



**Farm Show Returns for 61st Year**  
PAGE 8

**Gridley Sweeps Live Oak on the Hardwood**  
PAGE 10



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



# THE GRIDLEY HERALD

PROUDLY SERVING OUR AREA SINCE 1879



FRIDAY • JANUARY 30, 2026 • VOL. 146 NO. 5

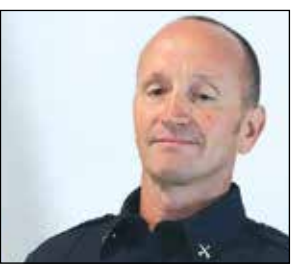
**SEE INSIDE**

**RESPONDERS PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES**



PAGE 9

**DYER NAMED FIRE CHIEF FOR GRIDLEY/BIGGS**



PAGE 3

**Kory Hamman**  
Hamman Real Estate



1031 Tax Exchange Expert  
Specializing in seamless & profitable 1031 exchanges for Ag & Commercial property.  
Over 1/2 Billion in Sales!!!  
(530) 228-1940

## Birders Brave Fog at Snow Goose Festival



Birders take in the sights along the Feather River Parkway on Jan. 22 as a new outing added to the 2026 Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway. Photo by Susan Meeker

By Susan Meeker

**DURHAM, CA (MPG)** - The 26th Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway concluded on Sunday, its four foggy days packed with birders who showed up even when the sun did not.

Cold, low-visibility weather settled over the valley for many outdoor events, but longtime attendees took it in stride.

"Fog or no fog, I'm here every year," said Ellen Gardner, of Santa Rosa, who has attended the festival for more than a decade. "There's always something new to learn, and the birds never disappoint."

The annual celebration drew visitors from across Northern California and



An osprey, also known as a fish hawk for its unique skill of diving feet first into water, hunts from a tall tree at the Feather River Parkway. Photo by Susan Meeker

beyond, offering field trips, workshops, youth programs and indoor presentations focused on the region's winter migration. Large flocks of snow geese, cranes, ducks and raptors continued their routines across the valley despite the weather.

Founded in 1999 as a small gathering of local birders, the festival has grown into one of the North State's largest wildlife events, now featuring more than 50 guided trips in Butte and neighboring counties and a full slate of educational programs. Patrick Ranch Museum in Durham again served as the festival hub, hosting exhibitors, hands-on science stations and wildlife demonstrations. The annual Gathering of Wings banquet, the event's primary fundraiser, was held in Chico.

A new field trip on opening day sent participants to the Feather River in Oroville, where longtime birder Karen Von Barga led a slow, observation-focused walk along the 3.5-mile

*Continued on page 4*

## Gridley Sees Ongoing Delays from Highway 99 Project

By Seti Long

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Construction continues on the \$27.3 million State Route 99 Pavement Rehabilitation Project in Gridley as Caltrans crews make steady progress from the southern edge to the northern limit of town.

Long traffic lines have been observed, with backups extending from the four-way stop at East Gridley Road and Magnolia Street to Highway 99 during non-rush-hour periods.

The Gridley Herald reached out to Caltrans Public Information Officer Megan Reese with the California Department of Transportation regarding safety and the project timeline.

"Caltrans understands the traffic impacts and community concerns related to the ongoing construction," Reese said. "The State Route 99 project in Gridley is currently in active construction, with work expected to continue into winter 2026."

Reese said the goal is to complete work in the summer of 2026 if the project remains on schedule.

Highway 99 is prone to heavy traffic, particularly during extended construction periods. Foggy conditions affecting the region have further reduced visibility through construction zones.

Local drivers have encountered closed entrances to shopping centers that are poorly marked, lack signage and are difficult to see until reaching the entrance. The Gridley Herald has also observed rough and steep access points to shopping centers that have not been paved but are temporarily filled with dirt to allow public access. The use of cones makes entrances difficult to distinguish.

"Cones are often used to delineate open and restricted areas because they allow flexibility as conditions change day to day," Reese said. "When an entrance is fully closed, signage is typically installed. However, partial or temporary access may be managed with cones rather than fixed signs to avoid confusion as layouts shift. Caltrans recognizes that fog and nighttime conditions can make these transitions more challenging to navigate."

Reese said field crews review the areas for safety and report to the contractor so adjustments can be

*Continued on page 2*

## North State Remembers Doug LaMalfa



Kyle LaMalfa, eldest son of U.S. Representative Doug LaMalfa, speaks to thousands at his father's memorial on Jan. 24.

Story and photos by Susan Meeker

**CHICO, CA (MPG)** - More than 3,000 people attended Saturday's memorial service for U.S. Representative Doug

LaMalfa at Chico's Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, drawing national, state and local leaders alongside family, friends and constituents.

Those who gathered weren't there to remember a congressman so much as

a neighbor, a farmer from Richvale, and a man whose roots in the North State ran deeper than the office he held.

"Doug was not someone who simply held office," Paradise Mayor Steve

Crowder said. "He worked, listened, showed up, stayed engaged and cared deeply about the people he represented."

LaMalfa, 65, a fourth-generation rice

*Continued on page 3*

# The New Pi-Line



By Josh Cook

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

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

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

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

\*\*\*  
*Josh F.W. Cook was born in Gridley.* ★

## Gridley Sees Ongoing Delays from Highway 99 Project



Construction along the Hwy 99 corridor in Gridley backs up traffic as work continues through the business district. Photo by Seti Long

Continued from page 1  
made, including entrance grading, signage placement or other needs.  
Unlike many construction projects, this project will not have a winter suspension, and night work has been reduced to a minimum due to heavy fog, Reese said.  
"Once conditions improve, Caltrans will resume night work to help reduce daytime traffic impacts," Reese said. "As construction moves north, Caltrans is coordinating internally to monitor areas with higher pedestrian activity, including routes

used by students."  
The rehabilitation project is expected to deliver long-term improvements for drivers and businesses.  
"The project is designed to significantly improve ride quality with a smoother roadway surface, strengthen the roadway structure and enhance drainage to better handle storm events," Reese said. "Added sidewalks and wider shoulders will enhance mobility for pedestrians and bicyclists, making it a safer corridor for all users of Highway 99 through Gridley." ★

**WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS**

**In-home caregiving for seniors and disabled adults**

**Services Offered:**

- ♥ Light Housekeeping
- ♥ Companionship
- ♥ Transportation to Appointments
- ♥ Shopping Assistance
- ♥ Personal Home Care
- ♥ Meal Prep

At Warm Hearts Caregiving, our mission is to provide highest quality of in home care for your loved ones. We strive to preserve the independence, dignity, and quality of life for those who wish to live at home. We are a small family owned and operated business, and we promise to treat your family as our own.

*Local Ownership, Local Caring*

**530-216-7134 | warmheartscaregiving.com**  
California HCO License # 044700019

MEMORIAL

### MARJORIE DALE LATTIN RYSTROM • 05/17/1932 – 01/06/2026

Marjorie Dale Lattin Rystrom passed away peacefully at the age of 93 on January 6, 2026, in Chico, California following five years dealing with dementia.

She was born in Portis, Kansas on May 17, 1932, to John and Thelma Lattin. A brother Robert joined the family before they immigrated to California in 1937, where her father went to work at the Biggs Rice Mill and they settled in East Biggs/Rio Bonito. She attended the Rio Bonito Sunday School as a child, where she accepted Jesus as her Savior. This life-long relationship with Christ became especially meaningful upon the death of her mother when Marj was only 16 years old. In 1950 her father remarried Mae Hubble Murphy.

Marjorie attended Rio Bonito School, then Biggs High School, graduating in 1950. From there she attended Biola

mission field as happy years where all the children called her "Auntie Marj" and she made lifelong friends from all over the world.

Marj retired in 1994 and returned to Butte County, settling in Chico. While attending Chico Evangelical Free Church she was introduced to a widower from Richvale and in January of 2000 she joyfully became a rice farmer's wife with a ready-made family! She and Don Rystrom were happily married for 22 years.

Marjorie is survived by many, both locally and around the world, who loved her dearly. Memorial contributions can be made to OMF or to the Richvale Community Church in care of Newton-Bracewell Funeral Home.

There will be a memorial service on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at 2:30 pm at Newton-Bracewell Chico Funeral Home.

MEMORIAL

### BRIAN DOUGLAS WERNER • 06/30/1967 – 01/20/2026

Brian Douglas "Boo" Werner, 58, passed away on January 20, 2026, in Gridley, California. Born on June 30, 1967, in Oroville, California, Brian lived a life rooted in dedication to his family, his work, and the land he loved.

For four decades, Brian worked with Jones Flying Service, where his commitment and steady presence became a cornerstone of the operation. His long tenure was a testament to his reliability and strong work ethic—qualities that defined much of his life.

Brian was known for his kind heart and humble spirit. He approached each day with gratitude and joy, never taking life for granted. Whether spending time with loved ones or tending to his passions, he embraced every moment fully.

Among Brian's greatest joys were hunting and growing giant pumpkins—pursuits that

Family was at the center of Brian's world. He is survived by his parents, Jay and Carrie Werner; siblings Johnnie (Margie) Werner, Rachelle (Mark) Diamond, and Allyson Peters; daughters Alexis (Luis) Granados and Ashlyn (James) Poteet; grandson Hank; and granddaughter Natalie. His love for them was unwavering and evident in every aspect of his life. He was a devoted father and grandfather whose warmth left an indelible mark on those closest to him.

Brian was preceded in death by his grandparents Harlow and Delphy Palmer, as well as Hugo and Christine Werner.

Brian Douglas "Boo" Werner will be remembered for the strength of his character, the generosity of his spirit and the joy he brought to those around him. May his memory bring comfort to all who knew him.

## BIG CITY INVENTORY • SMALL TOWN SERVICE

### SALES • SERVICE • PARTS

**20 YEAR**  
200,000 MILE POWER TRAIN  
**WARRANTY**  
INCLUDED IN THE PURCHASE OF NEW VEHICLES\*  
\*SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS

**10 YEAR**  
100,000 MILE POWER TRAIN  
**WARRANTY**  
INCLUDED IN THE PURCHASE OF NEW VEHICLES\*  
\*SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS

*Proudly Located in Gridley for Over 50 Years!*

## Gridley Country Ford

99 E. and Spruce Street • Gridley  
**(530)846-4724 Toll Free: 1-800-660-4724**

# North State Remembers Doug LaMalfa

*Continued from page 1*

farmer and politician, died unexpectedly on Jan. 6 after suffering a medical emergency at his home. He spent more than a decade in Washington, but friends said he never stopped being the man who learned early that work starts before sunrise and that loyalty is measured in actions, not announcements.

