

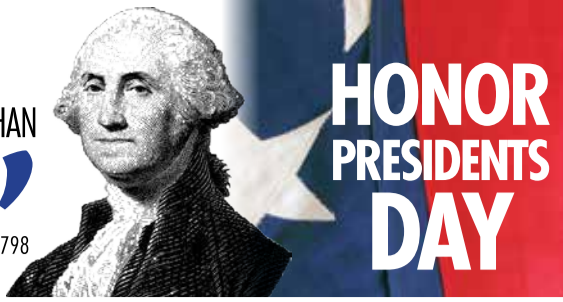


Optimism Marks 2026 Colusa Farm Show

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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



TERRITORIAL DISPATCH

VOLUME 43 • ISSUE 7

Serving Yuba, Sutter, Butte and Nevada Counties

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Linda Lions Host Student Speakers



Linda Lions Club President Randy Davis stands with student competitors during the club's annual Student Speakers Contest on Feb. 3 at Habitat for Humanity Prosperity Village. All participants received \$25, and this year's winner earned a \$100 prize. Photo by Shamaya Sutton

By Shamaya Sutton

LINDA, CA (MPG) - The Linda Lions Club hosted its first Student Speakers Contest of the year Feb. 3 in the community room at Habitat for Humanity Prosperity Village. This year's contest focused on mental health and the challenges young people face in overcoming barriers to well-being. Five local high school students delivered speeches addressing topics that included social media pressure, the impact of constant comparison,

the pace of modern life and the stigma that can prevent individuals from seeking help. Local judges evaluated the speeches based on content, delivery and overall effectiveness. Judges said the decision was difficult, noting the students' strong presentation skills and the maturity of their messages. Lisette Perez was named the contest winner and received a \$100 cash prize. Perez also won last year's local competition and advanced to the fourth round.

"This was the first round of the competition," said Randy Davis, president of the Linda Lions Club. "The second round has not been scheduled yet, but we expect it to be at the Loma Rica-Foothill Lions Club sometime in March." The California Lions Student Speaker Contest is an annual statewide program open to students in grades nine through 12. Participants deliver a five- to 10-minute speech on a topic selected each year, with more than \$100,000 in scholarships awarded statewide.

The contest advances through six levels, beginning at the local club and moving through zone, region, district, area and state finals. Scholarship amounts increase at each stage, with the state champion receiving the top award. Students must present their speeches in English and follow contest guidelines, including time limits and restrictions on props or extensive notes. Students interested in participating may contact their local Lions Club for information. ★

Public Input Sought on Sutter County Hazards

By Shamaya Sutton

YUBA CITY, CA (MPG) - Sutter County's Office of Emergency Management held its first community meeting Feb. 4 as part of a countywide update to its Hazard Mitigation Plan, drawing more than a dozen participants both in person and online.

Attendees included representatives from the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau, Red Cross, Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health, Yuba-Sutter Transit, the Sutter County Sheriff's Office, SAYLove and T-Mobile, among others.

The five-year update process aims to identify and address hazards that could threaten the county and to ensure the community remains eligible for federal mitigation funding and support. Local hazard mitigation plans are designed to reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural and human-caused hazards. Communities must regularly revisit these plans to account for changing risks and priorities.

"We're really looking at your community and trying to figure out what's going to impact your community as a whole," said Casey Garnett, project manager with Innovative Emergency Management. "I know you guys know where the problems are. My team is new here, and we want to hear what everyone knows is a problem that needs to be included in the plan."

The update process is expected to take approximately 11 months. The meeting lasted nearly two hours and included two surveys designed to gauge participants' perceptions of hazard risks and priorities. About 28 surveys were completed during the session.

"My biggest concern is not having adequate response mechanisms in place to assist with the relocation of individuals experiencing homelessness throughout our region," said Rick Millhollin, director of Hands of Hope. "Also, effectively locating and assisting at-risk seniors in personal housing units."

Flooding, levee and dam failure, wildfire, severe weather and gridlock during evacuations were among the hazards most frequently raised by attendees. Several of those concerns, along with hazardous materials, were added to the community surveys for further evaluation.

