



**Gridley Pulls
Away in Second
Half for Win
Against Corning**
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“ IT IS INFINITELY BETTER
TO HAVE A FEW GOOD MEN THAN
MANY INDIFFERENT ONES. ”
Letter to James Mchenry | Friday, August 10, 1798



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



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Gridley Honors Fallen Service Members



South Butte American Legion Post No. 210 members Raymond Whiteside, left, and Joshua Stiefel on Feb. 6 dedicate a Wall of Honor at Gridley Veterans Memorial Hall to remember fallen heroes from World War I to the Vietnam War. Photo by Susan Meeker

By Susan Meeker

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - A permanent display honoring fallen service members now forms a Wall of Honor at the Gridley Veterans Memorial Hall.

The wall, dedicated Saturday, brings together the names of those who gave their lives in service to their country and the American ideals they defended.

At the center of the display is a photograph of Warren McCutcheon,

the first U.S. service member killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor that drew the nation into World War II and the first Gridley resident to die in the conflict.

“Warren was just 17 years old,” American Legion Post 210 member Raymond Whiteside said. “He was serving on board the USS Maryland, and from what I have read online, he was killed in about the first 20 seconds of the Japanese attack in 1941.”

The local American Legion

planned the Wall of Honor several years ago, but the project was delayed while the Veterans Memorial Hall underwent major repairs. The building recently reopened, allowing the post to complete the project under the leadership of South Butte Post Commander Owen Stiles, who was unable to attend Saturday’s dedication.

Post member Joshua Stiefel said the project came together through

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From Small Town to YouTube Stage



Greg “Fisch” Fischer sits at his recording station where he films reaction videos for his YouTube Channels. A YouTube Play Button plaque hangs on the wall above, marking his milestone of 100,000 subscribers, which he has since surpassed.

Story and photos by Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Greg “Fisch” Fischer is a big fish not only in a small town but also in the YouTube reaction community.

Fischer’s journey from recording skateboarding and prank videos to becoming a professional videographer and musician with multiple YouTube channels is a story of ambition and hard work turning dreams into reality.

Fischer hails from Richvale and, as a youth, dreamed of a future in film or as a rock star. Despite those who encouraged him to be more realistic about his goals, Fischer now finds himself both a rock star and the man behind, and in front of, the camera.

Fischer said he has always had a passion for music and picked up his first guitar in high school. His natural ear helped him learn the instrument quickly, and he returned to Northern California in 2008, where he formed

the band Amahjra. Amahjra’s popularity grew, and Fischer and his bandmates enjoyed success on the music scene.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic shut everything down but acted as a catalyst for Fischer. Refocusing his energy toward film, he began recording interviews, documentaries and amateur videos again.

Fischer recalled a pivotal moment while returning home from Chico one

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Gridley Residents Question Fairness of Garbage Rate Increase

By Susan Meeker

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - A tense Proposition 218 hearing Feb. 2 reflected the frustration of Gridley residents facing another garbage rate increase, this time a 6.62% jump that exceeds the cap normally allowed under the city’s contract with Waste Management.

City officials said the higher than usual increase stems from rising disposal and tipping fees at the Neal Road Landfill, a cost Waste Management was allowed to pass through under a separate extraordinary cost clause in the franchise agreement.

City Administrator Elisa Arteaga said the contract with Waste Management, approved in 2024 and locked in through 2028, limits annual CPI-based increases to 5%, but also gives the company the right to recover third-party fee hikes outside its control.

Residential customers will see the most common cart sizes rise modestly, with 35-gallon service increasing from \$27.61 to \$29.44 and the senior 35-gallon rate moving from \$23.22 to \$24.76. Larger carts follow the same pattern, with 64-gallon service climbing from \$31.91 to \$34.02 and 95-gallon carts rising from \$37.33 to \$39.80. Commercial customers will also see higher charges, including one-yard bins increasing from \$161.43 to \$172.16 and two-yard bins moving from \$259.81 to \$277.02 for weekly pickup.

For many residents, that explanation did little to ease the concern.

“My wife and I protest this 6.62% increase, which hits mostly seniors who are on a fixed income,” said Randy Ball. “Every dollar counts in our pockets, and everything else is going up.” Ball noted that seniors received only a 2.8% cost-of-living adjustment this year, while Medicare premiums jumped 9.7%, adding that a \$90 billion company should not be squeezing those least able to absorb rising costs.

Others questioned the fairness of the rate structure itself. One resident said he calculated the cost per gallon of trash service and found that customers with a single 35-gallon cart pay nearly four times more per gallon than households receiving discounts for multiple large

Continued on page 2

The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

My father, Frank W. Cook, was the longest-serving mayor in Gridley's history and never lost an election during his 32 years of elected service. One of several reasons for his success (aside from his sparkling personality and jet black hair) was his role as the community Pharmacist. Research has repeatedly shown that pharmacists are the most trusted professionals in America. Americans trust their pharmacists more than their doctors - second only to their Clergy (and Frank Cook was a Bishop as well). I started working at the Gridley Pharmacy when I was 10 years old as a shelf duster. So the first boss I ever had was Sharon Jean Edson, who was Frank Cook's right-hand woman. Straight up, Sharon knew 95% of the people who came in the front door of the Gridley Pharmacy. Sharon not only knew everyone; she knew their stories, and she had compassion for their situations. She was kind and competent. People loved to see her and chat her up. Sharon established the Bronze Cue Restaurant in downtown Gridley. If you're really old-school Gridley, you will remember the Bronze Cue, which had the greatest hamburger ever made in the history of the

world, and it came served on a real glass plate. Because it was a pool hall, French Fries were not allowed, so the burger had to stand out on its own. Sharon was a perpetual organizer and problem solver, and she applied those skills to helping people with their healthcare problems and to organizing youth sports leagues. She was a leader with a presence that enabled her to navigate the politics of Little League Baseball and girls' softball. I can assure you that the politics she faced with "sports parents" were more brutal and complex than those Pharmacist Frank faced in local government. Sharon was good because she was consistent; she did pharmacy for decades, and sports for decades. Now, with all that said, last Christmas I dropped by Sharon's house to take her a bag of Mandarins. She was lonely - a lot - after her husband Doug passed away; they were inseparable, and his passing is something I think she never got over, and that is a good thing. They were in love all the way to the end. That last encounter leads me to the primary issue with Sharon Jean. Sharon's kids: Lisa, Linda, Dean & Debbie. Sharon gave me an update on all of her kids and grandkids. Sharon was best at being a Mom. Every Eidson kid knew how to fight. Not spar, not ninja jiu jitsu, not self-defense judo, all of them could end a fight verbally or with one punch in less than 30 seconds. Their Father taught them, starting at age 4, how to box out behind their red barn (he tried to teach me, but I was uncoachable). No one messed with an Eidson. Linda and Dean both saved me from really mean,

socially maladjusted people - on more than one occasion. They were all great athletes; they were top of their classes academically, like all league, all section, all world High School athlete scholars; they were, fundamentally, four of the best people I knew growing up. The most striking thing is that the Eidsons were a team. Their dad was always a Coach, their mom was like the perpetual league commissioner, and the three girls and Dean were the rest of the organization. Their family looked out for each other; they always had each other's backs. They made every organization they were part of better and had community service in their DNA. Many families crumble under the weight of life - and individuals' bad habits, addictions, and mistakes. The Eidsons did not. When people bemoan the loss of "family values" in America, sometimes people ask, "What ' values' are you talking about? I'd say the values and principles of hard work, service to others, loyalty, toughness, courage, achievement, competition, winning, forgiveness, kindness, and cleaning up messes that are not yours - the values you got (and get still) from the Eidsons. My life is better because she was a part of it. Hundreds of others would say the same (Doug was even my wife's softball coach). I hope her grandkids read this and never forget what an amazing family they are a part of. Gridley is better because Sharon Eidson moved here from Live Oak in 1965. She will be missed. Her memory is a blessing.

 Josh F.W. Cook was born in Gridley and writes for the Gridley Herald.

Biggs Council Hires New City Administrator

By Susan Meeker

BIGGS, CA (MPG) - The Biggs City Council on Jan. 27 approved a three-year employment agreement appointing Nicolas Gauthier as the city's new city administrator.

Gauthier was selected following a recruitment and interview process led by Interim City Administrator Rodney Harr, who has overseen city operations since the council terminated former City Administrator Josh Cook. Gauthier was sworn in by City Clerk Roben Benish and has since assumed his duties at City Hall.

"It is an honor to be brought onto this team in the service of the community and City of Biggs," Gauthier said. "It is my goal to meet everyone, learn where we are and where we want to be."

Biggs officials said they viewed Gauthier as a strong organizational fit based on his experience and administrative approach.

Gauthier graduated from Forest Lake Christian School in Auburn in 2003 and later earned a bachelor's degree in history and public policy from William Jessup University. He went on to earn a Master of Science in Law and Governmental Policy from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

He served nearly 10 years in the U.S. Army as an infantryman, deploying to Ramadi in 2006 and Afghanistan in 2009, and achieved the rank of staff sergeant. His military awards include the Bronze Star with Valor, two Purple Hearts, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Sgt. Morales Medal.

After leaving the Army in 2014, Gauthier was selected as a 2017-18 California Senate Fellow. He later worked as a legislative director in the Assembly and served as Capitol director for the Senate Minority Caucus chair, focusing on veterans issues, tax relief and statewide policy. He is an adjunct professor at William Jessup University, the author of the 2025 book "In the Name of Democracy", and a husband and father of four.

Under the contract signed by Mayor Bo Sheppard, Gauthier will earn a first-year base salary of \$145,000, along with a \$250 monthly fuel stipend and an \$80



Nicolas Gauthier has been sworn in to lead the City of Biggs as its new administrator. Photo courtesy LinkedIn

monthly cell phone reimbursement. Salary for the second and third years will be considered during the council's annual performance evaluations.

The contract provides 80 hours of management leave per year and vacation accrual of 15 hours per month, with a combined leave cap of 256 hours. Gauthier will receive medical, retirement and other fringe benefits equal to those offered to other city employees, including CalPERS participation.

The agreement outlines annual performance goals to be set by Sept. 30 each year and includes provisions for termination with or without cause. Gauthier is also required to maintain membership in the International City/County Management Association, the California City Management Foundation and the League of California Cities City Managers Department.

In discussing his transition into the role, Gauthier said he brings a lead-from-the-front management style and considers his team his highest priority. He said he works long hours, values efficiency and simplicity, and strives to create a workplace where employees can focus on their responsibilities without unnecessary stress or conflict. He noted that he maintains an open-door approach and has been meeting with staff to better understand ongoing projects, fill information gaps and organize the work ahead. ★

Gridley Residents Question Fairness of Garbage Rate Increase

Continued from page 1

cars. "Lower income people produce less trash because they can't afford to generate it," he said. "It is distressing to see a rate schedule that forces those with fewer resources to subsidize the rich."

Longtime resident Susan Shore challenged the city's reliance on CPI-based increases and said the contract language was confusing. She noted that the CPI would have been 6% this year without the cap, yet the proposed increase was 6.62%.

"I don't agree with raising it by CPI at all," Shore said. "And I don't see anywhere that Waste Management provided the actual fee increases they're talking about. If they did, I couldn't find them."

Arteaga said the landfill fee increase from Butte County qualifies as an extraordinary cost under the contract and that the city had no legal basis to deny the

request. She emphasized the action does not involve a new contract or expanded services, only a rate adjustment tied to documented hard costs.

The hearing underscored a broader concern that the city has limited leverage under its current agreement. Mayor Bo Sheppard shared residents' frustration with the long-term contract and said the city should begin preparing to seek proposals from other waste service providers when the franchise expires in 2028.

While Proposition 218 allows residents to protest rate increases, it does not give the city authority to renegotiate contract terms midstream. Because the number of written protests fell short of the majority needed to block the increase, the new rates take effect March 1 and apply to all residential, commercial and multiunit customers. ★



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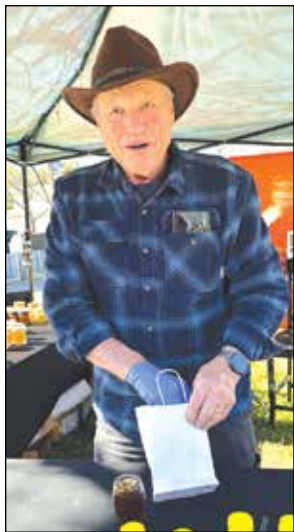
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Optimism Marks 2026 Colusa Farm Show

Story and photos
by Susan Meeker

COLUSA, CA (MPG) - Three days of warm, clear weather helped draw thousands to the Colusa Farm Show, which concluded Feb. 5 at the Colusa County Fairgrounds.



Yuba City Beekeeper Bob Boucke makes his first appearance at the 2026 Colusa County Farm Show, saying the sunny weather brought great traffic to his outdoor space for selling honey.

