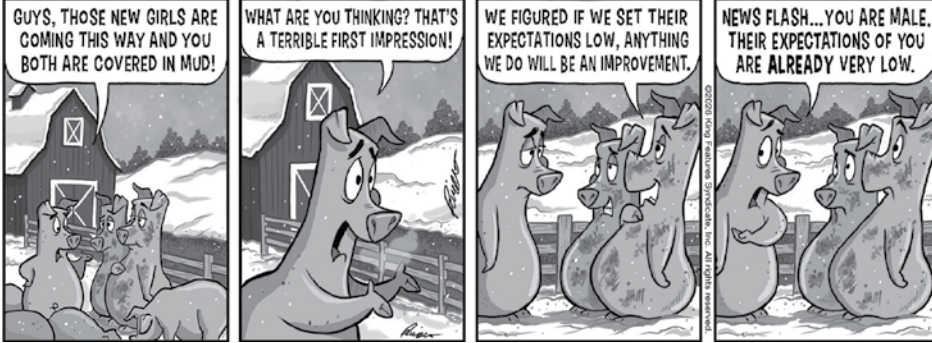
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



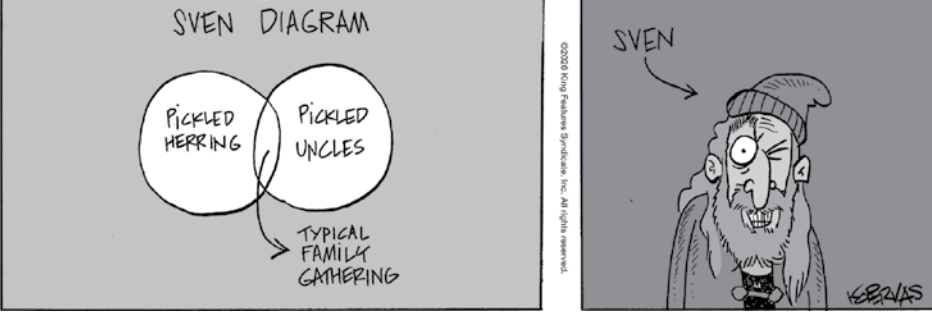
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

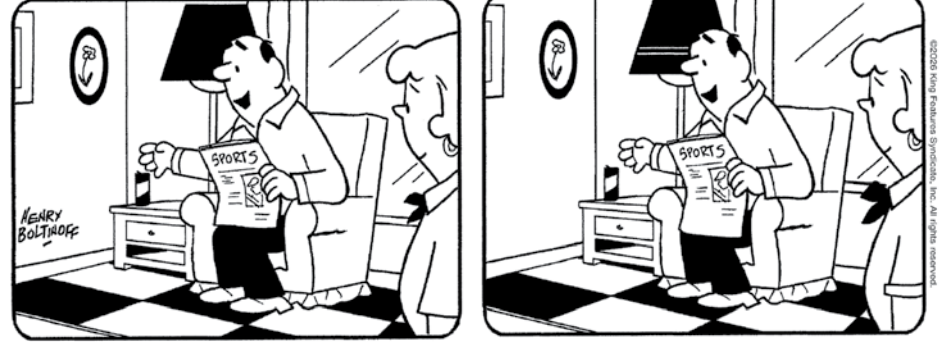
by Gary Kopervas



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is shorter; 2. Window sill is higher; 3. Bow is larger; 4. Paper is longer; 5. Lampshade is different; 6. Sleeve is different.

TIGER

by Bud Blake



GRIN THE BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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CLUES

ACROSS

- Pinch to save
- Brownie
- Lady, in Madrid
- Proprietor
- Romanian money
- Iraqi money
- Coffee shop order
- Before 1998 only they played Olympic hockey
- Spring to mind" or "Spring into action," e.g.
- "Most decorated country in Winter Olympics
- * ___ of Hamill Camel fame
- "How Olympic Athletes from Russia were designated in 2018, acr.
- Assistant
- ___ of war
- Sushi wrapped in nori
- Oblong cream puff
- Singles
- Manure, e.g.
- Soil for cultivation
- Bon Jovi hit "Have a ___ day"
- "Encore!"
- Don't go
- Bumpkin
- Poet Pound's first name
- Rodeo Drive tree
- Sense of alienation and isolation
- Similar
- Toast option
- "Misha, 1980 Russian Olympics Mascot was one
- Samuel Butler: "Spare the ___ and spoil the child"
- * ___ Shiffrin, most decorated U.S. alpine skier
- "Overall Olympic curling medal leader
- Bikini ___ in the Marshall Islands
- Zodiac sign
- Pasture
- Boundary lines
- Government Printing Office
- Rocky ridge
- Singer Tori
- Farm layer
- *1964 and 1976 mountain Olympic location