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Marysville Honors 175 Years of History



Marysville city officials and community leaders stand on stage during the city's 175th anniversary celebration Thursday, Feb. 5, at the Marysville Elks Lodge. The event featured historical remarks, recognition of longtime local businesses and proclamations honoring the milestone from regional government agencies. Photo by Chris Pedigo

By Shamaya Sutton

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Marysville Elks Lodge was filled Thursday, Feb. 5, as residents gathered to celebrate the city's 175th anniversary. The evening featured a historical presentation by Chuck Smith that highlighted key moments and figures

that helped shape Marysville's early development. Guests also viewed displays recognizing influential individuals from the city's past, including early business owners, civic leaders and longtime advocates for incorporation. The celebration included special recognition of 22 local businesses

and organizations that have operated in Marysville for at least 100 years, honoring their lasting role in the community. The event concluded with the Marysville City Council receiving proclamations commemorating the milestone from the Yuba County

Continued on page 2

Yuba, Sutter Poetry Out Loud Winners Named



Sutter County Poetry Out Loud winners pose following the county competition Jan. 31 at the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts. From left are first-place winner Angeleek Viola of River Valley High School, second-place finisher Efrain Ibarra Maldonado of River Valley High School and third-place winner Sissy Lutrell of Sutter Union High School. Photo courtesy Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture

By MPG Staff

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - High school students from Yuba and Sutter counties were named county champions Saturday, Jan. 31, during the 2026 Poetry Out Loud competitions held at the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts.

The annual recitation contest, hosted by Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture, drew student finalists from schools across both counties. Winners were selected based on performance criteria that included voice and articulation, physical presence, dramatic appropriateness, accuracy and overall understanding of the poem.

In Sutter County, Angeleek Viola of River Valley High School placed first, followed by Efrain Ibarra Maldonado of River Valley High School in second and Sissy Lutrell of Sutter Union High School in third. Viola recited "Dirge Without Music" by Edna St. Vincent Millay.

In Yuba County, Isaiah LaMarca of Marysville Charter Academy for the Arts earned first place. Taylor Blankenship and

Lisette Perez, also of Marysville Charter Academy for the Arts, placed second and third. LaMarca performed "Trees" by Joyce Kilmer.

All finalists received cash prizes. The two county champions will also receive travel stipends to attend the California Poetry Out Loud state finals, scheduled for March 8 and 9 in Sacramento.

Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages students to study classic and contemporary poetry through memorization and performance. Students select works from an online anthology of nearly 1,000 poems.

The program was launched in 2005 by the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Poetry Foundation and has grown to serve more than 3 million students nationwide.

Winners at the state level advance to the national competition in Washington, D.C., scheduled for April 27 through 29.

For more information about Poetry Out Loud or other programs, contact Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture at 530-742-ARTS. ★



Yuba County Poetry Out Loud winners are recognized following the county competition Jan. 31 at the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts. From left are second-place finisher Tyler Blankenship, third-place winner Lisette Perez and first-place champion Isaiah LaMarca, all of Marysville Charter Academy for the Arts. Photo courtesy Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture

Downtown Bookshop Revives Letter Writing



Jenni poses next a painting with a quote from one of her favorite authors. Jenni Heslop, owner of the Tiny Bookshop in downtown Marysville, stands beneath a Sylvia Plath quote displayed inside her "Letters not Likes" creative writing space on Jan. 25.

Story and photos by Shamaya Sutton

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - "To think that a thought six months ago would become my whole world," Jenni Heslop wrote on a Post-it note during a free creative writing session Jan. 25 at her Tiny Bookshop in downtown Marysville. Nearly every weekend, Heslop hosts small creative writing workshops called "Letters Not Likes," offering prompts and materials in a relaxed, community setting.

"Rather than like posts on Facebook, I encourage people to write a letter to someone. That is pretty much how I got the name," Heslop said. "When people talk about letters they have received from family members or friends, they talk about the memories attached to them. They still have those letters 20 years later. I do not think the same can be said for likes on Facebook."

The cozy space began last summer as a temporary three month pop up during a slow period at work. It has since grown into a mixed retail and creative community space. By November 2025, the Tiny Bookshop was added, featuring books

across a range of genres and topics.

"It has been overwhelmingly positive, the response I am getting," Heslop said. "My intention was not to make a lot of money. It was to provide something for the community, a space I would want to spend time in myself."

Heslop drew inspiration from Portland, Oregon, where she lived for 20 years, before returning to the Yuba Sutter area. She works weekdays at Beale Air Force Base, which limits shop hours primarily to weekends. Beginning in May, hours will expand to include Fridays through August.

On average, 10 to 15 people attend the workshops each weekend, held from noon to 2 p.m. Heslop has intentionally kept the groups small. Popular features include a "blind date with a book" display, a free poem jar and an outdoor community journal for passersby.