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson spoke about LaMalfa with the kind of affection that comes from years of working alongside someone whose character never wavered. He said LaMalfa's sudden passing had left colleagues in Washington trying to adjust to a reality that felt deeply out of place, noting how quickly the loss was felt across the institution. Johnson told the crowd that LaMalfa was "a truly great man," a description he said he did not use lightly in a place filled with powerful and ambitious people.

Former Speaker Kevin McCarthy said his bond with LaMalfa began long before Congress, recalling that both entered the California State Assembly the same year and built a friendship that never changed, no matter how far their careers carried them.

The Washington contingent, which included LaMalfa's staff, flew to Sacramento for the memorial on Air Force 2, offered by the vice president so they could travel together and get ahead of the storm that hit 40 states on Sunday. They arrived at 5 a.m. on Saturday and flew back the same evening.

Attendees included Governor Gavin Newsom, U.S. Senator Adam Schiff and the bipartisan congressional delegation, who sat in the front row with LaMalfa's family.

Mark Lavy choked back tears as he stepped to the podium, standing beside his cousin's silver casket draped with an American flag and topped with a spray of rice stalks, pheasant feathers and LaMalfa's cream colored Stetson. The hat, a style LaMalfa embraced after buying television icon Cal Worthington's cowboy hat at a fundraiser for a rural hospital, stood as a symbol of the consistency that defined him, whether he was at the Capitol or a community barbecue.

Lavy remembered LaMalfa as a man of faith, humility and steady purpose, shaped by the land and the family that came before him.

"He was such a special man, who was so loved and respected," Lavy said.

Saturday's service blended formal tributes with moments of levity, reflecting the congressman's personality and the close knit nature of the communities he served. Large screens displayed photos of his life on the farm, his early political career and his years traveling the district.

Assemblyman James Gallagher remembered LaMalfa, his mentor, as a steadfast advocate for rural California and a lawmaker who built his political identity around agriculture, water, wildfire recovery and constituent service.

"Doug was always there," Gallagher said. "He was there



U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson delivers a tribute recognizing Congressman Doug LaMalfa's 25 years of public service.

for his family; he was there for his staff, who he treated like family. He swore me into the bar when I became a lawyer, with the admonition that I be an 'untangler and not a tangler.' He officiated weddings, came to graduations and had a nickname for everyone."

Gallagher said LaMalfa called him Hymie, but more often called him little brother.

"I loved that," Gallagher said. "He was like a big brother to me. His slogan was 'He's one of us.' It was not exclusive. It was him saying, 'I'm just like you.'"

Family members, longtime staff and colleagues spoke about LaMalfa's work ethic and his commitment to the district. Several shared personal stories illustrating his loyalty, humor and determination to deliver for small towns often overlooked in statewide policy debates. They described him as a lawmaker who returned calls, showed up in person and stayed engaged long after headlines faded.

Attention then turned to Jill LaMalfa and the family, who were greeted with a standing ovation.

Jill LaMalfa reflected on the



Congressman Doug LaMalfa's family stands with state and national leaders for "God Bless America," the final tribute to a man who loved God and country.



A Shasta County deputy stands at attention while "Amazing Grace" echoes across the fairgrounds at Saturday's memorial for U.S. Representative Doug LaMalfa, honoring a man who loved God and country.

life she shared with her husband and the legacy their family is now entrusted to continue. She noted that the word "legacy" had come up often throughout the week, reminding the crowd that legacy is the story of a person's life and the footprints they leave on their family, their community

and the world.

To the couple's infant granddaughter, Jill LaMalfa said her husband devoted every ounce of his work so that she, her parents, her aunts and uncles and families across the state and country could grow up with basic freedoms and liberties.

"It took him away a lot," she



Friends and constituents sign a guest book before entering the Jan. 24 memorial service honoring U.S. Representative Doug LaMalfa.

said, "but that passion is what drove him."

She then offered messages to the couple's four children, Kyle, Allison, Sophia and Natalie, encouraging them to continue the values their father lived by.

LaMalfa's memorial service was a ticketed event held under tight

security by North State law enforcement agencies.

Alexandria Jones, who opened the program with the national anthem, closed it by leading the crowd in singing "God Bless America," an enduring tribute to a man remembered for his deep faith and love of country. ★

# Dyer Named Fire Chief for Gridley and Biggs

*By Susan Meeker*

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Veteran CAL FIRE officer Jason Dyer, whose career spanned nearly every corner of Butte County, has been selected as the new fire chief for the cities of Gridley and Biggs.

Both cities receive fire protection and emergency medical response through long standing cooperative agreements with CAL FIRE. The contracts provide full-service staffing, administration and operations in place of separate municipal fire departments.

Dyer introduced himself to the Biggs City Council earlier this month, telling council members he was grateful to return to the community where he first

started his career 25 years ago.

"I've worked throughout Butte County, but I spent about eight years in the Biggs and Gridley area and several of those years here in Biggs," Dyer said. "I really enjoyed that part of my career, so I'm very happy to be back."

Retired South Division Chief Chip Fowler introduced Dyer as his replacement to the Gridley City Council on Jan. 20, praising Dyer's leadership and experience.

"Jason comes to you with a lot of knowledge and he's got a strong work ethic," Fowler said. "He is a very sound chief officer both administratively and operationally."

Dyer was raised in Butte



Assistant CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Jason Dyer has been named Fire Chief for the cities of Biggs and Gridley. Photo courtesy of CAL FIRE

County and began his fire service career immediately after graduating high school in 2000, working as a seasonal firefighter for CAL FIRE in Stirling City and as a volunteer firefighter

for the Butte County Fire Department. After his first fire season, he attended the Butte Fire Academy and earned an associate degree in fire science while continuing to work as a firefighter in the Gridley area and later in Magalia.

Dyer was promoted to fire apparatus engineer at the Jarbo Gap Station and later worked as an engineer at Robinson Mill and Gridley. He became a fire captain in 2009, serving briefly in the Lassen Modoc Unit before returning to Butte County, where he worked in Feather Falls, Berry Creek, Jarbo Gap, Durham and South Chico.

Dyer was promoted to battalion chief of the Butte Unit

Training Bureau in 2020. In 2022, he transferred to Battalion 6, overseeing the communities of Oroville, Kelly Ridge, Palermo, and Cherokee. He also served as an operations branch director on CAL FIRE Incident Management Team 3 and previously worked on Teams 4 and 5, frequently filling the role of division supervisor on major incidents throughout the state. Dyer has been a member of CAL FIRE's Technical Rescue Team since 2004 and was a team leader. He taught multiple State Fire Marshal rescue courses and served as an instructor at the Butte College Fire Academy.

Dyer will serve the Biggs-Gridley area out of his offices in Gridley and Oroville. ★

# End of an Era for Portuguese Hall



The HTA or Portuguese Hall slowly decaying while awaiting demolition. The hall used to be the center of many celebrations and Festa feasts. Photo by Seti Long

By Seti Long

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - A fixture in the historical tapestry of Gridley's past has recently met a verdict on its fate.

The HTA Hall at 198 Washington St. will be demolished.

Gridley's HTA Hall, or Portuguese Hall as it is known to locals, was constructed in 1920, according to a letter written by Michael C. Vieira, president of the Gridley Holy Trinity Association.

The building bears the HTA mark above its long-closed doors, affirming its role as the gathering place of the Holy Trinity Association and celebratory grounds for the Festa holiday.

The letter describes the Festa holiday tradition in which the Portuguese community celebrated with a parade, crowned queens and feasted in honor of a religious event that occurred in the Azores Islands. Local Portuguese dairy owners and farmers donated meat, goods or services to make the Festa celebration a major event for the community.

"Cooking was performed outdoors in wood-fired boilers and celebrations lasted for days or even a week," wrote Vieira in the letter from the board announcing the hall's closure.

The Portuguese Hall officially closed in 2017 after hosting the 106th Holy Trinity Festa in Gridley.

"For the first time in my life, and in the memories of those still here with us today," Vieira said, "after this Mass, we will not be celebrating with a dinner of beef and sopas at the Portuguese Hall."

Vieira explained the



Multiple generations of family members are pictured here in this image from a passed Festa, illustrating the tradition of the Festa holidays. The three young women in white, the Fischer sisters, were Festa Queens that year. Pictured from left, Annie Parker (Fischer), Connie Fischer (Vieira), Megan Fischer, Candie Vieira and Stephanie Fischer. Photo courtesy of Annie Parker

HTA board struggled with the cost of operating the hall, citing upkeep to the aging building as a primary concern, coupled with maintenance, taxes and insurance costs. Despite the emotional impact, the Gridley Holy Trinity Association was left with no choice but to close the hall until further notice.

For years, the hall sat locked and unused while age continued to take its toll.

The hall's close proximity to the Wilson Elementary School campus caught the attention of the Gridley Unified School District. Gridley Unified School District finalized the purchase of the property in November 2025, according to the GUSD board agenda.

At the Jan. 21 meeting, Gridley Unified School District board members voted to declare the property surplus and authorize it for demolition.

Gridley Unified School District Superintendent Justin Kern said the building had been deemed

unsafe and uninhabitable.

"Unfortunately, we have to take it down," Kern said, acknowledging the role the building once played in the community. "The intent is to build district warehouse space and ancillary office space."

Community members who remember the celebrations held at the location said they were saddened to hear the news.

Annie Parker, who grew up at "the Hall," as her family called it, was one of three generations of Portuguese women who participated in the festivals and were crowned queens during the Festa celebrations.

"That hall had been part of my family for generations," Parker said. "We would have family get-togethers there, festas of course, but we would literally be there, multiple generations and several family tree branches, every few months."