DOWN

- Honda CR-X del ___
- *Michelle ___, most decorated U.S. figure skater
- Enthusiastic about
- Part of MGM
- From the 1930s, e.g.
- Abounding with certain trees
- Bruce ___ of karate fame
- Fundus, pl.
- Aeneas' lover
- "Don't bet ___!"
- Lye formula
- A in "M*A*S*H"
- Do like Tarantino
- Pleasant smell
- Schiller's "___ to Joy"
- Real ___ of Seville
- *Margot Robbie's "olympic" role (2017)
- "For better or worse"?
- GEICO's mascot
- *Olympic toboggan
- Speech defect
- Place for worship
- *2026 Winter Olympics location
- Mother Goose creation
- Nigerian money
- Slanderous statements
- Snake-like fish
- Dairy choice
- Frustration, in a comic book
- Grocery store section
- Cass Elliot, a.k.a. ___ Cass
- Big-ticket ___
- Japanese zither
- Saloon selections
- Colloquial "Follow me!"
- Widely hunted ruminant
- Kind of sax
- King Kong or Donkey Kong, e.g.
- Penn.'s neighbor

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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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. 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.

Tuesday, Jan. 20: Creative writing group for adults, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (G) LEGO Tuesdays, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B)

Wednesday, Jan. 21: 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. 22: Biggs chess club, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B) Movie night for everyone, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (G)

Friday, Jan. 23: Sure Start family play time, 9 a.m. to noon. (G) Ladies' night out movie, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Men and teens are welcome too. (G)

Saturday, Jan. 24: Dungeons & Dragons Day, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. All experience levels welcome for adventurers 13 and older. (G)

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.

Thursday, Jan. 22 through Sunday, Jan. 25

26th Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway

The Sandhill Cranes are calling, heralding the great gathering of winter birds in the northern Sacramento Valley. Choose from over 55 field trips with experienced leaders, workshops, educational exhibits and more. See www.snowgoosefestival.org for more information on the wide variety of things to do and see throughout our area.

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. 27 and more information is available at 530-368-5493.

Butte County Board of Supervisors generally meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at 25 County Center Drive, Suite 205, Oroville. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 27 and more information is available at 530-552-3300.

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

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

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 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at 630 Washington St., Gridley. Must be pregnant or live with and actively care for a child up to age 17. Call to schedule an appointment: 530-720-2255.

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. Call 530-846-2520 for more information.

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, Feb. 10. 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, Feb. 10. 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. ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

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 1-23-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000007
The following person(s) are doing business as: Paradise Precision Tree Service, 9089 Sky Way, Paradise, CA 95969
Douglas J Fischer, 9089 Skyway, Paradise, CA 95969
Date filed in Butte County: January 5, 2026. 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: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
PARADISE 2-6-2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000914
The following person(s) are doing business as: JT Lowery Ranch, 761 Ord Ranch Road, Biggs, CA 95917
Gerald T Lowery, 761 Ord Ranch Road, Biggs, CA 95917
Date filed in Butte County:

December 11, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: December 11, 2025

This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
JT 2-6-2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000013
The following person(s) are doing business as: Paradise Acres Farm, 1482 Humble Avenue, Gridley, CA 95948
Kenneth E Loyd and Christine M Loyd, 1482 Humble Avenue, Gridley, CA 95948
Date filed in Butte County: January 8, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: April 1, 2022

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: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
FARM 2-6-2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000023
The following person(s) are doing business as: Bar Land Mgmt, 170 Thompson Flat Road, Oroville, CA 95965
Date filed in Butte County: January 9, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: May 3, 2024

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: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
BAR 2-6-2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME – STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000913
The following person(s) has (have) abandoned the use of the Fictitious Business Name: Boyds Mobile Welding Service, Gridley, CA 95948
James A Boyd, 705 Vermont Street, Gridley, CA 95948
Original filing date: July 22, 2024; Statement expires: July 22, 2029. The Registrant began

transacting business on: N/A. Business conducted by: An Individual.
Date Filed in Butte County: December 11, 2025.
This statement was filed in the office of Keaton Denlay, County Clerk of Butte County
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
BOYDS 2-6-26

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

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

CASE #25CV04998
Petitioner Lejla Krusch filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Lejla Krusch to Lejla Mercedesz Krusch.