The 61st Farm Show drew growers, equipment dealers and agricultural professionals to what organizers describe as the region's largest winter showcase of farm technology.

More than 300 exhibitors filled the fairgrounds with equipment displays, irrigation systems, seed varieties and emerging ag tech tools aimed at improving efficiency for farms across the Sacramento Valley. While the show often reflects grower sentiment heading into planting season, this year's event highlighted both optimism and caution as producers continue to face high input costs and uncertain water supplies.

"Farming is a tough business," said Gil Tomlison, a Yolo County partner in multiple crops, including rice and tomatoes. "Every year, you need to evaluate everything and gather ideas

before making major investments. This year, I'm optimistic, but not blindly, about where farming is heading. People still need to eat."

In that purpose, the Colusa Farm Show each year helps growers compare options and speak directly with manufacturers about what might work best for their operations. With sunny weather throughout the exposition, visitors, including students, moved steadily through the fairgrounds as vendors showcased tractors, implements, irrigation systems, banking services and other cost-saving technologies. Exhibitors reported strong interest from growers seeking tools to help manage rising expenses and ongoing resource challenges.

Bob Boucke, owner of BB's Bees in Yuba City, made his first appearance as a vendor at this year's show. Recently retired



Future farmers take the wheel of pint-sized equipment at the Colusa Farm Show.

from running Johnson's Bait and Tackle and JBT Marine, Boucke has shifted his focus to beekeeping, a hobby that has grown into a small but expanding business selling honey, producing beeswax candles, providing bee removal services and renting hives to growers.

Boucke, who manages

20 hives with plans to expand to 50, said beekeepers continue to face significant challenges, particularly the threat of varroa mites, which have caused heavy losses in bee populations statewide. New organic treatments recently approved in California offer hope for better control, and Boucke

said he is optimistic about the coming season.

Now moving into its seventh decade, attendees said the 2026 Colusa Farm Show served as a key meeting point for the region's agricultural community, offering opportunities to exchange ideas and preview tools and services that help shape the industry. ★

County Urges Vaccination After Flu Deaths

By MPG Staff

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Butte County Public Health has confirmed the first two influenza related deaths of the 2025-26 flu season, officials announced this week.

Both individuals were in their 50s, were hospitalized and later died from complications related to influenza. Health officials did not release additional identifying information.

"These deaths underscore the serious risk seasonal influenza poses, particularly to those at higher risk for severe illness," the

department said in a statement.

Dr. Jarett Beaudoin, Butte County health officer, extended condolences to the families.

"No one expects to lose someone to the flu, and that is what makes a moment like this especially hard," Beaudoin said. "All of us at the Health Department extend our condolences to the family and friends who are grieving their loss."

Public health officials urged residents to get vaccinated, calling vaccination one of the most effective ways to prevent severe

illness, hospitalization and death from influenza. The department recommends flu vaccination for everyone age 6 months and older.

Officials said vaccination during pregnancy also helps protect infants who are too young to be vaccinated.

Residents are encouraged to speak with their health care provider about vaccine availability and eligibility. Flu vaccines are also available at local pharmacies and public health clinics.

Public Health Clinics in Chico and Oroville offer free flu vaccines on a walk in basis for individuals age

6 months and older.

The Chico Public Health Clinic is located at 1930 Notre Dame Blvd. The Oroville Public Health Clinic is located at 78 Table Mountain Blvd.

In addition to vaccination, public health officials recommended common preventive steps to reduce the spread of respiratory illness. These include frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, avoiding touching the eyes, nose and mouth, staying home when sick and keeping sick children home from



Public Health Clinics in Chico and Oroville offer free flu vaccines on a walk in basis for individuals age 6 months and older. Photo by SHVETS production via Pexels

school according to school policies.

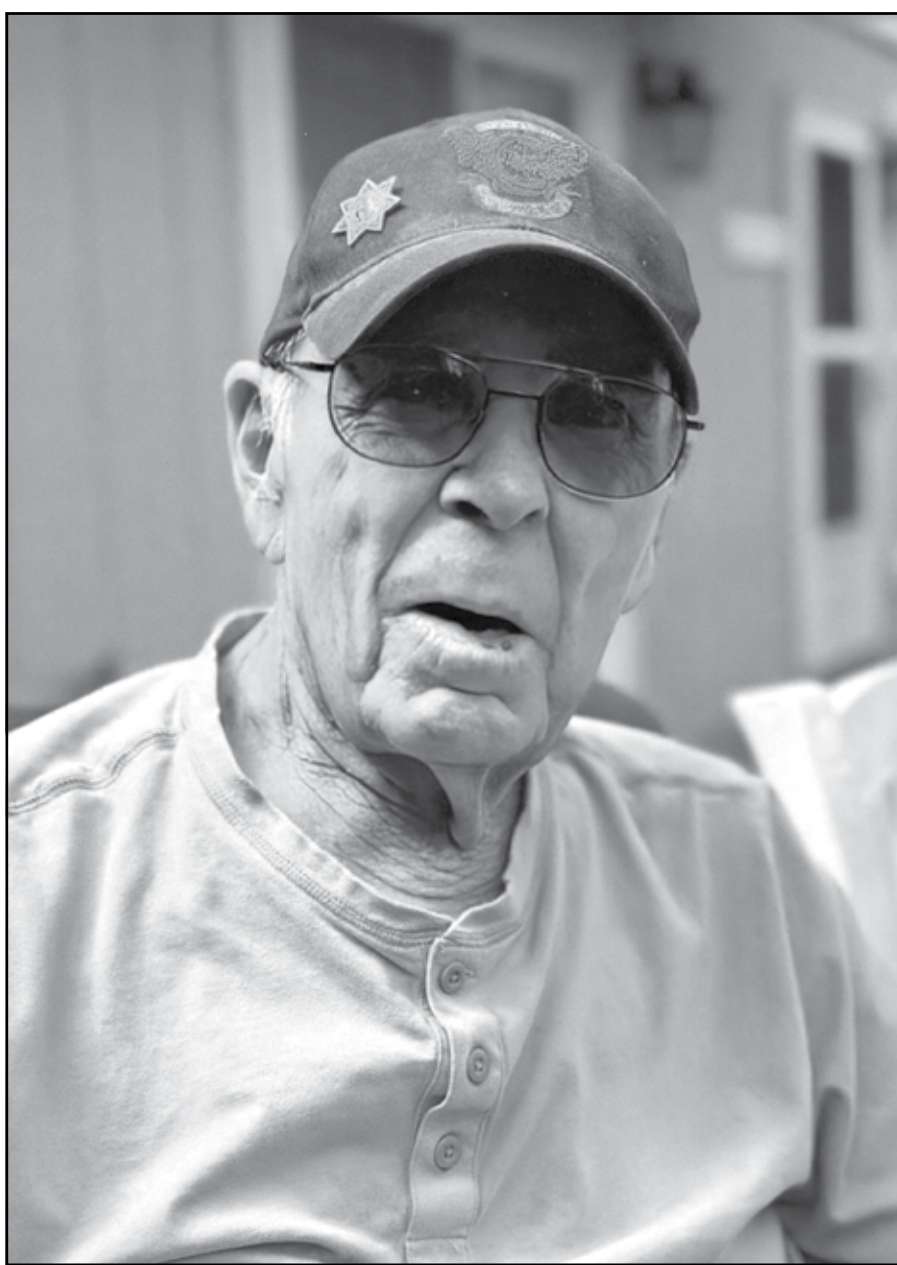
Officials also advised covering coughs and sneezes, avoiding close contact with people who are ill and wearing a mask in crowded indoor spaces when appropriate.

Residents experiencing flu like symptoms should contact a health care provider as soon as possible. Symptoms may include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headaches and fatigue. ★

MEMORIAL

EDWIN DALE ROACH • MAY 16, 1938 - FEBRUARY 2, 2026

Edwin Dale Roach passed away peacefully at the age of 87 in Gridley, California. Ed was born to parents Oscar and Goldie as their second of five sons. Ed grew up in Chowchilla, California, and attended Ashview Elementary School. While in high school, the Roach family moved, but being the committed man he was, Ed chose to work for a year to pay his grandparents room and board so he could graduate from Chowchilla High School. By the next Monday, Ed had enrolled in the U.S. Navy, starting his lifetime of serving others. He was assigned to the U.S.S. Sperry, where he became known as the softball pitcher no one could hit off of. After four years of dedicated service to the Navy, Ed was honorably discharged and was quickly appointed as a Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff. Working at the then Wayside Honor Minimum Security Ranch, Ed continued his softball legacy, where they won many championships. At Wayside, Ed met his lifelong friend and beloved fishing partner, Rob Smyth. Rob and his wife Sharon also helped Ed meet the loves of his life. Ed frequently recounted how he first fell in love with Laura and Michael as they ran into the Smyth's living room. He



knew Carol was the one the second she followed. On their wedding day, July 28, 1963, three year old Laura said, "Now we are all married." They joyfully welcomed their third child Thomas in

1966. In 1967, Ed became a California Highway Patrol officer assigned to Newhall, California. There, Ed excelled in the California Police Olympics throwing shot put and discus. Ed

went on to get his degree at College of the Canyons in criminal justice, was a confident track team captain, and threw shot put, discus, javelin, and hammer. After excitingly welcoming their

fourth child Brenda in 1972, the family of six moved to their forever home in Gridley.

Wanting to continue his love for track and field, Ed asked the head coach at Gridley High School if he could become a walk-on coach. And with that, Coach Roach was born. He met Leslie Deniz, an incoming freshman, his first year coaching and they made a lifelong connection. Ed would go on to see Leslie win silver for the discus at the 1984 Olympics. Coach Roach mentored generations of throwers, including both of his sons Mike and Tom, and grandson, Ryan. Coach Roach, always looking for ways to participate in GHS sports, volunteered annually for the GIBT MVP selection committee. Outside his love for sports and its community, Ed loved to fish. He fished the Feather River all year long, took annual trips to Baja with Rob, and took a once in a lifetime fishing trip to Alaska with his son, Tom, brother, Phil, nephew, David, and grandson, Steven. Ed was also a kiwi farmer for 32 years, selling locally on Highway 99 to raise money for his beloved church. As a steadfast member of the Grace Lutheran Church, he helped build the current site, served as the president of the

church council, and played the guitar for every service he could. Music was a ribbon throughout Ed's life, another way for him to express his joy and love. Though Ed has passed, as his favorite John Denver sang, "Spirit can never be lost. We have and always will be a part of each other."

Ed is survived by a large family of love. Foremost, he is survived by his loving wife of 62 years Carol, his four children Laura Rudd (Doug), Michael Engler (Melissa), Thomas Roach, and Brenda Donnahoe (Joe), and his brother Phil Roach. He also lives on in his grandchildren Shelley Sakoda (Clayton), Steven Rudd (Kelly), Julie Travioli (Curtis), Nathan Engler (Lindsay), Taber Engler, Ryan Donnahoe (Slavena) and Ashlyn Gale (Andrew), as well as his great grandchildren Sophie and Theo Sakoda, Quinn, Myer and Hank Travioli, and Lina Donnahoe.

His Celebration of Life will begin at 9:00 am, February 21st, at Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Ford Ave, Gridley. A continental breakfast will be followed by a church service at 10:30. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Grace Lutheran Church or Gridley High School Track and Field.

Cookie Court: Avatar Foods Sues Newman's Own

By MPG Staff

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Avatar Foods Inc., which operates a food production facility on the north end of Gridley, has filed a lawsuit against Newman's Own Inc., alleging contract violations tied to the production of Newman O's cookies.

Court documents filed Jan. 26, in Connecticut name Avatar Foods and its subsidiary, Tuscan Cookies LLC, as plaintiffs. Newman's Own is listed as the defendant.

Avatar Foods operates out of the former Rio Pluma plant along Highway 99, which it purchased with plans to manufacture its organic Tuscan Cookie product

line. City officials said the facility underwent upgrades before production began.

"Avatar Foods was given a temporary certificate of occupancy last June 2025 to allow them to continue preparing the operation while working on building code compliance," said Gridley City Planner Christopher Smith.

Smith said compliance issues were resolved by late summer or early fall, with production believed to have started in fall 2025.

According to the lawsuit's summary of action, Avatar Foods and Newman's Own entered into an amended and restated co-packer agreement on Nov. 1, 2024. Under the agreement, Avatar Foods was

to manufacture organic cream-filled sandwich cookies sold under the Newman's Own brand as Newman O's.

The complaint alleges that the product specifications provided by Newman's Own were not suitable for commercial manufacturing. The filing claims the specifications were "not machinable," resulting in what the plaintiffs describe as large-scale production failures.