"I always love running out to see what people have written," Heslop said.

The Tiny Bookshop is located at 325 D St. in Marysville. Hours are generally 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and most Sundays. More information is available by searching "Letters Not Likes" on Instagram. ★



A young visitor browses shelves inside Marysville's new Tiny Bookshop on Jan. 25.

Yuba-Sutter Winter Pow Wow

Lots of FUN dances!

& Student Workshop

February 21, 2026

11 AM to 6 PM

Marysville Youth Center dba Tri Counties Community Center 1830 B Street, Marysville, CA

MC: Val Shadowhawk

Arena Director: Eugene Newman

Host Northern Drum: Northern Eagle

Host Southern Drum: SoEx Styles

Head Teen Boy: Tank Young

Head Teen Girl: Gisselle Duran

Head Boy: Nahui Medina

Head Girl: Annalicia Olvera

Open Gourd @ 11 am

Grand Entry @ Noon

Craft Vendors

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Public Welcome
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This Pow Wow does not support the recreational use of Tobacco!
No smoking, drugs or alcohol!

Marysville Honors 175 Years of History



Attendees look through historic newspapers and archival materials during Marysville's 175th anniversary celebration Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Marysville Banquet Hall. The weekend event featured presentations and displays highlighting the city's long history. Photo by Shamaya Sutton

Continued from page 1
Board of Supervisors, the Sutter County Board of Supervisors and the Yuba City City Council.

Guests enjoyed refreshments and cake to close out the festivities. Select attendees also received a commemorative challenge

coin engraved with "175 years" and the phrase, "Honoring history, building for the future."

Additional celebrations were held Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Marysville Banquet Hall. Community members gathered for historic presentations, gold panning

activities and guided tours of local museums and other historic sites throughout the city.

Several historical panels displayed during the anniversary events are now available for public viewing in the lobby of Marysville City Hall. ★

Yuba-Sutter Winter Pow Wow Set for Feb. 21



Dancers wearing traditional regalia pose during a past pow wow event. The Yuba-Sutter Winter Pow Wow will be held Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Marysville Youth Center. Photo courtesy of Pat Bennett

By MPG Staff

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Yuba-Sutter Winter Pow Wow will take place Saturday, Feb. 21, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Marysville Youth Center, also known as the Tri Counties Community Center, 1830 B St. The event is free and open to the public.

Organizers describe the pow wow as a cultural gathering rooted in Native tradition that brings together dancers, singers, families and community members from across the region. While pow wows are often viewed by spectators as entertainment, organizers emphasize that the gathering carries cultural and spiritual meaning.

"The contemporary pow wow is a link to the past that helps maintain Native heritage," said Pat Bennett, one of the event organizers. "It is a time of sharing, of learning and of caring, and a time when Indian people reflect on their traditions."

The term "pow wow" is commonly traced to the Algonquin word "Pau Wau," which originally referred to spiritual leaders and healers. Over time, the word came to describe the gathering itself as tribes adopted the term while preserving their own customs and ceremonies.

"As Indian tribes learned English, they accepted this definition," Bennett said. "The renewal of traditions and reinforcement of heritage is the important thing."

The day's schedule begins with an open gourd dance at 11 a.m., followed by grand entry at noon. Contest and intertribal dancing will continue throughout the day, along with a team dance contest. Organizers note that all drums and all dancers are welcome to participate.

Grand entry marks the formal opening of each dance session and is one of the most significant moments of the pow wow. The procession is led by flag bearers, often veterans or respected elders, carrying the American flag and eagle staff, followed by head dancers and participants arranged by age and dance category.

Val Shadowhawk will serve as master of ceremonies, announcing dances, explaining protocols and helping guide spectators through the event. Eugene

Newman is the arena director and will oversee the dance arena and coordinate grand entry.

Northern Eagle will serve as the host northern drum, with So Ex Styles named as the host southern drum. Host drums are selected for their experience and readiness to support the event throughout the day.

Head dancers announced for the pow wow include Head Teen Boy Tank Young, Head Teen Girl Gisselle Duran, Head Boy Nahui Medina and Head Girl Annelecia Olvera. Bennett said being selected as a head dancer is considered an honor and reflects a dancer's reputation and knowledge of tradition.

Craft vendors and food vendors will be on site throughout the day, including Indian tacos. The event is designed as a family-friendly gathering, and organizers encourage community members to attend and observe respectfully.

Pow Wow Etiquette

Organizers stress that the dance arena, sometimes called the arbor, is considered sacred for the duration of the pow wow. The arena is blessed before dancing begins and remains ceremonial space throughout the event.