The date of the building's removal had not been scheduled at the time of publication. ★

# Birders Brave Fog at Snow Goose Festival

Continued from page 1

Parkway to highlight winter ring-billed gulls, mergansers, herons, raptors and other riparian species.

"The water that flows into the river from the fish hatchery has a lot of food in it from the harvesting of eggs and milt from steel-heads," Von Barga said, pointing out the overflow falling into the river like a waterfall. "That is why the gulls hang out here."

Von Barga, a birder since childhood and a 20-year resident of Oroville, said the Feather River Parkway is one of the best inland spots in the region to see multiple species side by side, making it a great location for learning and relaxed comparison. The outing added a fresh look at the river corridor and broadened the festival's reach beyond its traditional refuge-based tours.

"This is such an interesting area," Von Barga said.

Von Barga also led two other field trips, the Feather River Birds and Bath House on

Jan. 23 and the Raptor Run-Monument Hill tour on the final day of the festival, both of which sold out early.

Snow Goose Festival activities included photography workshops, owl prowls, rice field waterfowl tours, refuge auto loops and Jr. Naturalist programs designed to introduce younger visitors to wetland ecology.

Even with the fog hanging low over the valley, the signature spectacle remained the mass liftoffs of snow geese from the surrounding rice fields. Visitors gathered along viewing platforms and auto loops at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex, listening to the layered calls of cranes, ducks and geese echo across the wetlands.

Organizers, who said birdwatching draws a large number of tourists to Northern California in the winter, are already planning for next year's festival, with hopes of expanding field trips and youth programming. ★

# Kids Castle Returns as Student Space



Kids Castle will serve as an additional after-school program location for Gridley Unified School District. Photo by Seti Long

By Lloyd Green

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Children often received the royal treatment at Kids Castle, a local preschool and daycare formerly owned and operated by Aminah Khan and Joan Clarke before its recent closure.

Kids Castle featured a playful castle-like exterior with brightly colored stained-glass windows and pointed turrets. Its central location between Wilson Elementary School, McKinley Elementary School and Sycamore Middle School allowed instructional aides to walk children to and from classes, a benefit for families with split-day education schedules. For parents, the facility offered safe, dependable and competitively priced childcare.

Kids Castle celebrated its final day of operation Oct. 31, 2025.

Before the closure, Khan told the Gridley Herald that after-school programs offered by local schools had significantly affected enrollment.

The Butte County Office of Education currently provides after-school programs at

McKinley, Wilson and Sycamore schools, offering supervision, homework time and activities until 5:30 p.m.

Despite the closure of Kids Castle, the building will continue serving the community's youth.

Gridley Unified School District identified an opportunity in the property, which is located on the same block as Wilson Elementary School and the district office.

The Gridley Unified School District Board voted unanimously at its Jan. 21 meeting to lease the building as additional space for transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students needing after-school supervision.

The district agreed to a 17-month lease term beginning Feb. 1. Rent for the space will cost the district \$6,000 per month, paid to property owners Rasheed and Aminah Khan.

Gridley's elementary school sites are struggling to accommodate a growing student population, Superintendent Justin Kern said.

"It's a great thing for the community and families," Kern said, adding the additional space will be beneficial. ★

# Local Classifieds Advertise in your local community newspaper Call 916-773-1111

**Auto & Truck Repair**  
NOW OPEN. FREE Brake Inspection. FREE Battery Check. Domestic and Foreign. 23 years experience. Military Discounts. Auto Doctor, 114 3rd St., Marysville, CA. Call now - 530-701-4300. (TFN)

**Classified Advertising**  
916 773-1111  
Advertising Works!

**Health/Wellness**  
XOSIALX - Get Social. Be EXCEPTIONAL. XILERATE is redefining energy for everyone. It provides an authentic, jitter-free boost that appeals to both regular energy drink users, and those who may have avoided them due to artificial ingredients or harsh effects. FREE TO JOIN. www.canderson.xosialx.com (TFN)

**We Support Our Military**

**Services**  
Wash windows, light trash hauling, weed eating, cobwebs. Call James 530-632-1271. (TFN)  
MPG

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING**  
916-773-1111

**Are You a Pro?**  
Get the word out!  
Advertise in the Classifieds  
Call 916-773-1111

## CALL A PROFESSIONAL

**HOLYCROSS**  
Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc.  
David Holycross  
Affordable & Dignified On Site Crematory Se Habla Español  
486 Bridge St., Yuba City, CA 530-751-7000  
www.holycrossmemorial.com  
estab. 1998 FD1653

**Dave Greenetz**  
CONSTRUCTION, INC.  
SPECIALIZING IN  
• KITCHENS • BATHROOMS • REMODELS  
530.682.9602  
www.GreenetzConstruction.com

**HOMETOWN**  
Realty  
James Stowe  
(530) 870-6056  
manzanitacars@SBCglobal.net DRE #02298808  
Specializing in Ranch & Farm Properties

# Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

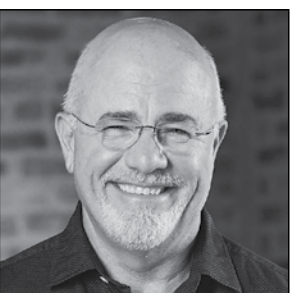
The toad pond is done. Thinking about the toads that live in the yard, I wondered how they breed. I looked it up and they like puddles. They can deal with knee high water but like it shallower. As long as the puddle lasts through the spring and the water is in enough sun to warm it up, they will lay eggs on grasses or floating plants. I decided to guarantee

their survival in this yard. I want them to stay. I found a round shallow plastic pan 30" in diameter. Dug out a sunken place, placed pan in the depression, pushed soil up to the edge all around so it doesn't move. I put rocks all around, then a few little rocks, planted a water plant, filled it with water. Now waiting for toads to breed and have tadpoles that will become toads. I'm going to put in a couple of mosquito fish too. Not only will it help the toads it looks very sweet.

Each time the sun has popped out from the tule fog, I'm getting outdoors to get something done. Berries are pruned, Abutilons are pruned, a gifted Cyclamen is planted,

acid soil is placed around Blueberries and Japanese Maples. I've taken cuttings of a tri-color Geranium that is so beautiful and hoping they take. I had a nice surprise while I pruned the Abutilons. A couple of branches had been pinned to the ground with a trellis. Both rooted and I have two more abutilons! They are red and will go to the plant sale if they make it.

I attended the St Timothy Community Garden seed planting day. If they have another one, I recommend you take advantage of it. They provide everything you need to plant vegetable, herbs and flowers to take home. Such a great community service this group provides. ★



Dave Ramsey

## Dave Ramsey Says Delegation: Transferring the Fire

ability to let go and delegate. That's why, as an entrepreneur, it's vitally important to learn how to delegate the right way.

Delegation is one of the most misunderstood—and abused—areas of leadership. It isn't handing off tasks you hate. It's all about recognizing and developing your team's abilities and skills, then trusting them to take on responsibility. Transferring the fire in your heart to the right team members (transformational leadership) sets everyone up to burn brighter. But you'll need to intentionally shift your mindset from doing the work to leading it. You can start this by beginning to see yourself more as a catalyst, coach and consultant, instead of the muscle for all the heavy lifting.

If this sounds hard, it's because it is. At the outset, it'll be one of the most difficult things you'll ever do in your business. But if you slow down just a little, and develop a great training plan and delegation process now, I promise you things will grow incredibly later.

Done properly, delegation will lighten your load, and stress, so you can focus more on strategy and vision. It will also increase project ownership and company loyalty, while giving others a growth path and the motivation to learn new skills. As you activate this momentum, your whole team will become stronger, faster and better. It will also show your team that you believe in them.

And in time, watching your team do tasks as good as, or better than you, will feel rewarding beyond anything you ever imagined.

— Dave

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



### Fall Rains Reduced California Rice Yields

Rainstorms impacted California's rice crop this past fall by delaying harvest, increasing losses and reducing grain quality. Growers initially anticipated a high-yielding crop, but the final numbers are expected to show average production in 2025, according to University of California Cooperative Extension rice specialist Bruce Linquist. "Yields early on looked very good, and there was a lot of optimism," Linquist said. "But as the season progressed and you got later and later harvests, the yields started to drop, and you had pretty low quality and overall low head rice." George Tibbitts, who farms in Colusa County, said October rains made it difficult for farm equipment to navigate his rice fields. "This year for us has been the toughest one I can remember for getting things done during fall harvest," he said.

### Lettuce Virus Cases Creep Back Up in Salinas Valley

After two years of lower levels of impatiens necrotic spot virus in the Salinas Valley, researchers have recorded a higher number of cases during the 2025 season. "I think we've been dodging the bullet the past few years, but it looks like whatever guardrails that existed are breaking down," said Richard Smith, a retired University of California Cooperative Extension vegetable crops adviser who has studied

INSV extensively. In 2022, the virus led to substantial yield losses in the Salinas Valley, causing a nationwide shortage of lettuce and record-high prices. Mark Mason, manager of Huntington Farms in Soledad, said his 2025 harvest of more than 4,000 acres of head, romaine and leaf lettuce was decent despite INSV showing up late in the season. "We caught the symptoms at the end of the harvest," Mason said. "We had some fields that were clean and some that were 40% losses."

### Alfalfa Growers Face Rising Costs and Lower Returns

Rising input costs and low prices have left U.S. alfalfa growers struggling. Since 2023, most farmers have grown the crop at a loss, according to an analysis by the American Farm Bureau Federation. The organization pointed out that despite alfalfa's status as the fourth most valuable field crop in the nation, generating more than \$8 billion in farmgate value last year, it is not included in most farm safety-net programs such as the Trump administration's Farmer Bridge Assistant Program, which was created to soften economic losses for farmers impacted by international trade policies. AFBF economist Daniel Munch said trade conflicts, especially with China, were partly to blame for low alfalfa prices as U.S. growers have seen a reduction in export markets. As of the most recent Census of Agriculture in 2022, California led the nation in alfalfa production. ★

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

**Biggs-West Gridley Water District is accepting applications for the position of full-time Maintenance/Equipment Operator.** Hours vary based on a weekly shift; some overtime work is required. Position is responsible for performing maintenance and repairs.

Operating heavy power-driven maintenance and construction equipment.