Avatar Foods alleges it is owed \$1,187,035.10 in unpaid invoices. The lawsuit also seeks delivery of 19,954 additional cases of product that Avatar Foods claims it cannot resell under the terms of the agreement. The plaintiffs are seeking damages of no less than \$2

million, as well as attorney fees and costs, with final amounts to be determined at trial.

"Nearly three decades of satisfied customers and consistent product quality contradict Avatar's claims," a spokesperson for Newman's Own Inc. said in a statement to The Gridley Herald.

The spokesperson said Newman's Own produced Newman O's from 1997 through 2024 with a longtime co-packer and ended that relationship only when the co-packer exited the sandwich cookie business.

"We selected Avatar based on its representations of its capabilities, which proved inaccurate," the spokesperson said.

According to Newman's Own, the production issues cited in the lawsuit stemmed from Avatar's operational challenges, not from the product specifications. The company said formulation changes proposed by Avatar led to customer dissatisfaction.

"Consistent with our longstanding commitment to quality, and in light of Avatar's breach of our contractual obligations, we ended our business relationship in November 2025," the spokesperson said.

Newman's Own said it plans to contest the lawsuit.

"We stand by our position and are prepared to address this meritless lawsuit in court," the spokesperson said. ★

Community Calendar

Butte County Libraries

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

Friday, Feb. 13: Sure start family play time, 9 a.m. to noon. (G)

Saturday, Feb. 14: All county libraries closed for President's Day.

Tuesday, Feb. 17: Creative writing group, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (G) LEGO Tuesdays, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B)

Wednesday, Feb. 18: Color your world, 11 a.m. to noon. Adult arts and crafts. (G) Afternoon kids' club, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (G)

Thursday, Feb. 19: Biggs chess club, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B) Movie night, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (G)

Friday, Feb. 20: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (G) Ladies' night out movie, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Men and teens invited too. (G)

Saturday, Feb. 21: Afternoon kids' club, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (B) Ugly art club for adults, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Materials provided, absolutely no skills required. (G)

Continuing through Friday, Feb. 13

New Year Food Drive at monca

The Museum of Northern California (monca) is now accepting donations of non-perishable food items at 900 Esplanade, Chico. Bring new pantry staples to the museum during open hours, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Next time you go out grocery shopping, please pick up a few extra canned goods or other non-perishables to supplement this food drive. If everyone gives a little bit, we will collect an abundance.

Continuing through Sunday, Feb. 15

Uptown Vintage & Shabby Pop-up Event

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily at Uptown Vintage & Shabby, 1311 Mangrove Ave., Chico. Join us where old, rusty, worn, and relinquished home and garden décor come to flaunt their fancy and parade their virtue for your consideration. Lots of parking, wheelchair accessible, child-friendly and lots of fun.

Friday, Feb. 13

Blood Drive with Vitalant

10:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at Stoble Coffee, 418 Broadway St., Chico. Grab your valentine, valentine, or come by solo for a do-good day date while you enjoy a little treat from the café. Appointments are highly encouraged; walk-ins welcome only if space allows. To schedule your appointment, call Vitalant at 530-893-5433 and mention blood drive code 10054463. Every donor gets a free Stoble drip coffee or tea, a custom-designed Stoble sticker and entry into a giveaway for Stoble merchandise and goodies.

Saturday, Feb. 14

Lovers & Friends Lunar Market

Noon to 4 p.m. at The Barn at Meriam Park, 1930 Market Place, Chico. Join us for one of Chico's anticipated pop-up markets. Whether you're shopping for handmade goods, supporting local artists, or looking for a fun Valentine's weekend activity, Lunar Market offers a welcoming space to connect, explore, and celebrate creativity.

Valentine's Day with the Chico Swing Band

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Meriam Park Barn, 1930 Market Place, Chico. This is a free family event, and kids are welcome. This 16-piece big band will play '30s and '40s-era tunes with a Valentine's Day theme. The Chico Swing Band's motto is "nobody leaves a Chico Swing Band performance unhappy."

Saturday, Feb. 21

Chinese New Year at the Oroville Chinese Temple

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1500 Broderick St., Oroville. This annual event invites the community to experience the sights, sounds, and stories of the Chinese New Year. See the Lion Dancer performance at noon, enjoy traditional arts and crafts activities for kids, inspired by Chinese customs. Whether you're continuing a beloved tradition or discovering it for the first time, this celebration offers a meaningful way to honor Chinese heritage.

Butte Humane Society's Forever Home Project

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Butte Humane Society Adoption Center, 13391 Garner Lane, Chico. Matson & Isom Technology Consulting is sponsoring all adoption fees on Saturday, Feb. 21. We have extended our adoption walk-in hours for this event.

We hope to see you there and can't wait to help you bring home a new family member.

Sunday, Feb. 22

Almond Blossom Run 2026

9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Durham High School, 9455 Putney Dr., Durham. Please join us for a beautiful Sunday morning run around the almond orchards with the trees in full bloom to see how special this race really is. As in past years, this event will include your choice of a 5k or 10k run. This is the year's largest fundraiser for Durham Sports Boosters, a non-profit that exclusively supports the student athletic teams of Durham Intermediate and Durham High Schools. Registration and more information at www.runsignup.com.

Meeting Minders

Ongoing Activities (Current as of publication, please verify schedule with the organization):

American Legion Bingo, Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Gridley Veterans Hall, 267 Sycamore St.

Biggs City Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday each month, at 6 p.m. in the council chambers, 3016 Sixth St., Biggs. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 24 and more information is available at 530-368-5493.

Butte County Board of Supervisors generally meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at 25 County Center Drive, Suite 205, Oroville. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 24 and more information is available at 530-552-3300.

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

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

Gridley Senior Group Breakfast every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. includes Bingo at 9:30 a.m. Gridley Recreation Center 194 Washington St. For more information, call 530-846-3264.

Gridley Unified School District

(GUSD) Board meetings are generally on the first and third Wednesday each month, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call 530-846-4721 for more information.

Live Oak City Council usually meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall, 9955 Live Oak Blvd. Call 530-695-2112 for more information. Next meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb. 18.

Rotary Club of Gridley meets every Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church Hall, 446 Kentucky St. For more information or membership, call 530-632-5990.

Survivors of Suicide Support Group meets the first and third Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. at the Gridley Recreation Department, 194 Washington Street. Next meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb. 18.

Community Resources – Find Food

First 5 Family Center at Esperanza House, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at 630 Washington St., Gridley. Must be pregnant or live with and actively care for a child up to age 17. Call to schedule an appointment: 530-720-2255.

First Baptist Church of Live Oak Food Pantry, 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month, at 2480 Pennington Road, Live Oak. This is a drive-through Food Pantry, with entrance on Gum Street and exit on Pennington Road. Next distribution will be Sunday, Feb. 22. Call 530-695-2894 for more information.

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

Gridley United Methodist Church, 285 Magnolia St. Monday through Friday, during daytime hours. Come by the church and if they have food they will give client a box. Call 530-846-2520 for more information.

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

North State Food Bank, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Biggs Methodist Church, 441 C St., Biggs. Next distribution on Tuesday, March 10. Call 530-712-2600 for more information.

Sacred Heart Parish, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 1561 Hazel St., Gridley on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. Call 530-846-2140 for more information. ★

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Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

My new blueberry bushes came this weekend. I'm hoping these two new varieties will extend my blueberry harvest season. The new plants won't accomplish this until next year. They are small right now. I'm very pleased that the blueberries have done so well. I noticed snail dry, shiny slime on some geranium starts. The snails

must have been fairly small leaf munchers. I need to bait my miniature daffodils out front so I can enjoy the flowers before the snails get them. I haven't seen much activity out front but I know they are there. Since I removed the rock borders there are less of them. I am convinced that there are far fewer in the backyard due to the toads. At this time the toads appear to be tucked into their toad hole with their plump cold-blooded friends. I'm hoping they come out when it gets a bit warmer at night. Because of the dog I already use organic animal friendly snail bait in back. I'm hoping it does not hurt the toads. I may hold off on this action and lose a few

beautiful flowers. The dwarf peach is budding up. The decorative pear out front is in full bloom and buzzing with bees. It feels early but if I wrote this stuff down... oh that's right I do. I'll have to look back through files of this column to see when I mentioned the pear bloom last year. The other peach trees have tiny buds but don't seem ready to pop. I think I'll get the third spray for leaf curl in before more rain. I'm hoping my column apples will not only flower but set fruit this year. Last year I was thrilled with the blooms none of which fruited. My daughter suggested I pollinate them. Am I ready to do the bee's job? Hmmm, maybe not. ★



Citrus Growers Assess Risk of New Virus

A new citrus disease that so far remains confined to residential trees has industry leaders taking what they describe as a measured approach because of the unknown risks it poses. Caused by the citrus yellow vein clearing virus, the disease was confirmed in residential citrus trees during multipest citrus surveys in Tulare County in 2022 and in residential trees in Hacienda Heights near Los Angeles in 2023. The discoveries marked the first time CYVCV had been confirmed in the Americas. "It's something that's still relatively new," said Casey Creamer, president and CEO of California Citrus Mutual. "I think the way we try to approach things is to put the appropriate amount of concern around it based on the level of risk it poses."

4-H'er Turns a Handful of Chicks into a Thriving Business

When Nathan Hutchison was 9 years old, starting a business was the last thing on his mind. The young bird enthusiast just wanted to raise a few backyard chickens. But what began as a childhood hobby grew into Nate's Chicks—a thriving, solar-powered poultry operation in Madera County with more than 600 chickens and customers statewide. Now 19, Hutchison raises

heritage turkeys for the Thanksgiving season and more than 50 breeds of chickens, selling day-old chicks, chicken and turkey meat and anywhere from 2,500 to 5,000 eggs a month. He also brokers chickens from other farms and leads workshops on food sustainability, raising poultry and hands-on processing.

Researchers Make Breakthroughs in Preventing Pistachio Hull Split

When pistachio hulls split open before harvest, the nuts can be exposed to fungal or insect damage, which reduces profits for farmers. About 4% of California's pistachio crop experiences hull split, but the figure can rise to as much as 40% for some cultivars in certain conditions. New research at the University of California, Davis, revealed how the hull is built and how cell walls in certain layers break down, along with the genes and corresponding mechanisms that spark and control those changes. "This is the first time anyone has studied the pistachio hull at the anatomical and cellular level while also looking at gene expression and physiological data," said Georgia Drakakaki, a professor at the UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences. The research will help breeders select for traits that will make the hulls less vulnerable to tearing and cracking. ★

Live Oak Council Approves Safety, Housing Measures

By Shaunna Boyd



LIVE OAK, CA (MPG) - The Live Oak City Council approved two plans at its Feb. 4 meeting aimed at improving traffic safety and securing state housing funds.

The council voted to adopt the Yuba-Sutter Regional Safety Action Plan, which provides a framework for reducing and eliminating traffic fatalities by addressing safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists, drivers and public transit users.

The City of Live Oak partnered with Yuba County, Sutter County, Yuba City, Marysville and Wheatland to prepare the plan using a federal Safe Streets for All grant. Adoption of the plan makes the city eligible for state and federal transportation safety grants.

Mayor Jeremy Chapdelaine said completing the plan was a lengthy process and will help position the city for future

access the funds. Moodey said the city faces a deadline at the end of February to secure funds from the 2022-23 award years. "If the city misses the deadline, the state will keep the funds for those award years," Moodey said. Moodey said he plans to coordinate with the Regional Housing Authority, which owns three properties in Live Oak that could qualify for the funding. Potential projects will be presented at a future council meeting.

The plan was approved on a 4-0 vote, with Councilmember Ashely Hernandez absent.

The council also approved a Permanent Local Housing Allocation plan and an application for \$136,641 in PLHA funds.

City Manager Ben Moodey said the state funding can be used for pre-development, development, acquisition, rehabilitation and preservation of affordable rental and ownership housing.

Live Oak is eligible for about \$60,000 to \$70,000 annually, but a state-approved plan is required to

access the funds. Moodey said the city faces a deadline at the end of February to secure funds from the 2022-23 award years.

"If the city misses the deadline, the state will keep the funds for those award years," Moodey said.

Moodey said he plans to coordinate with the Regional Housing Authority, which owns three properties in Live Oak that could qualify for the funding. Potential projects will be presented at a future council meeting.

Vice Mayor Aaron Pamma asked whether the city had previously missed opportunities to access the funds due to the lack of a plan. Moodey confirmed that was the case, but said approval of the plan allows the city to move forward in future years.

The council approved the housing plan and funding application on a 4-0 vote.

The next Live Oak City Council meeting is scheduled for Feb. 18. ★

Visiting History: Museum Weekend Nears

By Seti Long

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Butte County is encouraging the public to explore local history and culture during its annual Museum Weekend, set for Feb. 28 and March 1.

Participating museums across the county will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days, including the Gridley Museum. Each location will offer a special program aimed at attracting visitors.