"It should be treated like the inside of a church," Bennett said.

Attendees are asked to listen closely to announcements from the master of ceremonies, who will provide guidance on when to stand, when photography is permitted and how to conduct themselves during ceremonies. During grand entry, spectators are typically asked to stand, and men are asked to remove hats.

Visitors are reminded not to touch dancers or their regalia without permission and not to cross the dance arena unless directed. Organizers also ask attendees to refrain from profanity or disruptive behavior.

The pow wow is a drug-free, alcohol-free and smoke-free event and does not support the recreational use of tobacco.

The event is sponsored by the American Indian Education Program of the Marysville Joint Unified School District and co-sponsored by the Sutter Yuba Pow Wow. ★

Optimism Marks 2026 Colusa Farm Show



Future farmers take the wheel of pint-sized equipment at the Colusa Farm Show. If you want this tightened further for print flow or trimmed for space, I can tune it line by line.

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.

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."

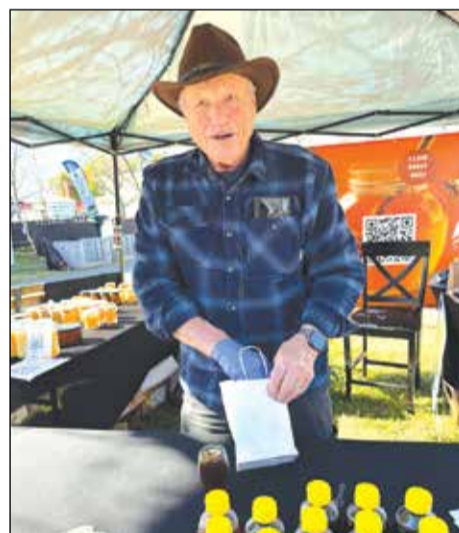
In that purpose, the Colusa Farm Show each year helps growers compare options and speak directly with manufacturers about what might work best for their operations. With sunny weather throughout the exposition, visitors, including students, moved steadily through the fairgrounds as vendors showcased 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 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. ★



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.



Colusa County Jr. Fair Board members greet visitors to the 2026 Colusa Farm Show on Feb. 4. From right: Stephanie Gonzalez, Evelyn Guevara, Cade Smith, Miss Colusa County Makenna Dunlap, and Whitney Traynham.

Public Input Sought on Sutter County Hazards

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"I think it's a productive conversation, because you're really looking at your community and figuring out what's going to impact it as a whole," said Joseph Harris, hazard

mitigation planner with Innovative Emergency Management.

No decisions have been finalized. Officials encouraged interested residents and organizations to participate in the

next community meeting, expected to be announced in March.

For more information or to support the planning process, contact Casey Garnett at casey.garnett@iem.com. ★

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Sheriff's Office Honors 2025 Award Recipients

By MPG Staff

YUBA COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Yuba County Sheriff's Office has announced its 2025 employee and volunteer award recipients, recognizing four individuals for service and dedication to the community.

Deputy Javier Zepeda was named Deputy of the Year. Marcel vande Bruinhorst received Correctional Officer of the Year honors. Stephanie Lucio was selected as Employee of the Year. Belinda Glenn was recognized as STARS Volunteer of the Year.

Sheriff's officials said the awards recognize employees and volunteers who consistently exceed expectations and demonstrate professionalism, leadership and commitment to public service.

Recipients are nominated by peers and supervisors who observe their work and contributions throughout the year. Officials said the recognition reflects the long hours and extra effort that often go unseen by the public.

The Sheriff's Office congratulated the recipients and thanked them for the role they play in serving Yuba County residents. ★



Detective Javier Zepeda was named Deputy of the Year as part of the Yuba County Sheriff's Office 2025 employee award recognitions, honoring staff who go above and beyond in service to the community. Photo courtesy of the Yuba County Sheriff's Office



Stephanie Lucio, project manager with the Yuba County Sheriff's Office, was recognized as Employee of the Year for 2025 for her dedication and commitment to the agency's mission. Photo courtesy of the Yuba County Sheriff's Office



Belinda Glenn received the STARS Volunteer of the Year award as one of the Yuba County Sheriff's Office 2025 honorees, recognized for her service and support of the department. Photo courtesy of the Yuba County Sheriff's Office



Correctional Sgt. Marcel vande Bruinhorst was named Correctional Officer of the Year during the Yuba County Sheriff's Office 2025 awards, recognizing exceptional professionalism and dedication. Photo courtesy of the Yuba County Sheriff's Office

Lindhurst High Adds Community School Van

By MPG Staff

OLIVEHURST, CA (MPG) - Lindhurst High School unveiled a new Community School Van on Feb. 2, funded through a California Community Schools Partnership Program grant to expand student access to services and activities.