**Qualifications:** Knowledge of and practical experience in the area of agriculture required; California class A or C driver's license with satisfactory driving record; high school diploma or equivalent. Pay dependent on experience. Post offer, pre-employment drug testing may be required.

**Position will be open until filled.** EOE. Full job description, benefit information, and application materials for this position are available at [www.bwgwater.com](http://www.bwgwater.com) or the District's office, or by email request to [bcedillo@bwgwater.com](mailto:bcedillo@bwgwater.com)

Pay range \$20-\$22

## Residential Commercial Service

**PLUMBER BOB'S**

**Russ Scott  
Lic. 401493  
530.682.7384  
GridleyPB@gmail.com**



## Ask for Jake!

Come see *Jake Richins* at Gridley Country Ford for all your new or used car or truck needs.

Ask me about our 20 year or 200,000 miles Power Train Warranty!

See me today for the Best Deal!

Office: 530-846-4724 Cell: 530-433-8959

99E and Spruce Street • Gridley



# LOCAL ARREST RECORDS

Find out what's happening in your local area

Arrest Logs updated daily

[GRIDLEYHERALD.COM](http://GRIDLEYHERALD.COM)

## Levis for Sale

Levi's - Classic and Collectible  
For sale in Carmichael  
Great Inventory for Reseller  
Some like new, some distressed  
Complete list with info available  
Price Negotiable. Sold as a lot.  
Some 1990's to 2000's

Call 916-773-7337

## Classic Country Album Collection

Gets hours of fun and enjoyment out of this classic county album collection.

Includes Merle Haggard, Hank Williams, Glen Campbell, Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Marty Robbins, Jim Reeves and more than a dozen more.

Selling as a complete set only.

Pick it up locally in Carmichael. Get all for only \$350 cash.

Call Paul at 916-773-7337 for a complete list.



Publisher,  
Paul V. Scholl

The Gridley Herald is a member of Messenger Publishing Group

To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email a Microsoft Word file to:

[Publisher@MPG8.com](mailto:Publisher@MPG8.com)  
Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher".

If you do not have email access, please call us at (530) 846-3661 or (916) 773-1111 [www.gridleyherald.com](http://www.gridleyherald.com)

## THE GRIDLEY HERALD

Serving Butte and Sutter Counties

Published Every Friday • USPS Permit 245

Postmaster send address changes to:

**The Gridley Herald  
300 Spruce St., Ste. C, Gridley, California 95948**

Periodicals postage paid at Gridley, CA, 95948 under the Act of Congress March 3, 1880. Court Decree Number 27207. The Gridley Herald is an adjudicated newspaper for all legal advertising in Butte and Sutter Counties.

Single Copy 75 cents.

Subscription rates in Gridley \$52 per year.

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

**Deadline for all advertising is Friday noon for the next week's issue.**

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.



## Newsom Wants to Overhaul State Oversight of California Schools



By Dan Walters,  
CALMatters.org

Gov. Gavin Newsom dropped a brief and vaguely worded section into his State of the State address earlier this month, suggesting an overhaul of how California's vast public education system is managed.

"It's long overdue that we modernize the management of our educational system," Newsom said, "and so in the budget I'll be submitting tomorrow, I'm proposing that we unify the policymaking by the State Board of Education and the Department of Education, allowing the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to align our education policies from early childhood through college."

The budget's passage on this was longer, but still failed to explicitly say what Newsom had in mind.

The proposal cited two reports that bemoaned the multiple, often overlapping and sometimes competitive, state and local entities that govern the schools. One was California's so-called Master Plan for Education, published in 2002, and the other was from Policy Analysis for California Education, or PACE, a multi-university think tank, that had been issued just weeks earlier.

The budget proposed to "move oversight authority of the management of" the state Department of Education and local districts under the California Board of Education.

Thus, without saying so directly, Newsom would strip the elected state superintendent of schools of managerial authority over the state Department of Education, relegating the officeholder to an ombudsman or advisor. Management would be vested in the Board of Education, which is appointed by the governor, and an appointed executive director.

"These changes will strengthen governance of California's education system to provide coherence and meaningful accountability to address the needs of students, parents, teachers, school staff, and administrators," the budget proposal declared.

The current superintendent, former state legislator Tony Thurmond, complained that he was not consulted about what would be a major overhaul of responsibility for a system that serves nearly 6 million students and is the largest single portion of the state budget.

"This governance proposal doesn't establish any structures proven to move the needle on student outcomes," Thurmond, who is running for governor, said, "and instead shifts authority to implement TK-12 education programs away from the official who California voters have elected to lead our state's public schools."

It's apparent that Newsom's administration had been laying the groundwork for the power shift — or power grab — long before the State of the State address. The PACE report issued in December was part of the process. It called for exactly what Newsom proposes.

"California's education governance system is a complex network of agencies and entities designed to serve the most diverse and expansive TK-12 population in the United

States," the PACE report declared. "This system incorporates state, regional, and local levels of authority, each tasked with specific responsibilities and oversight. At its core, the structure seeks to balance statewide education goals with local control and accountability.

"However, its complexity often results in overlapping responsibilities, fragmented authority, and challenges in ensuring streamlined decision-making."

PACE issued a statement backing the change from Michael Kirst, the state's foremost academic authority on education and architect of the school finance overhaul, the Local Control Funding Formula enacted in 2012 under then-Gov. Jerry Brown.

Kirst called it "a new vision and a dramatic overhaul" that would address a 19th century governance structure.

"The lack of fundamental change since then has hindered education progress," he said.

Politics aside, Newsom's proposal would streamline governance that is now opaque and fragmented, and shields the system's many points of authority from accountability. However, by vesting almost total authority in the governor and his or her appointees, it will be more difficult for a governor to escape accountability if educational achievement, which now languishes, doesn't markedly improve.

*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



For forty years the city of Sacramento has had a love affair with the Sacramento Kings basketball team, and a 12-35 record halfway through the 2025-26 season is not likely to change that. The fans in Sacramento truly know the definition of loyalty, and although there is much to be concerned about, faithfulness seems to be ubiquitous in River City.

A recent 4-game winning streak left me somewhat amazed at the euphoria it created despite nearly the worst record in the NBA this season.

The checker at the supermarket smiled from ear to ear when he saw my Kings jacket and couldn't stop talking about the multiple wins in a row. The same thing occurred in my local bank, and even the person at the Starbucks drive through had an encouraging word for the hometown club.

Yes, the Kings are a part of the fabric that makes up a smorgasbord of people in the capitol city and win or lose these fans are here to stay.

As the Kings have embarked on a 7-game road trip, the losing ways have once again surfaced, and the 139-116 loss to the Detroit Pistons brought back the grim reminder that there is much to be corrected with the current team.

The Kings were led in scoring by none other than Malik Monk with 19 points and a surprising 3 blocks to lead the team in that category as well. Not long ago demoted to the bench inexplicably for 3 games, coach Christie has been awakened by chants from the hometown fans calling for Monk to play, and many are asking the question, why was he on the bench to start with? Well, that is not the only conundrum, as Domantas Sabonis has been asked to come off the bench in lieu of rookie Maxime Raynaud, ostensibly as they continue to monitor his knee that kept him sidelined for 13 consecutive games.

The question most asked is why are the rotations so frenetic, and is there any method to this madness?

There is plenty of talent on this team to go around but finding the right amount of playing time for each player and having a core group on the court that can find

a rhythm has been seemingly absent this entire season.

I believe fans are hungry for some consistency, and quite likely the players are probably there as well.

Without question, anything resembling the playoffs seems to be a pipe dream this season, but when I hear fans talk about the aspect of tanking for the sake of a better draft choice, I draw the line.

If the coaching staff and ownership wants to focus on playing the younger players this year, I'm fine with that, but the idea that moves are intentionally being made to lose games is contrary to anything I believe the city of Sacramento wants to see.

I'm convinced every fan wants to see 100% effort, and it's entirely possible we'll see another winning streak if that's the case.

Not lost in all of this is the question of 2-time all star and rebounding champ Domantas Sabonis. Word out of the Kings camp is that Sabonis is on the trade market, and I have to question the logic in that.

When Sabonis arrived, the Kings had not had a real center since the departure of Demarcus Cousins's, and no one has exemplified the spirit of basketball more than the effervescent Domantas Sabonis. Add to that his production on the court, leading the NBA in both rebounding and double-doubles year over year, and it begs the question, why would you want to trade one of the best centers in basketball.

I have heard the flip side that says, look what we can get for him, but have you looked at the result of trades the Kings have been involved with? Remember just one year ago the Kings sent one of the premier point guards in the NBA to San Antonio so that we could suit up Zach Lavine.

There is a lot to like about Zach Lavine, but losing DeAaron Fox immediately changed the face of the franchise and not in a good way.

So, stay tuned Kings fans because there is still much to root about, and I for one have not lost faith!

*All the best!* ★

## SPARKY'S CORNER Dryer Safety

Doing laundry is most likely part of your everyday routine. But did you know how important taking care of your clothes dryer is to the safety of your home? With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent a clothes dryer fire.

Dryers should be properly grounded.

Check the outdoor vent flap to make sure it is not covered by debris.

Keep the area around your dryer clear of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, etc.

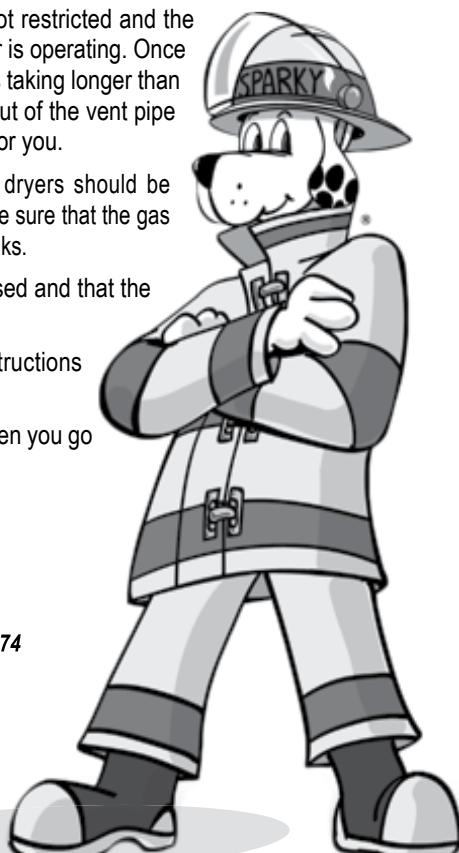
Clothes that have come in contact with flammable substances, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.