The Gridley Museum, which focuses on local history from the 1800s and 1900s, will feature programming tied to the community's past during the 2026 Museum

Weekend, according to museum volunteer RuthAnn King.

"We are planning on showing Ken Burns documentaries on the Revolutionary War, as this will be the 250th anniversary of the United States on July 4," King said, adding that details are still being finalized.

Other participating museums include the Gateway Science Museum, which offers a child-oriented STEM experience, the Janet Turner Art Museum, home to about 4,000 art prints, and the Oroville Chinese Temple and Museum.

A full list of participating museums is available at explorebuttecounty.com/museumweekend. ★

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Once Soaring Population Has Hit a Plateau, So Will its National Political Clout



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

The federal Census Bureau annually announces new population numbers for the country and its 50 states based on calculations of how births, deaths and migration have changed the numbers from July 1 to June 30 of the previous year.

The state Department of Finance annually announces new California population numbers, based on its calculations of those same demographic factors during the same 12-month period.

The numbers often differ, and in past years differentials of a million persons or more have emerged from the two agencies' California calculations.

In December, the state agency declared that as of last July, California's population was 39.529 million, a gain of 19,200 since 2024. Although arithmetically insignificant, the tiny gain was hailed by officialdom and media as proof that California is no longer losing people.

Last month, the Census Bureau released its latest estimates, fixing California's population at 39.355 million, a decline of 9,465 souls from the previous year. It implies that California's slide, which began in the COVID-18 pandemic, is still happening, with a net loss of 200,394 residents since the

2020 census.

Although the 174,000 difference between the two numbers is relatively tiny, from a sociopolitical standpoint one shows growth while the other shows shrinkage. Thus California officialdom claims that predictions of the state's impending collapse are false, while its critics say California is still in decline.

There is, however, no doubt that California is, at best, at a population plateau — either gaining or losing very slowly after a 175-year history of sometimes stunning levels of population growth. During the 1980-90 decade, for example, the state's population soared by about 6 million people, a nearly 25% gain, thanks to high levels of immigration and a lofty birth rate.

Its current stasis, whatever the exact numbers, reflects stagnant levels of foreign migration, a much lower birth rate and an ongoing net loss in state-to-state migration.

Hans Johnson and Eric McGhee, demographers for the Public Policy Institute of California, have charted that trend and in this report declare, "This migration, over the decades, has the power to reshape the state. From 2010 through 2024 (the year of the latest data) almost 10 million people moved from California to other states, while just over 7 million people moved to California from other parts of the country, according to the American Community Survey. In fact, according to Department of Finance estimates, the state has lost residents to other states every year since 2001."

PPIC found that most of those leaving the state

are adults without college degrees. Texas is their top destination, and one could assume they are fleeing high living costs.

California is not alone in population stagnation or loss. New York and Illinois are two others and, overall, slow- or no-growth states tend to be politically blue, while the big gainers, such as Texas, Florida and the fastest grower, South Carolina, lean to the right.

The growth differential between red and blue states will likely bite the latter after the 2030 census, when the nation's 435 congressional seats are divvied up. Two new studies by reputable organizations project that California and other major blue states will lose a chunk of seats to fast-growing red states, based on the new Census Bureau data.

The American Redistricting Project and Jonathon Vervas at Carnegie Mellon University both see California losing four of its 52 seats, Texas gaining four and Florida getting either two or four.

The shift of congressional seats, of course, also shifts presidential electoral votes, meaning Republican candidates' prospects will improve and those of Democrats will decline after 2030.

There's an old saying that demographics are destiny. What's happening now underscores that truism.

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



A Win is Just Around the Corner

There's an old saying, "it's always darkest before the dawn. Well, for the Sacramento Kings the dawn is here and very real.

Nursing a 12-game losing streak fans are more than ready to put the darkness away and welcome in the dawn. Currently, the Kings have the worst record in basketball at 12-42, and have lost four consecutive close games to Washington, Memphis, the LA Clippers and the Cleveland Cavaliers. All told the Kings lost by a total of 17 points total over a four-game span!

Many have remarked that the Kings are not as bad as their record, and if that's true, why is their record the worst in basketball?

Look no further than the resplendent coaching staff led by Doug Christie, and I say that tongue in cheek.

The game rotations are so frenetic that no one even has a guess as to who will and who will not enter the game at any given time.

Perhaps the best 3-point shooter on the team was suddenly awakened and asked to contribute six minutes in the last loss against the Cavaliers. Yes, none other than the forgotten man Doug McDermott. Someone I would like to see on a regular basis, but I have no such aspirations. Doug took one shot and returned to the bench for the rest of the contest.

Professionals simply can't succeed on a regular basis when they have no idea whether they will play or not.

While I agree with coach Christie playing the younger players given the current record, everyone on this team needs to clearly understand their role, and this team does not.

I have long wanted to see what first round draft choice Devin Carter has to offer, and finally he has managed to crack the lineup, and with notable success.

In the Cleveland game Carter was actually given 27 minutes and contributed 18 points! In addition, he had 4 rebounds, 4 assists and was 2-5 from beyond the arc. Likewise in the Clipper contest Carter contributed 14 points in just 22 minutes, adding once again 4 rebounds and 4 assists.

Constantly mentioned in trade rumors,

it's time to find out what the Kings really have in a player that has been used sparingly and appears to have a big upside.

Recently, coach Christie has been putting him on the floor alongside Nique Clifford, and the tandem has produced good results.

Whether Carter and Clifford play the 1 or the 2, it's high time to find out what they each can bring to the floor every night.

Another bright spot has been the animated play of fan favorite Dylan Cardwell, who has demonstrated not only a penchant for blocking shots, but has been putting up double-doubles on a nightly basis.

Have the Kings finally found a big man to compliment Domantas Sabonis? They very well may have, and with addition of De'Andre Hunter fans are wondering what this lineup will look like when a healthy Keegan Murray returns.

No one wants to hear excuses, but the Sacramento Kings have been the walking wounded of the NBA for the vast majority of the season, and what everyone is waiting for is a healthy team that can give us an honest look into what the future may look like.

Scott Perry thankfully has resisted opportunities to trade Domantas Sabonis thus far, and I for one want to see this team build around a proven winner and someone with an attitude that is difficult to match.

Even with rotations that make fans scratch their heads, the Sacramento Kings are showing signs of life, and the recent games have been fun to watch.

Let's see if this coaching staff can bring it together and run off some impressive wins.

Nothing has been cast in stone except for the faithfulness of the Sacramento fan base, so let's give these gladiators the best we have!

The first 20 games of the season, the Kings were given one of the roughest schedules in the league, but that also means that the schedule is about to get easier.

Gird your loins Kings fans, because it's just possible that the missing piece may be either in the upcoming draft or just around the corner!

All the best!

SPARKY'S CORNER



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With a recent surge in emergencies that are the result of residents storing pots and pans inside an oven, CAL FIRE / Gridley Fire Department wants to remind the citizens to never store anything inside your oven. The plastic handles and light metal pots and pans can melt onto the heating element and produce large amounts of toxic smoke and easily catch fire. Plastic and rubber handles can melt at temperatures as low as 200 Degrees Fahrenheit. On the self-cleaning setting, an oven can reach temperatures of 900 degrees Fahrenheit easily igniting anything flammable that may be inside. So to reduce the risk of a fire and significant smoke damage to your home, please never store anything inside your oven and always check inside before using.



Thank You, and Be Safe!!

Sparky the Dog
Gridley Fire Station 74



Ask DR. UNIVERSE

Why are Giraffes' Tongues Purple?

- Winona, 6, Wisconsin

Dear Winona,
When I was a kitten, I visited a drive through zoo. A giraffe slithered its long, purple tongue through the open car window and licked my face.

It was awesome.
It turns out dark colors come from a pigment called melanin. That melanin makes a giraffe's tongue purple, blue or black.

I asked my friend Cynthia Cooper about melanin. She studies pigments—the colorful stuff in animal cells—at Washington State University.

She told me melanin is also why human skin gets darker from being in the sun.

Skin is layers of mostly skin cells. Like nearly all our cells, skin cells have a nucleus full of DNA. That DNA tells the cell how to make proteins. You need all kinds of proteins to build your body and make it work. So, every cell needs a perfect copy of that DNA—without mistakes.

But UV light from the sun can mess up DNA. That's where melanin comes in. It protects the DNA in skin cells from that damage.

Melanin-making cells are scattered through the layers of skin cells. There's usually one melanin-making cell for every 40 skin cells. The melanin-making cells have finger-like extensions that reach out to contact all the skin cells nearby.

When the sun shines on skin, the UV light activates those melanin-making



This giraffe (top) uses its purple prehensile tongue to harvest leaves from treetops. Its closest living relative, the okapi (bottom), has a purple tongue, too. Steve Garvie CC BY-SA 2.0, derekkeats CC BY-SA 2.0

cells. They start churning out sacks of melanin—also called melanosomes. Then they reach out to the skin cells they touch and move sacks of melanin over there.

The goal is to safeguard the DNA.

"When we get exposed to the sun, a lot of those melanosomes move around to protect the nucleus," Cooper said. "They hover above the nucleus to protect it from DNA damage. Sometimes I'll say it's like a flying saucer up above the nucleus."

Or you can picture it like an umbrella. The melanin-making cells open up to block the DNA from the sun.

When those sacks of melanin move into a skin cell, the melanin pigment makes the cell darker. That's how skin gets browner in the sun.

That works so well to protect DNA that humans living in places with lots of sun adapted to better

protect their skin.

"Someone who lives near the equator needs a lot more protection than someone who lives near one of the poles," Cooper said. "So, genetic changes led people to have different skin tones."

And that's probably why giraffes have purple tongues.

The ancestors of giraffes adapted to live in places with lots of sun. Plus, today's giraffes are the tallest living land animals. They spend about 12 hours every day chomping on leaves at the tops of trees. They grab those leaves with a purple prehensile tongue. It can grab leaves like a slimy, muscular tentacle.

That melanin-packed tongue protects the DNA in the tongue's skin cells.

I guess you could say giraffes really lick the problem of UV damage.

Sincerely,

Dr. Universe

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves

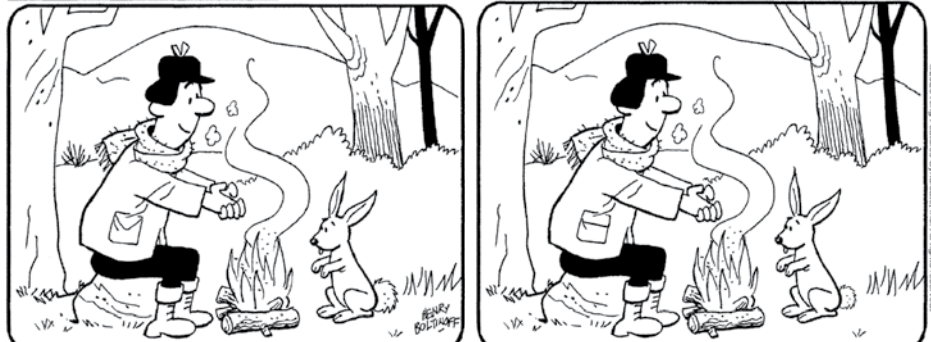
by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Tail is smaller. 2. Arms are longer. 3. Rabbit is moved. 4. Log is different. 5. Earflap is longer. 6. Rabbit's ear is longer.