School officials said the van will provide safe and reliable transportation for students and families, helping remove barriers to participation. The vehicle will support access to academic assistance, health and social services, family engagement opportunities and expanded learning programs.

The van is part of the school's Community Schools Grant and aligns with the California Community Schools Framework, which focuses on addressing student needs through coordinated school and community support.

Lindhurst leaders said the transportation initiative aims to ensure that access



Lindhurst High School staff and community partners celebrate the launch of the new Community School Van on Feb. 2, a grant-funded initiative designed to remove transportation barriers and strengthen access to resources for students and families. Photo courtesy of Lindhurst High School

to programs and services is not limited by mobility challenges. The van will also help connect families with school-based resources and support student preparation for college, careers and life after graduation.

School staff credited district leadership and project partners for bringing the effort forward, including Luis Martínez, Lindhurst

Community Schools coordinator, and Stephanie McKenzie, California Community Schools Partnership Program grant data and community services manager, along with the Marysville Joint Unified School District.

Officials said they expect the van to strengthen connections across the Lindhurst school community. ★

Sowles Announces Bid for Superior Court

By MPG Staff

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - Attorney Tamara Sowles announced her candidacy for Yuba County Superior Court Judge, Office 1, citing more than a decade of experience in prosecution, municipal law and private practice.

The seat will open following the decision by incumbent Judge Julia Scrogin not to seek reelection.

Sowles currently serves as senior deputy city attorney for the City of Sacramento, where she handles prosecution and community development matters and advises city departments on legal compliance. Before that role, she worked in Sutter County as chief deputy district attorney and later as a deputy district attorney, prosecuting felony cases and supervising prosecutorial teams.

"I am running to serve the people of Yuba County with integrity, fairness and respect for the rule of law," Sowles said. She said her background has prepared her to be impartial while maintaining accountability and public safety.

Her legal career also includes work in estate planning, probate, child dependency law and criminal defense, giving her experience across multiple areas of the court system.

Sowles earned her Juris Doctor from Lincoln Law School in Sacramento and a Bachelor of Science in business administration from California State University, Sacramento. She has been a member of



Photo by Tamara Sowles, a senior deputy city attorney for the City of Sacramento, is running for Yuba County Superior Court Judge, Office 1. Photo courtesy Tamara Sowles

the California State Bar since 2011.

She also remains active in the local legal community, serving as treasurer of the Yuba-Sutter Bar Association. Her work has included organizing professional development programs and helping award scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

Sowles and her husband, Kenny Sowles, live in the Yuba-Sutter region with their five children. Kenny Sowles works as a senior criminal investigator with the Sutter County District Attorney's Office and has nearly 20 years of law enforcement experience.

The election for Yuba County Superior Court Judge, Office 1, is scheduled for June 2. ★

Butte College Scholarships Open



Scholarships are open to incoming, current and returning Butte College students, including high school seniors planning to attend Butte College in fall 2026. Photo courtesy of Butte College

By MPG Staff

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Butte College Foundation is accepting scholarship applications for the 2026-27 academic year, with a deadline of March 15 at 11:59 p.m.

Scholarships are open to incoming, current and returning Butte College students, including high school seniors planning to attend Butte College in fall 2026. The foundation will award 340 scholarships totaling more than \$250,000.

Awards support a wide range of academic and career goals. Selection criteria may include field of study, academic program, place of residence, community involvement or other qualifications.

Students planning to attend Butte

College during the 2026-27 academic year are encouraged to apply at butte.edu/scholarships. Applicants must have a Butte College student ID and email address. Information on applying to Butte College is available at butte.edu/apply.

"These scholarships reflect the collective impact of donors who give each year to support students," said Suzanne Watroba, executive director of the Butte College Foundation. "They also reflect those who have invested in enduring endowments that will continue opening doors to education for years to come."

Community members interested in supporting or creating a scholarship can contact the foundation at foundation@butte.edu or 530-895-2359. ★

Sutter Supervisors Urge Newsom to Accelerate LaMalfa Election

By Susan Meeker

YUBA CITY, CA (MPG) - The Sutter County Board of Supervisors approved a letter at a Feb. 2 special meeting urging Gov. Gavin Newsom to accelerate the special election to fill the congressional seat left vacant by the death of Rep. Doug LaMalfa.