### FACT

- The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.
- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a qualified professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.



Thank You,  
Sparky the Dog  
Gridley Fire Station 74



## Ask DR. UNIVERSE

### Where does all the snow go after winter?

- Bobo, 7, Washington State

Dear Bobo,

There's nothing more magical than sparkly flakes gently falling on a fluffy blanket of snow. But it's a temporary kind of magic. When it warms up, the snow disappears.

I asked my friend Jennifer Adam what's going on. She's a water scientist at Washington State University.

She told me snow is frozen water. When temperatures rise, it melts. The solid frozen water turns back into liquid water.

That melted-snow water works just like rain water. It soaks into the ground. It fills up the spaces between bits of underground soil and rock. That's the water that plants slurp up with their roots.

"But the soil can only hold so much water," Adam said. "If you think of a sponge under the faucet, it fills, fills, fills, fills. At some point, it's going to overflow the top."

Once the ground is full of water, any extra water just flows over the ground. Some of it drains into streams and rivers. Eventually, it makes its way to the ocean.

Some of the water evaporates. It changes from liquid into gas. That water vapor hangs out in the atmosphere. Someday it will return to the Earth as rain or snow.

Adam told me that snow and how it melts is super important in Washington



This is Mount Rainier in August. There's still snowpack remaining—but lots of water has melted and filled up the ground and streams. Samuel Kerr CC BY-SA 3.0

state—especially the snow held high up in the mountains. It's called snowpack.

All winter, that snowpack piles up. It's like a frozen water storage system. As temperatures warm in the spring, the snowpack slowly melts. The water runs down. It fills the ground and flows into rivers and streams.

That's important because Washington has a timing mismatch. We get most of our precipitation in winter. But we use most of our water in the summer.

A generous snowpack stores lots of water and then slowly releases it, so the ground and rivers fill up slowly. That's the water farmers use to irrigate crops and grow food. It also turns turbines in dams on rivers to make our electricity.

Scientists aren't sure what's going to happen

with our water supply in Washington as the planet warms. We might get more precipitation or less precipitation. But we do know that it'll get warmer. That means our wet winters might bring more rain instead of snow.

Without a healthy snowpack, water might rush into our rivers in winter, when we don't need it as much. It might be gone by summer, when we really do.

That's why experts like Adam study the local water system closely. By carefully monitoring snowpack and changes in our environment, they can plan how to manage our water.

It's all about tracking data to s-know how to adapt to a changing world.

Sincerely,

Dr. Universe

# COMICS & PUZZLES

**The Spats** by Jeff Pickering

OUR CAT LOVES PRECIPITATION

IT DOES??

YES, WHEN IT RAINS IT PURRS!!

**POPEYE** by SINDY HILLGARD

SOMEONE IS HERE SEEKING POWER AND AID, SEA HAG.

EXCELLENT! ANOTHER WILLING SAP TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF!

IT'S HAM GRAVY.

IT'S NO FUN WHEN THEIR SPIRIT IS PRE-BROKEN!

HAM GRAVY! I HOPED TO SEEN THE LAST OF YOU.

SEA HAG, I'M BEGGING YOU TO GRANT ME THE POWER TO DEFEAT POPEYE!

I NEED REVENGE FOR HIM STEALING OLIVE, MY ONE TRUE LOVE!

YOU HIT ON ME THREE TIMES WHILE WAITING FOR SEA HAG.

SO YOU'RE A CREEP AND BAD AT CONTEXT CLUES, GREAT.

I KNOW IT'S A WASTE OF TIME, BUT I'LL HELP YOU, ALL I NEED IS TEN THOUSAND UP FRONT.

**Amber Waves** by Dave T. Phipps

GERALD, I PICKED UP THAT CEREAL YOU KEEP BEGGING ME TO GET FOR YOU.

OOH, CAPTAIN FROSTY! THIS IS ONE OF MY FAVORITES.

FAKE COLORING, NO NUTRITION. DEAR, WHAT ABOUT THIS STUFF MAKES YOU THINK IT'S GOOD?

CRUNCH! CRUNCH! CRUNCH!

FIRST OFF, IT'S GOTTA TURN YOUR TONGUE PURPLE.

BUCKS??

NAH, FOREHEAD KISSES.

I WAS HOPE, SINCE YOU'RE A WITCH I COULD JUST GIVE YOU MY FIRSTBORN.

FIRST, I'VE RAISED ENOUGH KIDS, SECOND?

IT FEELS LIKE YOU WANNA HURT MY FEELINGS.

AH, HAH, IT'S SO CUTE YOU BELIEVE I THINK YOU HAVE FEELINGS.

OF COURSE, BUCKS!

I DO NOT WANT ANYTHING THAT'S HALF YOU.

**Out on a Limb** by Gary Kopervas

OW!

THAT'S FOR INSULTING MY WIFE!

THAT'LL BE TWENTY BUCKS...

WHARTA VERK!

A BIG MOUTH!

YUCK YUCKS

ANOTHER SHOW, ANOTHER PUNCHLINE FOR MARTY JACKLIN, INSULT COMIC

**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Back of chair is different. 2. Box is different. 3. Collar is missing. 4. Burner is missing. 5. Refrigerator handle is lower. 6. Stove hood is wider.

**TIGER** by BUD BLAKE

YOU REALLY WANNA GO OUT?

YOU REALIZE HOW COLD IT IS OUT THERE?

OKAY, IF YOU INSIST- BUT IT'S FREEZING OUTSIDE!

...AND SNOWING!

AND SLIPPERY!

AND WINDY!

YOU'RE NOT BACKING OUT NOW!

**GRIN THE BEAR IT** by Dave T. Phipps

**Just Like Cats & Dogs**

I FOLLOWED MOST OF THE RECIPE. IT'S PROBABLY FINE DESPITE THE WAY IT LOOKS...AND SMELLS...RIGHT?

"I've seen this. ... The frog did it."

**STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • LOVE'S IN THE AIR**

**CLUES**

**ACROSS**

- Biology lab supply
- Aldous Huxley's drug of choice
- \*Certain Courtney
- Tear violently
- Color of a bruise
- Al Roker's show
- Pupil control
- Any minute, to Shakespeare
- Sheep-like
- \*H. P. of science fiction fame
- Hibernation stations
- Boat station
- Tennis shot
- Packed in container
- User-friendly interface, acr.
- Genetic info carrier, acr.
- \*Love unquestioningly
- Equal to 1.3 ounces in Asia
- Not a minor
- Poem addressed to certain subject
- Hundred, in Italian
- Nothing
- Relating to clone
- Division, abbr.
- Sloughed off skin
- Fluffy dessert
- All good things come to this?
- Between Oct's and Nov's
- Verde National Park
- \*B-52s' "little old place" (2 words)
- Singing femme fatale
- Deed hearing
- Reverberated sound
- Blue-Green scum, pl.
- Misery cause
- Actress Perlman
- Scheme
- Right coast time
- Made by tailor

**DOWN**

- Seed cover
- Biking helmet manufacturer
- Tel. \_\_, Israel
- #64 Across, redone
- Like 1969 landing
- Laugh with contempt
- Fender-bender damage
- \*a.k.a. hickey (2 words)
- Norse deity
- "Off The Wall" shoe
- Needle hole
- Macy's Thanksgiving offering
- Commotions
- Silica variety
- NaOH
- Solder together
- Dewey Decimal Classification, a.k.a. Relative
- Pleasant Island
- Small songbird
- Harry's and Hermione's magic tools
- Bigfoot's cousins
- \*Hand cover, with love
- \*Lemming relative, or anagram of love
- Tokyo, formerly
- \*Couch for two
- Lumps in liquid
- Knave
- Unit of electric current

A	G	A	R		L	S	D		L	O	V	E			
R	I	V	E		P	U	C	E		T	O	D	A	Y	
I	R	I	S		A	N	O	N		O	V	I	N	E	
L	O	V	E	C	R	A	F	T		D	E	N	S		
				W	H	A	R	F		L	O	B			
B	I	N	N	E	D				W	Y	S	I	W	Y	G
R	N	A		R	E	V	E	R	E		T	A	E	L	
A	D	U	L	T		O	D	E		C	E	N	T	O	
Z	E	R	O		C	L	O	N	A	L		D	I	V	
E	X	U	V	I	A	E				M	O	U	S	S	E
				E	N	D		S	E	P	T	S			
		M	E	S	A		L	O	V	E	S	H	A	C	K
S	I	R	E	N		O	Y	E	R		E	C	H	O	
A	L	G	A	E		B	A	N	E		R	H	E	A	
P	L	O	T			E	S	T			S	E	W	N	

**Classified Advertising**

Sell Your Stuff! Reach 1000's of Readers Every Week!