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 February 11, 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 26, 2025
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
KRUSCH 2-6-26

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF BRANNON E. BYRNE
CASE NO. 25PR00545
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate of Brannon E. Byrne.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by Julie Sannar Byrne, in the Superior Court of California, County of Butte, requesting Julie Sannar Byrne be appointed as

personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

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

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: February 3, 2026, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 1. Superior Court of California, County of Butte, 1775 Concord Avenue, Chico, CA 95928.

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

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

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Terri L. Easlon, 4180 Truxel Road, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95834; 916-419-2100
Publish: January 2, 9, 16, 2026
BYRNE 1-23-26



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NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Butte County has prepared an Initial Study (IS), in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and is considering the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project described below. The MND establishes that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect because required mitigation measures will address potential project effects. The County has prepared this Notice of Intent to Adopt a MND to provide an opportunity for input from public agencies, organizations, and interested parties on the environmental analysis addressing the potential effects of the proposed project.

Project: The Towers, LLC, Conditional Use Permit (PROJ-25-0013)

Project Description: Applicant proposes to construct a new wireless communications monopole, 100' tall, within a 50' x 50' lease area, including associated equipment cabinets and ground equipment. Next to the lease area, there will be a 50' x 20' wide access easement with a Pacific Gas and Electric transformer on a 50' x 52" concrete pad.

Location: The project site is located at 1225 Richins Avenue, on the northwest corner of the Richins Ave. and W. Liberty Rd. intersection, Gridley, CA. APN 021-260-052.

The IS/MND is on file for public review and comment starting **January 16, 2026 to February 15, 2026**. The IS/MND is available for review on the County website at <https://www.buttecounty.net/363/Environmental-Review-Documents>. All comments on the IS/MND must be submitted in writing to the address or email provided below and received no later than **4:00 pm Sunday, February 15, 2026**. For information or to submit comments, please contact Assistant Planner Alyssa Mendoza, Butte County Department of Development Services, Planning Division, 7 County Center Drive, Oroville, CA 95965. Phone: 530.552.3633 or email: amendoza@buttecounty.net.

PAULA M. DANIELUK,
AICP, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Humboldt Men Sentenced to Life Without Possibility of Parole

Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - Two Humboldt County men appeared in Butte County Superior Court on Jan. 9 and were each sentenced to life in state prison without the possibility of parole.

Samuel Ashley, 43, and Wesley Evans, 45, were found guilty by a Butte County jury in December 2025 of the January 2025 double homicide of two victims whose badly burned remains were discovered in a vehicle in the Cherokee area.

At the sentencing hearing on Jan. 9, written statements from the next of kin of victim Juan Daniel Arreola Solano were read aloud. The statements



described the pain and loss suffered by the victim's family.

The trial prosecutor, Butte County Chief Deputy District Attorney Mark Murphy, said the crime was a reflection of the defendants' "greed and stupidity." Murphy stated the defendants valued what the victims had more than who the victims were.

During the trial, evidence showed the victims traveled with the defendants from Humboldt

County to Butte County to complete a gun deal. On the trip to Butte, both victims appeared in a security video at a Red Bluff gas station with wads of cash.

In the hours immediately following the murders, the unemployed defendants visited multiple stores and made cash purchases totaling over \$400.

Evans addressed the court, saying he was "not guilty," that he "did not do this" and that the sentence was not "justice for me."

Ashley made no statement to the court.