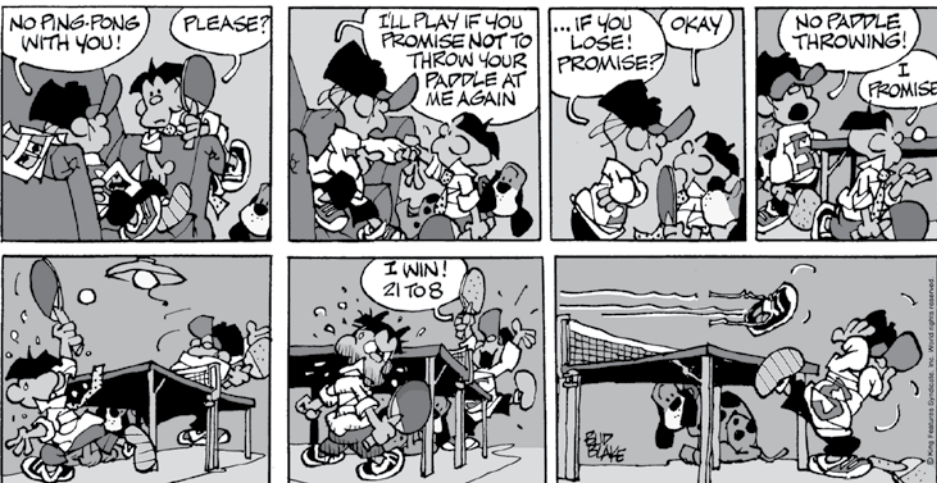
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



TIGER

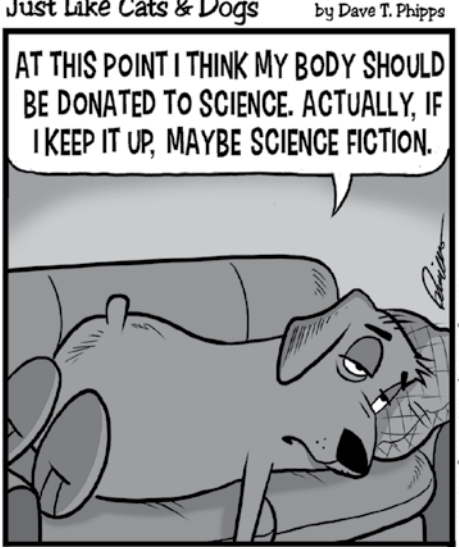
by BUD BLAKE



GRIN and BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • THE 1990s

CLUES

- ACROSS**
- First cloned mammal
 - Fuel economy acronym
 - Land measure
 - Pascal of "The Mandalorian" fame
 - Second O in EV00
 - a.k.a. sergeant fish or robalo
 - Plant fungus
 - "Titanic" star
 - "The Whisperer" (1998)
 - "PepsiCo offering
 - "One of the Walsh twins, 90210
 - Long reef dweller
 - Reach a high
 - Color of passion
 - Agitate
 - Like Matryoshka inside Matryoshka
 - Gave the boot
 - Arab League member
 - One of Florida Keys
 - Summer month
 - Polished diamond surface
 - Safecracker
 - Lazybones
 - Before "saw" and "conquered"
 - Glitch
 - Watercraft
 - Remains repository
 - Like some martinis
 - Comfort
 - One in a pod
 - * bubble
 - "The 1990s, a.k.a. post- decade
 - Biblical patriarch
 - Sensitive subject?
 - "Bad news travels fast," e.g.
 - shopping cart
 - Father's progeny
 - Trojan War epic
 - Difficult situation
 - Like jalape o
 - So out it's in

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DOWN

- Design detail
- M nchen mister
- Jittery
- Irregularly notched
- *Harry of Privat Drive
- Gangster's gal
- **"American _____" (1999)
- Geography class prop
- Any minute, arch.
- Cut at birth
- Parks on a bus
- out a living
- Israeli monetary unit
- Remote in manner
- Did a marathon, e.g.
- Mollify
- *Assassinated Gandhi
- Radiate
- Small wooded hollows
- *Apple offering
- Simon does what?
- Influencer's creation
- Daytime moth
- *"Snoop _____ Dogg
- Coloring substances
- Nautlius' captain
- Allegro or lento
- Repeat an echo
- Pathet _____
- *Fresh Prince's town
- * Mouth of "All Star" fame

- Discombobulate
- *Jeff Bridges in "The Big Lebowski," with The
- Made in Vegas
- Makes lace
- One-tenth of a dime
- *"Wait... Don't Tell Me!" on NPR
- Petri dish gel
- Do over
- Fruit spread
- * Goo Dolls of "Name" fame

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

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

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LEGAL ADVERTISING

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

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Gridley, CA 95948

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

Business and Professions Code.
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
LISAS 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000894
The following person(s) are doing business as: 530 Carpet Cleaning, Periquita Cleaning Service, 467 E 22nd Street, Chico, CA 95928
Erika Rivera Zuniga, 467 E 22nd 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 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 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 6th Avenue, Chico, CA 95926
O'Marah, Lisa Kathrynne, 641 6th 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
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 FILE NO. 2026-0000067
The following person(s) are doing business as: Branding Memories, 852 Township Road, Gridley, CA 95948
Branding Memories LLC, 852 Township Road, Gridley, CA 95948
Date filed in Butte County: January 23, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 23, 2026
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: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026
BRANDING 2-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000019
The following person(s) are doing business as: Sycamore and Belle, 2586 Widgeon Lane, Durham, CA 95938
Romo, Brianna, 2586 Widgeon Lane, Durham, CA 95938
Date filed in Butte County: January 9, 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

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: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026
SYCAMORE 2-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000070
The following person(s) are doing business as: Ridge Top Fallers, 6121 N Libby Road, Paradise, CA 95969
Ridge Top Fallers LLC, 6121 N Libby Road, Paradise, CA 95969
Date filed in Butte County: January 23, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 15, 2026
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: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026
RIDGE 2-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000043
The following person(s) are doing business as: Aladdin Bail Bonds, 1940 Feather River Boulevard Suite G, Oroville, CA 95965
Two Jinn Inc, 1000 Aviara Parkway Suite 300, Carlsbad, CA 92011
Date filed in Butte County: January 15, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: June 1, 2024
This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026
ALADDIN 2-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000954
The following person(s) are doing business as: Meeek's Building Solutions, 1100, 20th Street, Chico, CA 95928
US LBM Operation Co, 2009 LLC, US LMB Operating Company 2009 LLC, 2150 E Lake Cook Road Suite 1010, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
Date filed in Butte County: December 31, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: December 1, 2025
This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company
NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under

federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026
MEEKS 2-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000099
The following person(s) are doing business as: Vintage Coaches, 15299 Forest Ranch Way, Forest Ranch, CA 95942
Theresa Aflague, PO Box 2935, Paradise, CA 95967
Date filed in Butte County: January 30, 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: Feb 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026
VINTAGE 3-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000090
The following person(s) are doing business as: Rolls Real Estate, 1834 Mangrove Avenue, Chico, CA 95926
Jarolls Inc, 1834 Mangrove Avenue, Chico, CA 95926
Date filed in Butte County: January 28, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 2014
This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Feb 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026
ROLLS 3-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000097
The following person(s) are doing business as: Ryon Family Partnership, 7225 Durnel Road, Nelson, CA 95958
Edwin E Ryon, Charles H Ryon, Elizabeth A Rolland, Janet L Hewitt, Patricia J Jones, PO Box 1097, Magalia, CA 95954
Date filed in Butte County: January 30, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 2014
This Business is conducted by: A General Partnership. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Feb 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026
RYON 3-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000114
The following person(s) are doing business as: Fanofthewest, 5717 Reed Lane, Paradise, CA 95969

Steven S Sheridan, 5717 Reed Lane, Paradise, CA 95969
Date filed in Butte County: February 2, 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: Feb 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026
FAN 3-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000075
The following person(s) are doing business as: Bird Caller Farm and Garden, 4194 Nighthawk Way, Chico, CA 95973
Navarro, Matthew Emerson, 4194 Nighthawk Way, Chico, CA 95973
Date filed in Butte County: January 26, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 20, 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: Feb 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026
BIRD 3-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000106
The following person(s) are doing business as: CF Certified TCG, 17 Partners Trail, Oroville, CA 95966
Fogarty, Chad Michael, 17 Partners Trail, Oroville, CA 95966
Date filed in Butte County: February 2, 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: Feb 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026
CF 3-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000130
The following person(s) are doing business as: KW Excavating, 493 Sheldon Avenue, Gridley, CA 95948
Kegan J Waite, 493 Sheldon

NOTICE INVITING BIDS CUPCCAA FORMAL BID

Notice is hereby given that the Gridley Unified School District, Gridley, California, invites bids for the following project:

Project Title: Upgrade of Network Cabling

Bid No.: GUSD-260005121-Cabling

Project Location: Gridley High School, 300 E. Spruce Street, Gridley, CA 95948

Mandatory Job Walk:

Attendance at either the December 11, 2025 job walk or the February 17, 2026 job walk satisfies the mandatory job walk requirement for bid eligibility.

February 17, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Gridley High School
300 E Spruce St
Gridley CA 95948

The work consists of installing network cabling to classrooms and offices at an existing school site, including both permanent and modular buildings.

Bid documents may be obtained from Rachel White by emailing rachel@erateadvisors.com.

Bid Due Date: February 25, 2026 by 10:00 a.m. (PST)

Bid Opening: February 25, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. (PST)

Bids shall be submitted electronically to: rachel@erateadvisors.com

This project is subject to the **California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act (CUPCCAA)**. All bidders must be properly licensed and listed on the District's CUPCCAA Contractor List at the time of bid submission.

Funding for this project includes E-rate and local funds. The awarded contractor must be an approved E-rate Service Provider.

The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities in the bidding process.

The Gridley Herald 2-6, 2-13-2026

NOTICE OF WAREHOUSE LIEN SALE

[CIV. CODE SEC. 798.56A(E); COMM. CODE SECS. 7209, 7210]

TO REGISTERED OWNERS RHONDA HILDEBRAND AND ALL PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST in the following goods:

A 1967 mobilehome, Manufacturer Skyline Corp Tradename Hillcrest; HCD Decal Number LBA1789, Serial numbers S732XX and S732XXU; HUD Label/Insignia Numbers A191487 and A191488 measuring 60 feet in length and 10 feet in width per section.

SINCE THE DEMAND MADE under Civil Code Section 798.56a(e) and Commercial Code Sections 7209 and 7210(2) by **Cobblestone II OLH LLC** ("Community Owner") for payment in full of the storage charges due and unpaid was not satisfied, the above-stated mobilehome, held on account of Rhonda Hildebrand, and due notice having been given to all parties known to claim an interest in the mobilehome and the time specified in the notice having expired, **notice is hereby given** said mobilehome, and all of the fixtures contained in the home, will be advertised for public sale and sold by auction at **10:00 a.m. on March 2, 2026, at 152 Spruce Parkway Oroville, California 95966**. The subject mobilehome, and all fixtures contained in the home, will be sold in bulk, "as-is" without warranties of title, fitness for a particular purpose or any other warranties, express or implied, and will be subject to a credit bid by Community Owner. The sale is subject to change upon proper notice.

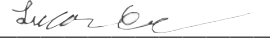
Please take notice payment at the public sale must be made by certified funds within three (3) days of the warehouse lien sale or at the time the mobilehome is removed from the premises, whichever is sooner. Failure to pay or remove as required will result in failure of the bid in which case the next highest third party bid will be taken subject to these same terms and conditions; if the next highest bidder is Community Owner's credit bid, then Community Owner's credit bid will prevail.

Reasonable storage charges at the per diem rate of \$26.30 from November 27, 2025 through January 20, 2026, including estimated charges of \$1,000.00 for publication and service charges (note: this is an estimated administrative charge only; actual charges incurred must be paid to satisfy the demand for payment), all associated with the storage of the mobilehome in the sum of \$2,446.50. Additionally, you must pay daily storage in the amount of \$26.30 per day accruing on or after January 21, 2026, plus utilities and other charges associated with the storage of the mobilehome due after December 2025 and continuing until the mobilehome is removed from the Community.

Please take further notice all third-party bidders must remove the subject mobilehome from the premises within three (3) days after the sale or disposition of the same. **THE MOBILEHOME MAY NOT REMAIN IN OLIVE HILL MANUFACTURED COMMUNITY AFTER THE SALE OR DISPOSITION**. Any purchaser of the mobilehome will take title and possession subject to any liens under California Health & Safety Code §18116.1. All bidders are responsible and liable for any penalties, or other costs, including, but not limited to, defective title or other bond, which may be necessary to obtain title to, or register, the mobilehome.

OLIVE HILL MANUFACTURED COMMUNITY

Dated: February 7, 2026 at San Jose, California

BY: 
Lucas R. Coe
Attorney at Law
Lathrop GPM, LLP
70 S. First Street
San Jose, CA 95113-2406
(408) 286-9800 (phone)
(408) 998-4700 (fax)
Lucas.coe@lathroppgm.com
Attorney and Authorized Agent

The Gridley Herald 2-13, 2-20-26

NOTICE OF WAREHOUSE LIEN SALE

[CIV. CODE SEC. 798.56A(E); COMM. CODE SECS. 7209, 7210]

TO REGISTERED OWNERS KEITH MANAGEMENT LLC, RONALD LORENZO AND CINDY LORENZO AKA CYNTHIA LORENZO AND ALL PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST in the following goods:

A 1972 mobilehome, Manufacturer Sahara MH Tradename Sahara; HCD Decal Number LBC9263, Serial number S3398; HUD Label/Insignia Number 22343 measuring 52 feet in length and 12 feet in width.

SINCE THE DEMAND MADE under Civil Code Section 798.56a(e) and Commercial Code Sections 7209 and 7210(2) by **Cobblestone SPC MHP I.L.P.** ("Community Owner") for payment in full of the storage charges due and unpaid was not satisfied, the above-stated mobilehome, held on account of Ronald Lorenzo and Cindy Lorenzo aka Cynthia Lorenzo, and due notice having been given to all parties known to claim an interest in the mobilehome and the time specified in the notice having expired, **notice is hereby given** said mobilehome, and all of the fixtures contained in the home, will be advertised for public sale and sold by auction at **10:00 a.m. on February 27, 2026 at 6368 Lincoln Boulevard, Space 25, Oroville California 95966**. The subject mobilehome, and all fixtures contained in the home, will be sold in bulk, "as-is" without warranties of title, fitness for a particular purpose or any other warranties, express or implied, and will be subject to a credit bid by Community Owner. The sale is subject to change upon proper notice.