**MPG**

916.773.1111

9	1	3	8	2	4	5	7	6
2	6	7	5	3	9	1	8	4
4	5	8	6	7	1	9	2	3
1	8	9	7	4	2	6	3	5
5	2	4	3	6	8	7	1	9
3	7	6	9	1	5	8	4	2
7	4	2	1	5	6	3	9	8
6	9	1	4	8	3	2	5	7
8	3	5	2	9	7	4	6	1

**STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • LOVE'S IN THE AIR**

**CLUES**

**ACROSS**

- Biology lab supply
- Aldous Huxley's drug of choice
- \*Certain Courtney
- Tear violently
- Color of a bruise
- Al Roker's show
- Pupil control
- Any minute, to Shakespeare
- Sheep-like
- \*H. P. of science fiction fame
- Hibernation stations
- Boat station
- Tennis shot
- Packed in container
- User-friendly interface, acr.
- Genetic info carrier, acr.
- \*Love unquestioningly
- Equal to 1.3 ounces in Asia
- Not a minor
- Poem addressed to certain subject
- Hundred, in Italian
- Nothing
- Relating to clone
- Division, abbr.
- Sloughed off skin
- Fluffy dessert
- All good things come to this?
- Between Oct's and Nov's
- Verde National Park
- \*B-52s' "little old place" (2 words)
- Singing femme fatale
- Deed hearing
- Reverberated sound
- Blue-Green scum, pl.
- Misery cause
- Actress Perlman
- Scheme
- Right coast time
- Made by tailor

**DOWN**

- Seed cover
- Biking helmet manufacturer
- Tel. \_\_, Israel
- #64 Across, redone
- Like 1969 landing
- Laugh with contempt
- Fender-bender damage
- \*a.k.a. hickey (2 words)
- Norse deity
- "Off The Wall" shoe
- Needle hole
- Macy's Thanksgiving offering
- Commotions
- Silica variety
- NaOH
- Solder together
- Dewey Decimal Classification, a.k.a. Relative
- Pleasant Island
- Small songbird
- Harry's and Hermione's magic tools
- Bigfoot's cousins
- \*Hand cover, with love
- \*Lemming relative, or anagram of love
- Tokyo, formerly
- \*Couch for two
- Lumps in liquid
- Knave
- Unit of electric current

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11		
12				13					14					
15				16					17					
18				19					20					
				21					22					
23	24	25					26			27	28	29		
30				31	32	33			34					
35				36					37			38		
39				40					41			42		
43				44					45			46		
				47					48	49				
	50	51							52			53	54	55
56									57				58	
59									60				61	
62									63				64	

**Consumer Cellular**

Off First Month of New Service! USE PROMO CODE: GZ590

SWITCH & GET \$25

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

**WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS**

**MPG**

**SUDOKU**

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

**SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB** 1-855-576-5653

With purchase of new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous work on tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. See retailer for restrictions. ©2023 Safe Step Walk-In Tub. All rights reserved.

9								4
		7	5					8
		8	6	7	1			
1	8		7			6		
		4				7		
		6				5	4	2
			1	5	6	3		
	9				3	2		
		2						1

© StatePoint Media

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.

# Farm Show Returns for 61st Year

By Lloyd Green

**COLUSA, CA (MPG)** - The Colusa County Farm Show returns Feb. 3-5 for its 61st year, bringing three days of equipment displays, educational seminars and agricultural networking to the Colusa County Fairgrounds.

Often called the granddaddy of West Coast farm shows, the annual event has long served as an early season meeting point for growers, manufacturers and ag professionals from across the Sacramento Valley and surrounding regions. Organizers say the 2026 show continues that tradition while placing renewed emphasis on education and in person engagement.

“For 61 years now, the Colusa County Farm Show has been the one stop shop event for all things agricultural,” Farm Show Coordinator Aprile Adkins said. “With free parking and free admission, farmers, suppliers and buyers can meet to explore the latest in modern farming equipment and techniques.”

Mitchell Yerxa, 2026 Colusa Farm Show Committee chairperson, said the show’s mission remains rooted in learning and innovation.

“The show was originally meant to showcase advancements in California agriculture,” Yerxa said. “It is still about presenting ideas, not just equipment, and giving people a reason to come learn something new.”

The show runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 3-4, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5. Outdoor exhibits will fill much of the fairgrounds with tractors, implements,



Attendees talk with vendors near agricultural equipment displays during a previous Colusa County Farm Show at the Colusa County Fairgrounds. The annual event features outdoor machinery exhibits and opportunities for growers to speak directly with manufacturers and dealers. File photo by Susan Meeker

irrigation systems and specialty equipment used in orchard, row crop and rice operations. Indoor buildings will feature seed companies, ag service providers, irrigation specialists and community organizations.

For many attendees, the outdoor displays remain a core draw, offering the chance to study new models and speak directly with dealers. Inside, vendors will highlight tools focused on efficiency, automation and water management, reflecting ongoing changes across California agriculture.

Educational programming returns to the Stagehands Theatre on Tuesday and Wednesday. Tuesday’s schedule focuses on crop specific updates and continuing education credits, while Wednesday’s sessions take a broader look at water, regenerative agriculture and land stewardship.

“We want this to be more than just a walk around,” Yerxa said.

“The focus this year is learning, not just looking.”

Tuesday’s program begins with check in at 8:30 a.m., followed by almond, rice and walnut crop considerations led by University of California Cooperative Extension advisors. A late morning session will address broomrape weed management before adjournment at 11 a.m.

Wednesday opens with the annual Farm Show Breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. at St. Bernadette’s Hall. Don Cameron, president of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, will serve as keynote speaker, sharing insights on groundwater, crop trends and statewide agricultural leadership. Breakfast tickets are \$75, with proceeds supporting California Agricultural Leadership Foundation fellowships and Chico State agricultural scholarships.

Seminars resume at 10 a.m. Wednesday with a Sustainable

Groundwater Management Act update for Northern California, followed by a regenerative agriculture panel featuring producers and agency representatives. After a lunch break, the afternoon concludes with a documentary presentation by the California Rangeland Trust titled “You Just Can’t See Them From the Road.”

Yerxa said the Farm Show continues to serve a broad audience, including those outside production agriculture.

“For anyone who lives in the North State, this is a good cross section of agriculture in one place,” Yerxa said. “It shows what really keeps these small towns running.”

Organizers estimate roughly 30 new vendors will join returning exhibitors this year. The event is coordinated by the 44th District Agricultural Association and Colusa County Fairgrounds staff, with support from the Junior Fair Board and volunteers.

“The biggest value of this show is the chance to be face to face,” Yerxa said. “That matters more now than it did before.”

Food concessions will operate daily, offering a range of options for attendees. Scheduled vendors include Buckhorn BBQ Truck, Munch-A-Bunch, Tacos El Amigo, and Bakers Choice Kettlecorn and Lemon Shakes. Organizers say the variety helps make the Farm Show accessible to families, students and community members.

Colusa County 4-H will also hold its annual pie fundraiser during the Farm Show. Pies will be available by the slice or whole pie, with flavors including ollalieberry, apple, pecan, cherry, chocolate cream and banana cream. The fundraiser will be located in the Main Exhibit Hall and open all three days.

Yerxa said the show also reflects the generational nature of agriculture in the region.

“My dad is 76 and I’m 37, and we still farm together,” Yerxa said. “We both walk the show and find things the other needs to see.”

Sponsors for the 2026 Colusa County Farm Show include Colusa Casino, Colusa Glenn Farm Credit, Allied Storage, Made In The Shade, Spark by Hilton of Williams, Travelers Inn of Williams, Deer Creek Radio, Central Valley Gas and Storage, 5D Solutions, Rodriguez Portables, Parks Water Resources, Advantage Caravans, Columbia Bank, NorCal Feed, and Ink Lab Printing.

More information about the schedule and exhibitors is available at <http://colusafairgrounds.com/colusa-farm-show/> ★

## LEGAL ADVERTISING

The Gridley Herald Adjudicated For and By the County of Butte, Adjudication No. 27207 – October 29, 1951

Legal Advertising  
916-483-0946

300 Spruce • Suite C  
Gridley, CA 95948

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

**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 ficti-

tious 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 Reformation Logistics LLC, 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 FILE NO. 2025-0000894**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: 530 Carpet Cleaning, Periquita Cleaning Service, 467 E 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Chico, CA 95928 Erika Rivera Zuniga, 467 E 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Chico, CA 95928 Date filed in Butte County: December 5, 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: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026 CARPET 2-13-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000026**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Lisa’s Little Shoppe, 641 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Chico, CA 95926 O’Marah, Lisa Kathrynne, 641 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Chico, CA 95926 Date filed in Butte County: January 12, 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 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026 CAMELROOTS 2-20-26

**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

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 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026 LISAS 2-13-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000036**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Affordable Junk Hauling and Moving, 3474 Argonaut Avenue, Oroville, CA 95966 Llewellyn, Robert, 3474 Argonaut Avenue, Oroville, CA 95966 Date filed in Butte County: January 14, 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 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026 AFFORDABLE 2-20-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000037**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Camelroots, 17 Franciscan Way, Chico, CA 95973 Salah Aljamal, 17 Franciscan Way, Chico, CA 95973 Date filed in Butte County: January 14, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 14, 2026  
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 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026 CAMELROOTS 2-20-26

**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

**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 #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

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #26CV00043

Petitioner Nidell Holcomb filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Rick Allan Schlemmer to Rick Allan Corley.

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 March 11, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Department 6, Room TBD, Superior Court of California, County of Butte, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928 Filed on January 15, 2026 Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court Publish: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026 HOLCOMB 2-20-26

### CITATION TO PARENT

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO CITATION TO PARENT [FAMILY CODE § 7800 ET SEQ.] CASE NO. 20AD00123 IN THE MATTER OF: ZACHARY FRIZZELL, REGARDING A MINOR MALE.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, TO: TRACE LOREN BENEFIELD: You are hereby notified to appear before the judge presiding in Department 124 of this Court, located at 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826 on March 3, 2026 at 1:30 pm, then and there to show cause, if any you have, why the minor male, BENTLY JAMES ESTLIN, born on December 8, 2015, (herein “minor child”) should not be declared free from your custody and control so that the minor may be adopted. The following information concerns rights and procedures that relate to this proceeding for the termination of your right to custody and control of the minor, as set forth in Family Code Section 7860 et seq. 1.At the beginning of the proceeding, the court will consider whether or not the interests of the minor require the appointment of counsel. If the court finds that the minor’s interests do require such protection, the court will appoint counsel to represent the minor, whether or not the minor is able to afford counsel. The minor will not be present in court unless the minor so requests or the court so orders. 2. If a parent or the minor appears without counsel and is unable to afford counsel, the court must appoint counsel for the parent, unless the parent knowingly and intelligently waives the right to be represented by counsel. The Court will not appoint the same counsel to represent both the minor and his parent. 3. Pursuant to Family Code Section 7860 and 7862, the court may appoint either the public defender or private counsel. Any private counsel appointed will receive a reasonable sum for compensation and expenses, in an amount to be determined by the court. That amount must be paid by the real parties in interest, but not by the minor, in such proportions as the court believes to be just. If, however, the court finds that any of the real parties in interests cannot afford counsel, that amount will be paid by the court. 4.The court may continue the proceeding for not more than thirty (30) days as necessary to appoint counsel and to enable counsel to become acquainted with the case. Dated: Jan 20, 2026 Published 1/30, 02/06, 2/13, 2/20/2026 FRIZZELL 2-20-26