At the end of the sentencing hearing, Judge Kimberly Merrifield, who presided over the jury trial, handed down the sentences of life without the possibility of parole for both Ashley and Evans. ★



Congress Passes Bill Allowing Whole Milk in Schools

Whole milk may soon return to public school cafeterias thanks to a bipartisan bill that has passed both chambers of Congress and now requires only the president's signature to become law. Since 2012, schools have been restricted to offering fat-free or 1% fat milk. Should the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act be signed into law, schools would have the option to serve 2% fat and whole milk. California could see the largest impact from the change, as the Golden State produces more milk than any other state, and it also has the most school-aged children. Daniel Munch, economist at the American Farm Bureau Federation, said procurement of whole milk by public schools would likely boost prices for dairy farmers by increasing demand for butterfat, a natural component in milk that determines much of the dairy product's value. "We are really excited to get this across the finish line," Munch said in a recent podcast episode. "This is something Farm Bureau has been pushing for since these changes were made to school lunch programs."

California to Conduct Wolf Collaring Efforts

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife plans to begin new efforts to collar and track gray wolves in the state. CDFW's capture teams will target uncollared packs or groups of wolves in Modoc, Shasta and Plumas counties, the department announced last week. CDFW captures wolves by helicopter before placing collars on the animals and returning them to the nearest suitable habitat. The collars enable the state to track the wolves for up to three years. "CDFW

will share animal location information with cattle and sheep producers with the goal of reducing negative interactions," the department said in a statement, adding that the GPS tracking collars do not transmit real-time data but provide locations daily to CDFW scientists. In October, CDFW euthanized four wolves in the Beyem Seyo pack in the Sierra Valley after months of failed attempts to address "an unprecedented level" of livestock kills by wolves in the region.

Winter Riceland Flooding Provides Crucial Bird Habitat

New research by the U.S. Geological Survey found that Central Valley rice farmers who flooded their fields after harvest provided winter habitat for more than 50 different species of waterbirds from 2021 through 2023. The research, which evaluated fields enrolled in the California Winter Rice Habitat Incentive Program, also identified ways the program could maximize its habitat benefits for birds. USGS biologists found that water depth consistently determined which bird species were attracted to which rice fields, with shallow depths seeing a greater abundance of shorebirds, wading birds and geese, and deeper water seeing more dabbling ducks. The researchers also found that fields saw the highest density of birds about eight days after the onset of postharvest flooding. "Prioritizing rice fields that could be flooded early in the enrollment period, when fewer alternative flooded habitats are available in the Central Valley, could increase bird use of rice fields enrolled in the California Winter Rice Habitat Incentive Program," the researchers said. ★

Father and Mother Sentenced to State Prison for Abuse Against Children and Animals

Butte County District Attorney's Office News Release

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - David Allen Petterson, 39, was sentenced on Jan. 8, in Butte County Superior Court to four years and eight months in state prison for child and animal abuse. His wife and co-defendant, Felicia Louise Whitrock-Wyatt, 38, was previously sentenced on Oct. 16, 2025, to six years and eight months for the same charges.

At the sentencing on Jan 8, Petterson's attorney submitted a psychological report claiming he had numerous mental health conditions that limited his ability to realize and correct the horrible conditions at his home. He blamed his wife for not doing enough to take care of the animals and children.

At Whitrock-Wyatt's sentencing, her

attorney cited her developmental and cognitive delays as limiting her ability to care for the animals and children. The attorney also blamed the husband for letting some of her mental health medication lapse.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said his office sought the maximum allowable term of eight years and eight months for both parents, noting that this was the second offense for both involving animal abuse and the same children.

The same judge sentenced both, giving Whitrock-Wyatt a mitigated middle term of six years and eight months in state prison, largely based on her mental condition. The judge sentenced Petterson to a mitigated lower term of four years and eight months, finding his mental condition, minimal prior criminal record and early resolution of the case as mitigating factors. ★

Gridley Police Report



January 1, 2026 - January 8, 2026

Jan. 1: At 10:42 p.m. on East Gridley Road and Larkin Road, Gridley, Jakarra Marie Senior, 28, was arrested on suspicion of DUI alcohol (M) (23152(a) VC), DUI alcohol /0.08 percent (M) (23152(b) VC) and evading Peace Officer (M) (2800.1(a) VC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

Jan. 2: At 10:43 a.m. on the 100 block of Virginia Street, Gridley, Christopher Wayne Fizer Jr, 31, was arrested on suspicion of Arson: property (F) (451(d) PC) and Trespass: refuse to Leave Property: peace Officer Request (M) (602(o)(1) PC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