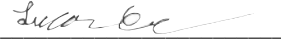
Please take notice payment at the public sale must be made by certified funds within three (3) days of the warehouse lien sale or at the time the mobilehome is removed from the premises, whichever is sooner. Failure to pay or remove as required will result in failure of the bid in which case the next highest third party bid will be taken subject to these same terms and conditions; if the next highest bidder is Community Owner's credit bid, then Community Owner's credit bid will prevail.

Reasonable storage charges at the per diem rate of \$17.42 from November 27, 2025 through January 20, 2026, including estimated charges of \$1,000.00 for publication and service charges (note: this is an estimated administrative charge only; actual charges incurred must be paid to satisfy the demand for payment), all associated with the storage of the mobilehome in the sum of \$1,958.10. Additionally, you must pay daily storage in the amount of \$17.42 per day accruing on or after January 21, 2026, plus utilities and other charges associated with the storage of the mobilehome due after December 2025, and continuing until the mobilehome is removed from the Community.

Please take further notice all third-party bidders must remove the subject mobilehome from the premises within three (3) days after the sale or disposition of the same. **THE MOBILEHOME MAY NOT REMAIN IN LAKE VISTA MOBILEHOME COMMUNITY AFTER THE SALE OR DISPOSITION**. Any purchaser of the mobilehome will take title and possession subject to any liens under California Health & Safety Code §18116.1. All bidders are responsible and liable for any penalties, or other costs, including, but not limited to, defective title or other bond, which may be necessary to obtain title to, or register, the mobilehome.

LAKE VISTA MOBILEHOME COMMUNITY

Dated: February 3, 2026 at San Jose, California

BY: 
Lucas R. Coe
Attorney at Law
Lathrop GPM, LLP
70 S. First Street
San Jose, CA 95113-2406
(408) 286-9800 (phone)
(408) 998-4700 (fax)
Lucas.coe@lathroppgm.com
Attorney and Authorized Agent

The Gridley Herald 2-6, 2-13-26

Legal Advertising
916-483-0946

LEGAL ADVERTISING

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

300 Spruce • Suite C
Gridley, CA 95948

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

Avenue, Gridley, CA 95948
Date filed in Butte County: February 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: Feb 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026
KW 3-6-26

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

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

Petitioner Cindel 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

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF BUTTE
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #26CV00149

Petitioner Christopher Michael Salvos filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Christopher Michael Salvos to Christopher Michael Karkoski.

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 25, 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 January 22, 2026
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026
SALVOS 2-27-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF BUTTE
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #26CV00110
Petitioner Charlene Marie Beryhill filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Charlene Marie Beryhill to Charlene Marie Vanorden.

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 21, 2026
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Feb 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026
BERRYHILL 3-6-26

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 interests, 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 county. 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

SUMMONS

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER: 23CV00952
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: DAULTON MCCALLA, an Individual; JEFFREY M. OULES, an Individual; and DOES 1 through 10, Inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: ROCKY TOP RENTALS, LLC, a Limited Liability Company.
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and

legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY of the BUTTE WATER DISTRICT – TEMPORARY WATER TRANSFERS FROM 2026 TO 2030 PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT SCH # 2025081335

Copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) are now available for public review. The review and comment period starts on Friday February 13th, 2026, and ends on Monday, March 30, 2026. More information on how to access the documents and submit comments is located below. Butte Water District is the Lead Agency on the below-described project and has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report on the proposed project (Project).

Project Description: Water Transfers

The District is preparing for potential one-year water transfers over a five-year period from 2026 through 2030. The transfers may be for environmental enhancement or for one or more buyers with temporary unmet consumptive water demands. Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) would have the first right of refusal for the water transfers from BWD. If Valley Water chooses to not take the water transfers, the District could transfer to any potential buyer in the State including, but not limited to, those in Sacramento County.

A water transfer temporarily moves water from a willing seller (BWD) to an environmental purpose or willing buyer. To make new water available, the seller must take an action to reduce consumptive use, use a substitute water supply such as groundwater, or use water in storage. Additionally, water transfers must comply with all applicable State and federal law. Moreover, under the 1969 Diversion of Water Agreement with the State of California, BWD's water entitlement is subject to a drought reduction under certain circumstances related to dry hydrologic conditions. If BWD's entitlement is curtailed 50 percent for an irrigation season, pursuant to the 1969 Agreement, BWD has not historically participated in a land idling transfer. However, in the event of a lesser reduction, the District may still participate in a land idling transfer. BWD may participate in a groundwater substitution transfer for its lands located in Sutter County under any drought reduction scenario.

This EIR analyzes water transfers as if the full amount would be transferred every year during the five-year transfer period; however, transfers may be less frequent and smaller in volume over this period. Annual approval of transfers is required by BWD, the end user, and DWR, regardless of the EIR term or the duration of a water transfer contract.

Water Transfer Availability

The water transfers would include short-term transfers of up to 24,000 AF in any year. This includes up to 14,000 AF from crop idling transfers and up to 10,000 AF from groundwater substitution transfers. These volumes may increase if BWD develops additional groundwater substitution capacity during the five-year period of analysis. Water made available by crop idling and/or groundwater substitution within the boundaries of the District would be retained and stored by the DWR at Lake Oroville for delivery to Valley Water (or a different buyer if Valley Water refuses, as further discussed below), pending approval from DWR.

The Project area, from which the water for the potential transfers would be made available, is defined by the District boundaries, which encompass approximately 32,505 acres in the northern Sacramento Valley in both Butte and Sutter Counties. Land idled for the purpose of the potential transfers would primarily be drawn from the rice acreage within the District. However, those crops suitable for idling as laid out in Table 2-1 of DWR's DRAFT Technical Information for Preparing Water Transfer Proposals in 2019 within the District would also have the potential to be idled for the sake of transfers. Crop idling acreages for transfers would be to the exclusion of habitat of the Giant Garter Snake. Adjoining areas, other irrigated lands, drains, wetlands, and waterfowl habitat would not be affected, as those areas would receive their normal entitlement, and canals and drains would operate at normal operating capacity. Water would be available on the same pattern during the growing season as it would have been consumed had a crop been planted.

Water Transfer Type

Cropland idling water transfers make water available by reducing the consumptive use of surface water applied for irrigation. In a groundwater substitution program, groundwater is pumped and used for agricultural purposes in lieu of surface water supplies. The equivalent surface water supplies are then not diverted and are made available for transfer. Groundwater pumping, if applicable, would only occur within that portion of the District boundaries that lie within Sutter County and in a manner consistent with the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) developed under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and would only utilize BWD wells. The District's proposed water transfers would fully comply with DWR's DRAFT Technical Information for Preparing Water Transfer Proposals in 2019 where applicable regarding land idling and groundwater substitution transfers as well as monitoring and reporting for groundwater conditions before, during, and after the transfer period.

The quantity of transfer water made available through crop idling is currently calculated based on the pattern of Evapotranspiration Rate of Applied Water (ETAW). In the absence of technical information supporting an alternate method, the quantity of transfer water will continue to be calculated based on ETAW for any crop acreage idling. Consistent with the provisions contained in California Water Code Section 1018, potential participating landowners would be encouraged to cultivate or retain non-irrigated cover crops or natural vegetation into their cropland idling transfer to protect habitat value in the area to be idled.

For the groundwater substitution transfers, the Project would extract up to 10,000 AF of groundwater from BWD production wells. Two existing wells have approximate production capacities of 3,500 gallons per minute (GPM) and 4,000 GPM, respectively. BWD is also in the process of purchasing land for the future installation of a third production well that would also be used if completed within the five-year project duration, which would bring the total water available for transfer from groundwater substitutions to up to 10,000 AF. BWD also owns three groundwater monitoring wells and uses these wells, among others that are not owned by the District (such as those defined in transfer agreements and DWR's Water Transfer Information Management System, among others), to monitor groundwater levels in the vicinity of the production wells to ensure that no substantial depletion of groundwater supplies occurs as a result of groundwater production. The District has operated these wells in the past at similar production rates and, consistent with extensive monitoring and reporting for such past usage, BWD has not observed any substantial impacts on groundwater levels, groundwater supplies, or to third parties or other environmental resources.

Water Transfer Operations

No new construction or improvements by BWD, Valley Water or other potential buyers, or DWR would be necessary for the production and transfer of water resulting from the Project. However, the aforementioned third production well could be installed during the five-year Project duration and would likely be used for Project activities if completed. As mentioned above, BWD receives water from Oroville Reservoir under a Diversion Agreement with the State of California. Normal operations involve DWR releasing water from the Oroville Reservoir to the Thermalito Afterbay to be diverted by BWD. For water transfers, DWR reduces what it releases, and, as a result, BWD also reduces its water diversions. Water would be stored in the Oroville Reservoir if capacity is available and stored water follows DWR's applicable policies and regulations. Storing transfer water could not affect the ability of DWR to meet environmental commitments or water deliveries and would not be possible if flood releases were being made from the Oroville Reservoir as no capacity would be available. Water would become available for transfer on the same schedule that it would have been delivered to BWD. In most cases, this would involve water accruing in storage at the Oroville Reservoir in May and June before being conveyed downstream in July through September.

Santa Clara Valley Water District

It is anticipated that a key recipient of BWD's transfer supplies will be Valley Water, who has the first right of refusal of water transfers as a part of the Project. In the event that Valley Water does not elect to receive the transferred water, the District may pursue transfers to the environment or

other buyers where BWD can utilize existing water infrastructure to convey transfer water. If both Valley Water and direct conveyance route for the transfer water are not available, BWD may pursue a simultaneous water exchange to convey water to the environment or other buyers. BWD may also transfer water for environmental enhancement, such as for purposes like the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes program if it were to be adopted during the five-year period.

Valley Water has contracts for 100,000 AF per year (AFY) of SWP water and 152,500 AFY of CVP water. However, water availability and environmental conditions impact the actual amount of water delivered. As a result, Valley Water receives an average of approximately 170,000 AFY from the two sources combined. During periods of water shortage when contract allocations are low, Valley Water has historically participated in water transfers to secure supplemental water supplies. In addition, Valley Water's Anderson Reservoir is currently restricted to deadpool due to seismic concerns, which, in turn, takes away substantial drinking water resources for Santa Clara County. The Anderson Dam is presently undergoing a seismic retrofit, but the project is not anticipated to be completed until 2033. As such, Valley Water's dependence on water transfers is expected to be higher until project completion.

Since 1996, Valley Water has participated in a water banking and exchange program with the Semitropic Water Storage District located in Kern County. In wet years, Valley Water stores excess Delta-conveyed water in the Semitropic Groundwater Bank for later use, such as during dry years.

To meet current and future demands, Valley Water has also implemented a long-term water conservation program. With a target of saving 100,000 AFY by 2030, the long-term program offers a variety of incentives and rebates that achieve sustainable water savings. The program saved approximately 85,000 AF in 2024.

Project Location: The Project area, from which the water for the Project's proposed water transfer would be made available, is defined by the BWD boundaries, which is situated approximately 50 miles north of Sacramento and 85 miles south of Redding.

Draft Environmental Impact Report

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) is prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the proposed Butte Water District Temporary Transfer from 2026 to 2030 Project (Project). This document is prepared in conformance with CEQA (California Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15000, et seq.).

The purpose of this DEIR is to inform decision-makers, representatives of affected or responsible agencies, the public, and other interested parties of the potential environmental effects that may result from implementation of the Project. This DEIR describes potential impacts relating to a wide variety of environmental issues and along with methods by which these impacts can be mitigated or avoided.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts Identified

Analysis in the DEIR has identified potentially significant environmental impacts in the following areas: Biological Resources and Hydrology.

Known Hazardous Waste Sites

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15807(c)(6) and 65962.5 of the Government Code, a listing of contaminated sites within the Butte Water District – District Boundaries and the Project vicinity are available through the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Envirostor database. According to this listing, there are three hazardous waste sites listed within the vicinity of the Project, however, none of these sites are located near idling fields or the well site.