### TRUSTEE SALE

**NOTICE OF OUR PLAN TO SELL PROPERTY (MOBILE HOME) Dated:** January 2, 2026 **Debtor(s):** James Alan Kresch 6555 Boulder Dr Magalia, CA 95954 Jessica Kresch 6555 Boulder Dr Magalia, CA 95954 Estate of James Alan Kresch

6555 Boulder Dr Magalia, CA 95954 **Registered Owner:** James Alan Kresch 6555 Boulder Dr Magalia, CA 95954 **Secured Party:** 21st Mortgage Corporation 620 Market Street One Center Square Knoxville, TN 37902 **Other Parties Receiving Notice:** Department of Housing and Community Development Registration and Tiling P.O. Box 277820 Sacramento, CA 95827 **Subject Collateral:** 1971 DUAL WIDE MOBILE HOME BEARING SERIAL NUMBER S2793XX, S2793XXU **Situs Address:** 6555 Boulder Dr, Magalia, CA 95954 Due to a breach of your obligation to repay the Consumer Loan Note and Security Agreement executed by you on or about October 8, 2022, 21st Mortgage Corporation will sell the 1971 DUAL WIDE MOBILE HOME BEARING SERIAL NUMBER S2793XX, S2793XXU at public sale. A sale could include a lease or license. The sale will be held as follows: Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 Time: 3:30 PM Location: At the main entrance to the County Courthouse at 1 Court Street, Oroville, CA 95965 You may attend the sale and bring bidders if you want. The money that we get from the sale (after repaying our costs) will reduce the amount you owe. If we get less money than you owe, you will not owe 21st Mortgage Corporation the difference. If we get more money than you owe, you will get the extra money, unless we must pay it to someone else. You can get the property back at any time before we sell it by paying the full amount you owe (not just the past due payments), including our expenses. To learn the amount you must pay, call 21st Mortgage Corporation at 800-955-0021 or fax to 800-813-8164. Payments may be remitted to the following address: 21st Mortgage Corporation 620 Market Street One Center Square Knoxville, TN 37902 If you want 21st Mortgage Corporation to explain to you in writing how it has figured the amount that you owe, you may call 800-955-0021 or fax to 800-813-8164 and request a written explanation. If you need more information about the sale, you may call us at (619) 685-4800 or write to us at: McCarthy & Holthus, LLP, 2763 Camino Del Rio S. Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92108. By: Melissa Robbins Collins, Esq. McCarthy & Holthus, LLP 2763 Camino Del Rio S, Suite 100 San Diego, CA 92018 Phone: (619) 685-4800 Fax: (619) 685-4811 Attorneys for 21st Mortgage Corporation CA-25-1030829-REP IDS Pub #0282525 1/30/2026 GRIDLEY HERALD 1-30-26



Call to place your legal advertising

916-773-1111

# Council Approves Used Tractor Purchase

By Shaunna Boyd

**LIVE OAK, CA (MPG)** - At the Jan. 21 meeting of the Live Oak City Council, resident Cruz Mora spoke during public comment, stating that his microphone had been cut during his public comments given over Zoom at two prior meetings. Mora said this violates state law as well as “erodes public trust.”

Finance Director Ethan Gutierrez presented the annual audited financial statement for fiscal year 2025, which ended last June.

The audit opinion stated that the city demonstrated consistent accounting policies, reasonable estimates and appropriate disclosures. No material errors, irregularities or significant accounting issues were discovered.

Councilmember Nancy Santana said she had difficulty reading the documents included in the report.

“I just need some more time. There are hundreds of pages of numbers. I just feel like I should go over them,” Santana said.

Mayor Jeramy Chapdelaine appreciated all the time that went into the report, and said, “I think this is the cleanest audit we’ve had in years.”

The council voted 4-1 to accept and file the report, with Santana dissenting, stating her need for further review.

The council also considered the adoption of a standard Department Director Employment Agreement, which would create consistency among employment agreements for director-level city employees. The change would provide a clear and consistent framework to guide the city manager’s negotiations on salary and benefit packages, within the salary ranges and staffing budgets approved by the council.

Councilmember Santana asked if this would “take anything out of the council’s hands?”

City Attorney Nicole Rosser explained that the council is only responsible for the hiring of the city attorney and the city manager, while all other employees are hired at the discretion of the city manager.

“This does not add or take away anything from the city council or the city manager. It’s just clarifying a more standardized contract,” said Rosser.

Councilmember Ashley Hernandez said having a standard model will streamline the process and avoid confusion.

Mayor Chapdelaine agreed that it will provide consistency and better guide the hiring negotiations.

The council voted unanimously to approve the standardized director agreement.

Councilmember Santana pulled two items from the consent calendar for council discussion. First, the approval of up to \$70,000 with 10% contingency for the purchase of a used tractor.

Parks and Recreation Director Luis Cibrian explained that the city’s tractor is over 20 years old with low horsepower. The tractor is used on a daily basis, but it needs frequent repairs and consistently overheats during jobs. The city’s budget included up to \$100,000 for a new tractor, but in October the council requested staff look for used options to save money, so Cibrian said the item is coming back now with an updated cost for good-quality used tractors.

Santana said she was concerned about making any making purchases right now,

since she said the city can’t afford fire and police — referencing the city’s efforts to renegotiate terms for fire and police services through Sutter County.

City Manager Moody clarified that there are different funding sources available for different services, and the tractor purchase would be coming from wastewater, water and street funds, which would not negatively impact the availability of general fund monies that pay for public safety costs.

Santana said, “Our community doesn’t really realize that. So, I just wanted to mention that, so that I feel like we need to be conservative when buying things right now.”

She suggested that the tractor could last for a while longer until the city is in a better financial position. Santana added that buying used could result in a tractor that also needs frequent repairs, so the city could end up paying more in the long run than if they had purchased new.

Councilmember Hernandez said that the problems with the current tractor are “delaying jobs. ... It’s taking a lot more staff time, wasted time, on something that doesn’t need to be wasted.”

Councilmember Bob Woten asked if any of the used options provide warranties, and Cibrian confirmed that some do, and that many of the used options are almost brand new.

Vice Mayor Aaron Pamma agreed that buying used equipment provides better value, since you can buy nearly new tractors for about half the price.

“One year of having that tractor, it’s going to pay for itself,” Pamma said. “It is used every day, and if they have to rent one to get the work down, it will cost the city much more money over time than it would investing in a quality tractor now.”

The council voted unanimously to approve the tractor purchase.

The second item pulled from the consent calendar was an amendment to the professional services agreement with Miguel Campos for building services. City Manager Moody requested that the agreement be extended for the remainder of the 2025-2026 fiscal year at the additional cost of \$45,000.

The city is legally required to provide the services of a chief building official, to oversee building plans, inspections, etc. Previously, the city contracted out for those services, at a cost of \$18,500 per month. In October 2015, they switched to hybrid model with consultant services from Miguel Campos, supported by part-time city staff positions, for a total monthly cost of \$9,000. Moody said the hybrid model is saving the city approximately \$9,500 per month, or \$115,000 per year. In addition to the cost savings, Moody said the change has provided better customer service to residents, so he asked council to extend the contract with Campos.

Councilmember Hernandez said the process is more “welcoming” now, and it’s better to have local in-house control: “When you’re local, you care a little more.”

Mayor Chapdelaine thanked Moody for following the council direction to evaluate service contracts and find places to save money and improve efficiency. The council voted unanimously to approve the extended contract.

The next meeting of the Live Oak City Council is scheduled for Feb. 4. ★

# Batter Up!

## Gridley Little League Holds Tryouts

Story and photo by Seti Long

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - The lights over the baseball diamonds at Gridley’s Manuel Vierra Park were on this week as youth in the community took the first step towards the season.

With registration now closed, Gridley Little League hosted try-outs on Monday, Jan. 26 and Wednesday Jan. 28 for youth baseball and softball.

During the two days of tryouts, girls and boys filled out necessary clearance paperwork and displayed their skills, fielding a few in-field ground balls and taking three pitches at the plate. The excitement was palpable as players looked on expectantly, watching as those in line took the plate to hit off a pitching machine.

The majors’ field was packed with parents and



A long line of excited players, batting helmets and bats at the ready, wait patiently as each one gets a turn at the plate.

children on Monday evening as players aged 7 and up participated in league tryouts. Coaches observed the players, took notes, and rated their skills. Managers will review those evaluations and draft teams later in the week, while players who did not attend tryouts will be placed on teams at random.

Gridley Little League was seeking additional coaches and team managers as of Jan. 21 and based off the number of players on the first evening of tryouts, more may be needed.

In November, the league announced it had already registered 149 players early.

In years past, the Gridley Herald has counted over 400 players on team rosters throughout the Leagues offering T-ball, Farm, Minors baseball and softball, Majors baseball and softball and challenger leagues.

Opening Day is typically held on a weekend in mid-early March; the Gridley Little League board has yet to announce the date of Opening Day 2026. ★

# Gridley Legion to Unveil Wall of Honor, Feb. 7

By Owen Stiles

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - American Legion South Butte Post 210 will unveil a Wall of Honor at the Gridley Veterans Memorial Hall on Feb. 7.

The Wall of Honor is intended to recognize local veterans who gave their lives in service to the nation. From World War I to the present day, young men and women from the Gridley area have answered the call to serve. Post officials say more

than 48 service members from the area did not return home.

The tribute will begin with a portrait of Warren McCutchen, believed to be the first local casualty of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

According to the American Legion, Gridley lost five service members during World War I and 29 during World War II. Nine local service members were lost during the Korean War, followed by

five during the Vietnam War. Legion officials note there may be additional names not yet identified. As more information becomes available, names will be added to the Wall of Honor.

The American Legion invites the public to attend the unveiling ceremony at 10 a.m. Feb. 7 at the Veterans Memorial Hall and join in honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

“All gave some, some gave all.” ★

# Swiftwater Responders Prepare for Emergencies

By MPG Staff

**BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The Butte County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue Swiftwater Team conducted joint river rescue training earlier this month with the Butte Interagency Rescue Group (BIRG).