Jan. 4: At 1:46 p.m. on the 100 block of Ford Avenue, Gridley, Kobe Bernardzachary Camel, 23, was arrested on suspicion of Vandalism: damage Property ((F) (594(a)92) PC) and Tamper With Vehicle - Destruction/damage/vandalism of Property (M) (10852 VC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

Jan. 4: At 10:56 p.m. on the 1500 block of SR99, Gridley, Marshall James Hollingsworth, 35, was arrested on suspicion of Petty Theft - Purse-snatching (M) (488 PC) and Probation Violation: rearrest/revoke (M) (1203.2(a) PC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

Jan. 6: At 10:31 p.m. on Haskell Street and Hazel Street, Gridley, Sarah Jean Buckley, 43, was arrested on suspicion of Giving False ID to po - All other Offenses (M) (148.9(a) PC), Possessing Controlled Substance (M) (11377(a) HS) and Possessing Unlawful Paraphernalia (M) (11364(a) HS) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

Jan. 8: At 4:08 p.m. on the 1000 block of Washington Street, Gridley, John Dudley Pilgram, 31, was arrested on suspicion of Possessing Narcotic Controlled substance (F) (11350(a) HS) and Possessing Unlawful Paraphernalia (M) (11364(a) HS) and was booked into Butte County Jail. ★

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THE GRIDLEY HERALD

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Three Win Week for Biggs Boys

Story and photos by Jennifer Corriea

BIGGS, CA (MPG) - Last week was a good one for the Wolverine boys' basketball team as it picked up three wins to close out the preseason.

Starting off at home against Pierce on Jan. 5, Biggs cruised to a 57-47 victory behind Skyler Long's 15-point, 11-rebound double-double.

Yet, there was plenty of help from Long's teammates as Hudson Brewer dropped in 14 points, Ryan Flowers grabbed 19 rebounds and Cameron Kroupa contributed eight assists and seven points.

Playing in Colusa two nights later, a cold start didn't hinder the Wolverines, who heated up in the second half then additionally controlled the glass, which enabled them

to prevail 58-44 over the RedHawks.

Long recorded another double-double with 19 points and 18 rebounds, Kroupa finished with 15 points and six assists, while Flowers added 11 points.

To round out the week, Biggs made the trip to Live Oak on Jan. 8 where they defeated the Lions 58-46.

Once again Long led the way with 14 points and 15 rebounds, his third double-double of the week and eighth on the season.

Brewer ended the night with a team-high 15 points and Flowers accounted for 10 rebounds.

Seemingly hitting their stride, the Wolverines (13-3) opened Mid-Valley League play with home games against Quincy and Hamilton City on Jan. 13 and Jan. 16 respectively. ★



Biggs' senior Skyler Long had three double-doubles last week in the Wolverines wins over Pierce, Colusa and Live Oak.



The Wolverines' Hudson Brewer had 14 points in a win over Pierce, then tossed in 15 as Biggs defeated Live Oak.

Rough Going for Biggs Girls



Biggs' Shaory Gonzalez-Rangel looks to rebound as Colusa's Peyton Miller blocks out.

Story and photos by Jennifer Corriea

BIGGS, CA (MPG) - Since coming off their highest offensive output of the season in a 50-46 win over Pierce at West Valley's New Year's Tournament on Jan. 3, getting shots to fall has been a challenge for the Wolverine girls' basketball team and as a result it dropped consecutive games to Corning, Colusa and Mt. Shasta last week.

In Corning on Jan. 6, Biggs fell 24-46 to the Cardinals, although no statistics were made available.

Making its way to Colusa the following evening, the Wolverines were down just five at intermission, but foul

trouble and an inability to score allowed the RedHawks to pull away in the second half and hand Biggs a 25-45 defeat.

Anna Carothers had a team-high seven points, while Marcella Solis-Lopez and Daisy Siepert finished the night with six points apiece.

Returning home to face Mt. Shasta on Jan. 9, the Wolverines dropped their third straight game, this time by a score of 27-43.

No other information about the loss to the Bears was provided.

Looking to get back on track as Mid-Valley League competition begins, Biggs (5-9) hosted Quincy and Mt. Shasta on Jan. 13 and 16 respectively. ★



Biggs' Shaory Gonzalez-Rangel looks to rebound as Colusa's Peyton Miller blocks out.



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