Availability of Documents for Review

Copies of the DEIR are available for review on the Butte Water District website at: <https://buttewaterdistrict.org/>

Hard copies of the DEIR are also located for review at the following locations:

Butte Water District
735 Virginia Street
Gridley, CA 95948
Phone: (530) 846-3100
Email: donnie@buttewater.net
Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Butte County Library – Gridley Branch
299 Spruce Street
Gridley, CA 95948
Please call or see website for more information on hours of operation:
<https://www.buttecounty.net/1663/Locations-Hours-and-Contacts>

To Submit Comments on the DEIR

The DEIR has a review period of 45 days, starting on **February 13, 2026**, and ending **March 30, 2026**. Any written comments on the DEIR should be sent to the attention of:

Donnie Stinnett, Butte Water District General Manager
Butte Water District
735 Virginia Street
Gridley, CA 95948
Phone: (530) 846-3100
Email: donnie@buttewater.net

Dawn E. Marple, Principal Planner, Environmental Project Manager
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
2561 California Park Drive, Suite 200
Chico, CA 95928
Phone: (559) 636-1166 ext.537
Email: dmarple@ppeng.com

If applicable, responses should include the name of a contact person at your agency or organization.

Tentative Public Hearing Dates

The DEIR is tentatively scheduled to be heard before the Butte Water District Board of Directors on Tuesday April 21, 2026, at a Special Board Meeting for certification of the EIR. The Butte Water District meetings are generally held at 10:00 a.m. on the scheduled date and take place at the following address:

Butte Water District
735 Virginia Street
Gridley, CA 95948

Please take notice that pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 21177, Government Code Section 65009, and other applicable law if you challenge the proposed action described above in court, then you may be limited to raising only those issues or objections you or someone else raised during the public comment period or the public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to Butte Water District within the review period, or during the public hearings.

Help Orchard Hospital Name Their New Facility

By MPG Staff

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Gridley residents and those in surrounding communities are invited to help name a new youth psychiatric facility under construction at Orchard Hospital.

The hospital broke ground Aug. 11, 2025, on the Psychiatric Health Facility for Youth, which is scheduled to open in late 2026. The facility will be located behind Orchard Hospital and is expected to serve patients throughout Butte County and neighboring areas.

As part of the project, community members may submit naming suggestions



Site work is underway for Orchard Hospital's new youth psychiatric health facility, a project expected to expand behavioral health services in Butte County. Photo by Mickey Mrakuzic

through an online survey at tinyurl.com/OrchardPHF.

Hospital leaders described the facility as a

significant addition to local behavioral health services for youth in Gridley and the surrounding region. ★

News Briefs

Cancer Prevention Month

February is National Cancer Prevention Month, and Orchard Hospital is reminding residents that many cancers can be detected early through routine screenings. Hospital clinics encourage patients to take a proactive approach to their health by scheduling recommended screenings and focusing on preventive care.

Fish and Game Commissioner Reappointed

The Butte County Fish and Game Commission advises the Board of Supervisors on matters related to fish and wildlife within the county. The commission includes five members, each representing a Supervisorial District and serving a term aligned with the appointing

supervisor. Supervisor Kimmelshue nominated Kory Hamman for reappointment to the commission for a term ending Jan. 1, 2029. The Butte County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the reappointment at its Jan. 27 meeting.

Butte County Photo Contest

Butte County is thrilled to announce the 2026 Photo Contest. Butte County invites the community to share photos that capture the beauty and unique spirit of Butte County! Selected photos will be featured on their website and on the foyer of the Butte County Administration building. Photos must be submitted by March 7. Visit <https://www.buttecounty.net/2211/Butte-County-Photo-Contest> for details. ★

Mother Pleads Guilty in Child Abduction Case

By MPG Staff

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - An Oregon woman has pleaded guilty in Butte County Superior Court to a felony charge of child abduction stemming from a May 2025 incident involving her two sons, according to the Butte County District Attorney's Office.

Erin Rae, 43, of Klamath Falls, Oregon, entered the plea Feb. 4 for her role in an abduction that removed the children from their father, who had legal custody and lived in Chico. Prosecutors said Rae acted with the assistance of an accomplice.

Rae's alleged accomplice, Jeanette Turner, 48, of Antioch, is scheduled to proceed to trial March 16, 2026.

"As a result of her plea, Erin Rae faces up to four years in county jail," said Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey. Sentencing is scheduled for March 4.

Rae has been held in the Butte County Jail without bail since her arrest in June 2025. Her attorney has requested a bail hearing set for Feb. 18, seeking her release on bail or her own recognizance prior to sentencing. Ramsey said similar requests have been made and denied throughout the case due to concerns Rae continues to pose a risk of abducting the children.

The case originates from a contested custody dispute between Rae and her former husband that began in 2020 when both lived in Chico. Rae later moved to Oregon and retained primary custody of the boys, while the father was granted court-ordered visitation during years of family court proceedings.

In March 2025, a Butte County family law judge transferred custody to the father after finding Rae had willfully violated visitation orders and had coached the children to make allegations that their father had harmed them. The judge ruled the custody change was in the best interests of the children and ordered Rae to surrender the boys at the Chico Police Department later that month.

Rae failed to comply with the order and contacted Chico police investigators to inform them she would not turn over the children. ★

In April, the family law judge ordered the District Attorney's Office to locate and take custody of the children under California parental abduction statutes. Ramsey said investigators attempted to negotiate the children's return, but those efforts failed, prompting the issuance of an arrest warrant for Rae and a protective custody warrant for the boys.

On May 27, 2025, district attorney investigators traveled to Oregon and, with assistance from Klamath Falls police, stopped Rae as she attempted to leave her residence in a vehicle with the children inside. Investigators had arranged for the children's father to text Rae, prompting her to flee, according to the district attorney's office.

Rae was taken into custody on the California warrant, and the children were placed in protective custody and returned to their father, who transported them to Chico. Rae later posted a \$25,000 bond and was released from the Klamath County Jail.

Two days later, on May 29, the boys left their father's Chico home through a bedroom window and went to a nearby apartment complex. Prosecutors said the children convinced a teenager resident to allow them to call Turner at a number the older child had been instructed by Rae to memorize.

Authorities said Turner picked up the children early May 30 and transported them through Antioch in a borrowed motorhome bound for Oregon. Later that day, following a missing and at-risk juvenile alert and a multi-agency search, investigators located the motorhome at a Costco parking lot in the Sacramento area. The children were found safe, and Turner was arrested.

Ramsey said a later forensic interview revealed Rae had told the children their father would kill them if he retained custody and instructed them to run away and contact Turner if given the opportunity.

Rae and Turner were formally charged with child abduction for their actions on May 29 and 30. Rae was also charged with interfering with the lawful custody rights of her former husband. Remaining charges against Rae will be resolved at sentencing. ★

LEGAL ADVERTISING

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The Gridley Herald Adjudicated For and By the County of Butte, Gridley, CA 95948
Adjudication No. 27207 - October 29, 1951

300 Spruce • Suite C

SUMMONS

decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion.

Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario

de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extensos por imponer un gravamen

sobre cualquier recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es): County of Butte - Butte County Superior Court, 1 Court Street, Oroville, CA 95965

The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Jonathan C. Cahill; Brandon J. Mika, Klinedinst PC, 801 K Street, Suite 2100, Sacramento, CA 95814. Date: (Fecha) April 14, 2023 Clerk (Secretario) V Strang, Deputy (Adjunto) January February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026 ROCKY 2-27-26

Gridley Unified School District FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gridley Unified School District announces its policy for serving meals to students under the National School Lunch / School Breakfast Programs for the 2025-2026 school year. All students will be served lunch and breakfast at no charge at the following sites:

- Mckinley Primary School
- Wilson Elementary School
- Sycamore Middle School
- Esperanza High School
- Gridley High School

For additional information please contact:

Michelle Diaz , Director of Child Nutrition
Gridley Unified School District
429 Magnolia St. Gridley Ca. 95948

530-846-4172 michellediaz@gusd.org In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the state or local agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form.

To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410 Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: 202-690-7442
- (3) E-mail: program.intake@usda.gov
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CITY OF GRIDLEY – PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Gridley is conducting a 45-day public review of proposed updates to its City Design and Construction Standards and Standard Details, governing streets, utilities, drainage, traffic control, and related public improvements.

The public review period begins **February 2, 2026**, and closes at **5:00 p.m. on March 20, 2026**. The proposed standards are available for review on the City website and at the City of Gridley Public Works Department during normal business hours.

All comments must be submitted by email to dharden@ben-en.com and Lhoward@ben-en.com no later than **March 20, 2026**. Comments received after the close of the review period will not be incorporated into the final standards presented to the City Council in May 2026.

The Gridley Herald 2-13-2026

BUTTE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION – NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Butte County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on February 26, 2026, at 9:00 am, in the Butte County Board of Supervisors' chambers, County Administration Center, 25 County Center Drive, Oroville. Public comments will be accepted in person at the meeting or may be submitted prior to the meeting. Use the following information to view or listen to the meeting remotely.

Link: <https://bccdds.net/DSPlanningCommission>

Event (Meeting) Number: 2551 241 4691 or

Phone number: 1-408-418-9388 Event Password: Planning (Phone: 75266464)

Project Information

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

Location: The project site is located at 1225 Richins Avenue, on the northwest corner of the Richins Ave. and W. Liberty Rd. intersection, Gridley, CA approximately 1,589 feet south of City of Gridley. APN 021-260-052. The site would be accessed from W. Liberty Rd. via new driveway.

Project Description: Applicant The Towers, LLC, proposes to construct a new 100-foot wireless tele-communications facility with a 5-foot lightning rod, three (3) three-foot, three (3) four-foot and three (3) six-foot panel antennas, three (3) remote radio units, four (4) overvoltage protection boxes, one (1) four-foot microwave antenna, one (1) GPS antenna, with cabling and jumpers. The monopole and related ground equipment would be enclosed behind a 6-foot chain link fenced in 50x50 square foot lease area. A 50'x20'wide access easement with a 50'x52" concrete pad is also proposed.

Butte County recommends a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project pursuant to CEQA. The Initial Study and MND (SCH: 2026010359) is still available for public review and comment until 4pm February 15, 2026.

For information or to submit comments, please contact Assistant Planner Alyssa Mendoza, Butte County Department of Development Services, 7 County Center Drive, Oroville, CA 95965. Phone: 530.552.3633 or email: amendoza@buttecounty.net.

BUTTE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

PAULA M. DANELUK, AICP, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Gridley Herald 2-13-2026

Gridley Honors Fallen Service Members

Continued from page 1

the combined efforts of the local American Legion, its Ladies Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Riders. He opened Saturday's dedication and thanked the community for supporting the Legion's effort to ensure those who made the ultimate sacrifice are remembered and that their stories remain part of the community's history.

Two large plaques mounted directly below McCutcheon's photograph carry the names of 47 Gridley-area service members killed in the line of duty from World War I to the Vietnam War. One of those names is Pvt. First Class Joseph Lewis Jr. of Gridley, a Marine who went missing in combat during the fighting at the Nevada Cities Complex in Korea on March 26, 1953. Lewis, missing in action and presumed dead, was not identified among remains recovered after the ceasefire. He is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and on the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

Also listed on the Wall of Honor is Lance Cpl. Stephen Bayles of Biggs, who enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1968 and arrived in Vietnam the following spring. On Nov. 10, 1969, while his unit was conducting search and clear operations in Quang Nam Province, a Marine tripped a wire attached to a booby-trapped M79 grenade. Two men were wounded and Bayles was killed in the explosion.

Across the room from the Wall of Honor is a new plaque recognizing



American Legion Post 210 member Joshua Stiefe presents Jill LaMalfa the plaque that now hangs in Veterans Memorial Hall in Gridley to honor her husband, the late U.S. Representative Doug LaMalfa, who died in office on Jan. 6. Photo by Susan Meeker

U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa, who died in office last month. The plaque was presented to his wife, Jill, at Saturday's dedication before being hung in a place of honor. A photograph selected by the LaMalfa family will be added later. The tribute carries added significance in Gridley, where LaMalfa is laid to rest.

"Doug was a person of the community and a man of the community," Whiteside said. "We appreciate everything he has done, and we are sad to see him go. But I also know he's in a better place."

While not a large public gathering, post members, the Ladies Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion, the Legion Riders and members of the community attended Saturday's dedication, many with long ties to the organization.

Among them was Auxiliary member Jenn Cavanaugh of Biggs, who joined last fall following the death of her

father, Norris Anderson, who remained active in the post throughout his life. Anderson enlisted in the Air Force in 1967 and served two tours in Vietnam and a third in Korea.

"Dad met me when I was three months old," Cavanaugh said, recalling how ham radio operators relayed news of her birth across the Pacific.

Stiefel, a U.S. Navy veteran, said Post 210 and its affiliated groups remain active in the community, hosting weekly bingo, the annual Warren McCutcheon Poker Run, Christmas toy drives and the annual Memorial Day ceremony at the Gridley-Biggs Cemetery.