The training focused on complex Swiftwater rescue scenarios designed to strengthen coordination, communication and operational readiness among participating agencies. Exercises centered on teamwork and precision in conditions similar to those responders may face during emergencies.

Joint training helps ensure responders operate seamlessly when multiple agencies are required during river rescue

incidents.

“Interagency training like this isn’t just about sharpening skills,” the agency said. “It’s about building shared understanding, consistent communication, and confidence in how we operate together when it matters most.”

Butte Interagency Rescue Group was established in 1999 under the Butte County Fire Chiefs Association and the Butte County Sheriff’s Office. The cooperative organization includes personnel from Cal Fire, Butte County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue, and the Chico and El Medio fire departments. Its mission is to coordinate rescue responses countywide and promote consistent rescue operations. ★

# Gridley High School’s Winter Events

By Destiny Hutchison

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Gridley High School is excited to announce the upcoming Winter Snowball, a formal dance that promises to be one of the highlight events of the school year.

Saturday, Feb. 7, will be an action-packed day for Gridley High School. Earlier that same day, the wrestling team will compete in the Westside Finals, giving students and families the opportunity to cheer on their athletes before heading to the evening’s dance from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the school gymnasium.

The Winter Snowball is particularly special for freshmen and sophomores, as it gives them their first taste of a prom-like formal dance experience. It is a chance for underclassmen to dress up, take photos and create lasting memories with their friends before they reach their junior and senior proms.

Not only that, but it is also extremely sentimental to the seniors, as this will be their second-to-last dance before they graduate. The dance will be a formal affair, and students are encouraged to dress accordingly.

Long, elegant dresses are expected to grace the dance floor, and attendees should plan their attire to match the sophistication of the evening. This is the perfect occasion for students to showcase their style and enjoy an

evening of elegance.

Ticket information is as follows: Single tickets are available for \$20 for students with an ASB card and \$25 for those without. For students planning to attend with a date, couples tickets offer great value at \$40 with ASB cards and \$50 without. To make the purchasing process more convenient, tickets can be purchased online through GoFan.co, allowing students to secure their entry in advance and skip the line in the hallway at school and at the door on the night of the event.

The Winter Snowball represents more than just a dance. It is an opportunity for Gridley High School students to step away from their academic routines and enjoy a special evening with their peers. Whether students attend with a date or a group of friends, the event promises music, dancing and memories that will last well beyond high school.

Looking ahead to other February events, leadership students will begin selling roses and kisses on Monday, Feb. 2, in celebration of Valentine’s Month. This annual tradition is a beloved way for students to show appreciation for friends and classmates.

Additionally, leadership class speeches are scheduled for Feb. 25 through Feb. 27, giving students the opportunity to share their vision for the school. ★

By Susan Meeker

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - The Gridley City Council on Jan. 20 approved the replacement of the HVAC system at the Vierra Park snack bar building, selecting Duke Bros Heating and Air for the work at a cost of \$8,240.

City Administrator Elisa Arteaga told the council the existing unit is no longer operational, an issue first raised by Gridley Little League, which uses the facility under a Use of Public Places Agreement. The air conditioner’s failure occurred during last year’s summer season, when temperatures inside the building became a concern for volunteers and youth working the snack bar, officials said.

Public Works staff gathered multiple quotes at the recommendation of the Public Works Committee. Bids ranged from \$7,900 for a refurbished system to a high of \$10,700, with staff

recommending the purchase of a new system to ensure longterm reliability and reduce maintenance needs.

Arteaga said the project was not included in the current budget, but the city plans to use Carbon Credit funds to cover the cost. A supplemental appropriation will be brought forward at a future meeting.

Council members noted the importance of completing the work before the upcoming Little League season. Public Works Director Jerry Cox added that the Gridley Rotary Club has expressed interest in supporting additional improvements at the park, including shade structures and dugout repairs.

The council voted 4-0, with Vice Mayor Bruce Johson presiding over the first meeting of 2026, to authorize the purchase and installation of the HVAC system and to allow Cox to execute the necessary documents. ★

# Relentless Rebounding Key for Biggs Boys

# Gridley Sweeps Live Oak on the Hardwood

Story and photo by Jennifer Corriea

**BIGGS, CA (MPG)** - One of the most underrated statistics in basketball is rebounding, however the fact remains that controlling the glass equates to more possessions, which in turn increases the chance of a win.

With two of the top three rebounders in the Northern Section, the Biggs boys' basketball team has relied on that concept as they have compiled an overall record of 17-4 on the season, led by a pair of seniors in Skyler Long and Ryan Flowers.

Long, who has 191 boards to his credit thus far, is second in the Northern Section and 26th in the nation with an average of 14.6 per game, while Flowers with 165 rebounds and a 14.1 average is third in the NSCIF and 39th in the country.

It is that relentlessness on the boards that helped Biggs to three subsequent wins last



Ryan Flowers effort on the glass this year has him ranked 39th in the nation in rebounding.

week over Portola, Maxwell and East Nicolaus.

In Portola on Jan. 20, Long had a monster double-double which consisted of 24 points and 18 rebounds as the Wolverines prevailed 84-78 in a shootout with the Tigers.

Flowers recorded a double-double of his own with 20 rebounds and 12 points, while Hunter Seipert scored 22 points and Cameron

Kroupa added 15 to the total.

Following up the next night in Maxwell, Long corralled 23 boards, Flowers pulled down 14 to go along with six blocks and Seipert tossed in a game-high 16 points.

Concluding the week last Saturday in Trowbridge, Biggs outscored East Nicolaus 20-3 in the second quarter to take control and emerge with the 58-47 non-conference victory.

Long, with his second double-double of the week, accounted for 18 points and 21 rebounds, while Flowers ended the night with 21 boards as well and Seipert pitched in with 10 points.

Riding a four-game win streak, the Wolverines welcomed Williams to town on Jan. 27 and Plumas Charter the following evening ahead of a Thursday night match up in Quincy where Biggs will look to avenge its only Mid-Valley League loss against the Trojans. ★



Gridley junior Nayeli Romo (11) lays the ball up on Jan. 20 in the Bulldogs' win against Live Oak. Photo by Steven Bryla

By YSBC Sports

**SUTTER AND BUTTE COUNTIES, CA (YSBC)**

The Gridley Bulldogs and the Live Oak Lions met on the hardwood on Jan. 20 as Gridley swept the boys' and girls' basketball matchups between the cross-town rivals.

**GIRLS**

**Gridley 68, Live Oak 28**

The Lady Bulldogs led by 12 at the end of the first and extended their lead 21 at the half.

Gridley senior Aubree Weber was lights out from the three-point line as she connected on five long balls and led with a game-high 17 points

Weber was the only Bulldog that scored double-digits in the win.

Live Oak sophomore Maneet Dosarij consistently made her presence in each quarter felt on the floor for the Lions as she was the only player in the game who scored a bucket each quarter in the game.

Dosarij led Live Oak with 12 points in the loss. The Lions struggled against the defensive press of the Bulldogs early in the game that led to multiple turnovers and easy buckets.

The Lions only managed one quarter of points where they hit double digits compared to Gridley hitting that mark each quarter.

The Bulldogs will hit the road to Oroville and take on Las Plumas on Friday, Jan. 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Live Oak hosts Oroville on Saturday, Jan. 31 with tipoff scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

**BOYS**

**Gridley 61, Live Oak 17**

The boys game at Gridley couldn't have started off on the wrong foot for the Lions as they were held scoreless in the opening quarter.

Live Oak senior Saul Ponce hit the only basket for the Lions as he connected for a three pointer in the second and trailed the Bulldogs 36-3 at the half.

Live Oak senior guard Farron Gomez led the Lions with eight points, which all came from Gomez in the third quarter.

Gridley junior Ulysses Anguiano led all scorers with 12 points in the game and senior Bikram Kullar also had 10 points in the win over Live Oak.

The Bulldogs will host Las Plumas in the start of the second half of Westside League play with tipoff scheduled for tonight at 7:30.

Live Oak is scheduled to take on Orland on the road with tipoff at 7:30 p.m.

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

# Biggs' Girls Basketball Edges Maxwell

Story and photo by Jennifer Corriea

**MAXWELL, CA (MPG) - BIGGS' GIRLS BASKETBALL PICKED UP TWO MID-Valley League wins last week after going on the road and defeating Portola and Maxwell respectively.**

In Portola on Jan. 20, the Wolverines had no trouble with the Tigers as they cruised to the 61-41 triumph, although no statistics from the game were made available.

However, three days later, Biggs held off the Panthers in Maxwell behind a huge game from Anna Carothers who dropped 29, scoring all but three of the Wolverines' second half points.

Riding a three-game win streak and sitting second in the MVL, Biggs (8-10, 3-1) continued MVL play at home against Williams on Jan. 27, then entertained Plumas Charter in a non-league game on Jan. 28 ahead of making the trek



The Wolverines' Anna Carothers scored 29 points as Biggs held off Maxwell in a game on Jan. 23.

to face conference rival Quincy on Jan. 29. ★



# Orchard Hospital

## MEDICAL SPECIALTY Centers

Our Medical Specialty Centers offer quality healthcare close to home. As leading health care centers, we prioritize the well-being of our patients and strive to provide exceptional medical services.

284 Spruce Street  
Gridley, CA 95948  
(530) 846-9080

Experience a new level of healthcare excellence at our Medical Specialty Centers. Our bilingual providers are fluent in Spanish and Punjabi, coupled with comprehensive translation services, flexible hours, same-day appointments, and a commitment to your family's health, ensures your well being is our priority.

2990 Oro Dam Blvd. E  
Oroville, CA 95966  
(530) 353-3332

### WALK-INS WELCOME!

- Respiratory Infections ✓
- Fever or flu-like symptoms ✓
- Cough, colds, and sore throats ✓
- Sprains and strains ✓

### ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

- Primary care visit ✓
- Preventive health ✓
- Referrals to specialists ✓
- Women's wellness visit ✓



www.orchardhospital.com



Orchard Hospital



orchardhospital