As the post continues its work, members said additional names for the Wall of Honor may still be uncovered, and they encourage families to come forward so every fallen service member from the Gridley area can be properly remembered. ★

From Small Town to YouTube Stage

Continued from page 1

evening. While driving, he heard Reba McEntire's song "Fancy," sung by Kelly Clarkson. The song struck him emotionally and stirred strong sentimental feelings.

"I literally went home that night, set up my camera, set up my light and just recorded myself watching that video, uploaded it to YouTube and then it just blew up," Fischer said.

Fischer said he knew at that moment he wanted to focus on filming reactions to music videos as his niche.

Fischer officially started his YouTube channel, Fischtank Productions, in January 2022. Since then, he has moved from a modest setup in his home garage to a full studio in Gridley and has recorded thousands of videos.

Fischer currently boasts about 176,000 followers on the video-sharing site with Fischtank Productions. His reaction videos deconstruct songs from popular and up-and-coming artists, sharing his thoughts, impressions and emotional experiences while engaging with followers online.

Fischer's success has caught the attention of artists he has reacted to, including Kelly Clarkson, Bayker Blankenship and Zach Bryan.

After filming multiple reactions to Kelly Clarkson videos and posting his content to YouTube, Fischer was contacted by Clarkson's music director and invited to appear on her show. Fischer performed Soundgarden's "Black Hole Sun" on "The Kelly Clarkson Show" just 10 months after starting Fischtank Productions.

A few years later, Fischer



Fischer jams a bit on an acoustic guitar in his studio, keeping his creativity flowing and his talents fresh. "Each one has a unique sound," says Fischer of the guitars.

reacted to Zach Bryan's song "Something in the Orange."

"That song wrecked me," Fischer said. "It is a powerful song."

After uploading the reaction, Fischer said he received thousands of likes. "I think I got 10,000 subscribers overnight," Fischer said. "Just giving me recommendations for more reactions."

After seeing his reactions on Fischtank Productions, Fischer was invited to perform onstage with Zach Bryan, this time at a concert in Las Vegas. Fischer played an impromptu guitar solo for about 30,000 people at Bryan's suggestion.

"It's hard to fathom, but I'm an entertainer," Fischer said when asked if he was nervous about performing for such a large audience. "I just went for it, and it all worked out."

As Fischtank Productions has expanded, Fischer has branched out and begun recording live music sessions with artists, some established and others emerging.

"When I got my studio, I wanted to do another YouTube channel where I showcased live music," Fischer said. "I started out

doing local talent, which I still do, because I want to help local talent have a platform."

Fischer has featured local musicians such as Deryk Von Bissel and McKenna Swanson, as well as larger-name acts such as the band Ole 60, on Fischtank Sessions. Fischer happened to catch an organic jam session one evening, recording Ole 60 as they covered Pink Floyd's "Wish You Were Here" in the Fischtank studio. The video currently has about 1.2 million views.

Fischer's laid-back style, friendly nature and passion for music help him move easily between the amateur and professional music worlds. At the heart of his work, he strives to encourage and mentor artists as they find their voice.

The responses he has received from the public and other YouTubers have reinforced his determination.

"I am doing what I should be doing," Fischer said. "The impact that I'm having on other people's lives is what drives me to keep going."

Fischtank Productions and Fischtank Sessions can be found on YouTube. ★

Crime Briefs

Lockdown Lifted After Report at Las Plumas High

A brief lockdown at Las Plumas High School on Feb. 6 was lifted after deputies found no firearm on campus, according to the Butte County Sheriff's Office. At about 1:51 p.m., a school staff member reported receiving information that a student may have been on campus with a firearm. The school placed the campus on lockdown while deputies responded. Deputies searched the campus and conducted an investigation. Authorities determined a physical altercation between students occurred earlier in the day and that a firearm was mentioned during the incident. Investigators said no weapon was seen by any witnesses. The lockdown was lifted and students were released. Deputies continue to investigate the allegation. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Butte County Sheriff's Office at 530-538-7322.

Magalia Traffic Stop Leads to Drug Arrest

A Magalia traffic stop late Feb. 2 led to the arrest of a Paradise man on drug-related charges, according to the Butte County Sheriff's Office. A sheriff's deputy stopped a white Chevrolet Corvette near Rosewood Drive and Skyway at about 11:40 p.m. for a vehicle code violation. The driver was identified as Shane Gibson, 57, of Paradise. A Paradise Police Department K-9 unit responded and conducted a free air sniff around the vehicle. The dog alerted to the presence of narcotics, deputies said. During a search, deputies found a backpack containing about 16.57 grams of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. Gibson was arrested and transported to the Butte County Jail. He was booked on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Authorities added a felony drug charge under Proposition 36 due to Gibson's prior drug-related convictions.

Felony Warrant Leads to Firearm Arrest in Bangor

Deputies with the Butte County Sheriff's Office arrested a Bangor man Feb. 2 after responding to a call for service at a residence in the 1500 block of Swedes Flat Road. Deputies contacted Robert Vanderploeg, 52, who authorities said had a confirmed felony arrest warrant and was on probation. During the arrest and a related probation search, deputies located

a rifle, ammunition and drug paraphernalia. Investigators said evidence indicated the firearm and ammunition were possessed by Vanderploeg. Vanderploeg was arrested for being a prohibited person in possession of a firearm and ammunition, as well as on the outstanding felony warrant. He was booked into the Butte County Jail.

Traffic Stop in Magalia Leads to Felony Drug Arrest

A late night traffic stop in Magalia on Jan. 31 led to the arrest of a Chico woman on drug related charges, according to the Butte County Sheriff's Office. At about 10:24 p.m., a sheriff's deputy stopped a Volkswagen traveling northbound near the intersection of Skyway and Steiffer Road for a vehicle code violation. The driver was identified as Sheri Crippen, 46, of Chico. The deputy determined Crippen was driving with a suspended license. During the investigation, the deputy located a glass pipe containing methamphetamine inside the vehicle. Crippen was arrested and booked into the Butte County Jail on charges of possession of a controlled substance and driving with a suspended license. Sheriff's officials said a felony drug charge was added to the booking due to enhanced penalties under Proposition 36 for individuals with two or more prior drug related convictions.

Magalia Theft Investigation Leads to Arrest

A theft investigation in Magalia led to the arrest of a Grass Valley man on multiple charges, according to the Butte County Sheriff's Office. Deputies began investigating a reported theft and unauthorized use of a debit card Jan. 31. Investigators said evidence identified Jeremiah Vega, 30, as the suspect who allegedly used the victim's debit card to withdraw funds without permission. During the investigation, deputies determined Vega had an active felony warrant and an active misdemeanor warrant. Deputies later contacted Vega and took him into custody. A search incident to the arrest resulted in the discovery of methamphetamine on Vega's person, authorities said. Vega was booked into the Butte County Jail on charges of theft by use of an access card, possession of a controlled substance and the outstanding felony and misdemeanor warrants. A felony drug charge was added under Proposition 36 due to prior drug-related convictions. ★

Free Tax Help Available Through United Way



The program offers both virtual and in person assistance in multiple languages at locations throughout the region. Photo courtesy of Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Residents in Colusa, Sutter and Yuba counties can file their taxes for free through a regional partnership between Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way and United Way California Capital Region.

United Way's Free Tax Prep program runs through April 15 and is available to households that earned less than \$68,000 in 2025. Trained volunteers assist filers in claiming available state and federal credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit and CalEITC.

The program offers both virtual and in person assistance in multiple languages at locations throughout the region.

United Way officials said participants save an average of \$200 in tax preparation fees.

"For many working families, every dollar matters," said Tara Art, executive director of Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way. "This program helps people keep more of what they earn and avoid costly preparation fees while accessing critical tax credits."

United Way encourages residents to file as early as possible to receive refunds and credits sooner.

Residents in Colusa, Sutter and Yuba counties can call 844-546-1464 for assistance or visit www.YourFreeTaxPrep.org.

Since 2020, the Free Tax Prep program has helped more than 28,000 people across the region

file their taxes at no cost, resulting in nearly \$40 million in federal refunds, according to United Way.

The program also relies on volunteer tax preparers. United Way officials said additional volunteers are needed to support online and in person services during the tax season.

"At United Way, we believe every family deserves financial stability," said Dawnté Early, president and CEO of United Way California Capital Region. "This program helps remove barriers so families can build a stronger foundation for the future."

Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way focuses on improving access to education, health and financial stability throughout the region. ★

Gridley Pulls Away in Second Half for Win Against Corning



Gridley junior Ashleigh Sharrock (22) shoots a jumper on Feb. 3 in the Bulldogs win over Live Oak. Photo by Chris Pedigo

By YSBC

GRIDLEY, CA (YSBC) - The Gridley Bulldogs girls' basketball team stayed above .500 in Westside League play as they defeated the Corning Cardinals 43-32 on Tuesday, Feb. 3.

Gridley came out of the opening tip with a strong-first quarter performance and led 16-4 after the opening quarter.

Corning stormed back in the second quarter and cut the Bulldogs early-decisive lead to two at the half.

After strong second half efforts from Gridley's sophomore Iris Counihan and senior Aubree Weber, who combined for 15 of the Bulldogs' 25 second-half points, Gridley held on for the double-digit victory.

Bulldogs head coach Becca McCray told Yuba Sutter Butte Colusa Sports that Gridley kept their composure and when they got the lead in the second half, they held onto it.

McCray added that the young Bulldogs roster has made significant strides since the beginning of the season and have done a great job as a team.

Counihan and Weber combined for 20 points in the Gridley win.

McCray told YSBC the goal for their final three games of the season is to come in on a daily basis and give it their best effort on the floor together.

She added that with their final games of the regular season, she wants to see her team play consistently.

The Bulldogs beat Live Oak 57-36 on Feb. 6. Gridley traveled on the road twice this week to Orland and Orland to close out the regular season.

Playoff brackets will be announced this weekend and playoffs begin next week.

For more updated sports coverage on all local sports, subscribe to ysbcsports.com ★

Wolverines Sweep Tigers in Homecoming Marathon

By YSBC

BIGGS, CA (YSBC) - The Biggs Wolverines boys and girls basketball programs' swept the Portola Tigers on Friday, Feb. 6 and continued their dominant reign as both teams led the Mid-Valley League standings heading into the final week of league play.

Girls

Biggs 48, Portola 34 - The Biggs girls' team led 21-16 at the half and broke the game open after the end of the third quarter.

The Wolverines opened the third with a 9-0 run over the first-four minutes of the third that helped propel to the double-digit victory.

Biggs kept up the consistency in the fourth quarter as the Lady Tigers couldn't find a rhythm to get back in the game.

The Lady Wolverines had a tough schedule to close out the regular season as they hosted Maxwell on Tuesday and traveled to Williams on Thursday.

The Northern Section will host their playoff seeding meeting after the conclusion of all regular season games this upcoming weekend.

Boys

Biggs 80, Portola 77 - Biggs jumped out to a comfortable double-digit lead in the first quarter and looked like they were going to roll through homecoming with a comfortable victory, but Portola didn't roll over.

The Wolverines led 21-12 after the first.

The Tigers opened up with a 7-2 run in the second quarter and both teams traded baskets back-and-forth for the remainder of



Biggs senior Hunter Seipert (4) gets to the basket on Feb. 6 during the Wolverines' victory against Portola. Photo by Chris Pedigo

the opening half where Biggs led 38-34.

Portola took their first lead of the game at 43-42 with three and a half minutes left in the third and they built a small bit of separation.

Wolverines senior Skyler Long was a ménage for the Tigers as Long forced his way to the free-throw line seven times in the third and 11 overall in the second half.

Portola junior guard

Jesus Silva hit two three-point shots in the third and he let the home crowd know the Tigers were going to fight for the battle of the cats.

Portola led 58-53 at the end of the third.

The Tigers led by 10 half way through the fourth and Silva added three more triples, but Biggs as a collective unit from Long, fellow seniors Hunter Seipert and Ryan Flowers cut the deficit to two possessions inside three minutes to go in the game.

The Wolverines took a late lead with 10 seconds remaining after Flowers pulled down an offensive rebound and put it back in the basket.

Portola attempted to take the lead but Flowers denied them on the ensuing possession and was fouled on the defensive end and hit two clutch free throws with three seconds left in the game.

Tigers senior Edward Caballero heaved a half-court shot to tie the game, but the shot was off and Biggs escaped with a close win.

Wolverines head coach Roscoe Deel let out a big sigh of relief and expressed to Yuba Sutter Butte Colusa Sports that he was happy his team pulled through with the victory, but this was how all league games have consistently been.

"We have been in close games through the entire season and I have full trust in my guys," Deel said.

Biggs clinched a share of the Mid-Valley League title with the win against Portola.

For more updated sports coverage on all local schools, subscribe to ysbcsports.com ★



Biggs senior Destinee Hairston (11) lays the ball in during the Wolverines' victory against Portola on Feb. 6. Photo by Chris Pedigo



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