Supervisors discussed the issue during the meeting and ratified a letter signed by Board Chair Mike Ziegenmeyer.

County officials said the vacancy has left the First Congressional District without representation during a critical period and that the current election schedule delays the region's ability to have a voice in Washington. Newsom has set the special primary for June 2 to align with the statewide primary and the special general election for Aug. 4.

"Any delay is a political maneuver that leaves the North State without representation in Congress," Ziegenmeyer wrote.

County officials said the governor has previously accelerated election timelines when it served political interests, pointing to his decision to call a special

election tied to Proposition 50 redistricting changes. They said Newsom set a precedent by moving quickly in that case to advance a map benefiting Democrats in the 2028 and 2030 elections and argued that the same urgency should apply to restoring representation for the First District.

Officials also cited concern over the vacancy occurring alongside upcoming redistricting changes. County officials estimated the cost of conducting a standalone special election without state reimbursement would be approximately \$300,000.

Supervisors first reached consensus to urge Newsom to expedite the election during their Jan. 27 meeting. The Feb. 2 vote finalized the action.

The winner of the special election will serve the remainder of LaMalfa's term through December 2026.

Assemblyman James Gallagher, a Yuba City Republican, has announced he will seek the seat, describing LaMalfa as both a friend and mentor. As of early February, no other candidates have formally announced plans to enter the race. ★

Student Success Rates Rise at Butte College

By MPG Staff

OROVILLE, CA (MPG) - Newly released state and federal data show students at Butte College are completing degrees, certificates and transfers at rates that place the college among top performers in California and compare favorably with similar institutions nationwide.

Data from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office show Butte College ranked in the top 10 statewide under the 641S student

success metric. The measure tracks students who complete a degree or Chancellor's Office approved certificate or who transfer to a four-year institution. State figures show Butte College students exceeded statewide averages, particularly in degree and certificate completion.

Federal data released through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System support those findings. When compared with 25 similarly sized colleges, Butte College performed at or above the group average in

associate degree and certificate attainment among students seeking a credential.

The federal report showed especially strong results in certificate completion. College officials attributed those outcomes to Career Technical Education programs that prepare students for direct entry into the workforce. Programs include agriculture, health sciences, technology, industrial technology, cosmetology and public safety.

The IPEDS data also showed positive equity outcomes. When

broken down by race and ethnicity, Butte College performed at or above average for all student groups. Graduation rates were strongest among Native American, Pacific Islander, Latinx and White students.

"The strong outcomes reflected in both state and federal data affirm what we see every day at Butte College," President Virginia Guleff said. "Our students succeed when they are supported by dedicated faculty, staff and high quality programs."

College officials said the



combined data show Butte College continues to deliver strong and equitable outcomes that help students earn credentials, enter the workforce and meet their educational goals. ★

Death Notices

RODRIGUEZ – George Rodriguez, 43, of Yuba City, passed away July 6, 2025. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

GARCIA – Adrian Mora Garcia, 61, of Yuba City, passed away February 2, 2026. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

MILLER – Cletys Miller, 83, of Marysville, passed away February 4, 2026. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000. ★



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Silver and Gold Get Hammered

The ridiculous rally in gold and silver took a breather. More like a big gulp of water it was. Silver rocketed down a record 31% with gold not far behind in the rout on Friday.

No surprise here as I wrote about the stunning run up in prices of both metals during the last year or so that accelerated in the last few months.

What brought on the onslaught can be traced back to a variety of reasons. First, might be the fact that both metals had incredible price increases in a relatively short amount of time which formed almost a straight line up on the price charts. Straight lines that resemble that of a rocket ship blasting off historically end badly at some point. There are thousands of examples of such price reversals throughout history in many different asset classes.

These stunning rallies in price eventually exhaust themselves as prices get so out of whack, they leave the universe of reasonability and just keep going up due to the fear of missing out (FOMO).

It is said high prices cure high prices. The rallies can simply run out of buyers, or profit takers start doing what the name implies. They take profits by selling. Whatever it is, the saying "markets can run higher than you think or go lower than you think" rings true.

Certainly, the price of gold and silver did just that. I penned weeks ago the rally was starting to get ridiculous and taking at least some money off the table might be prudent.

A 30% drop is nothing to sneeze at, and such collapses in a widespread investment can cause severe disruptions in that market for some time.

No doubt, many investors padded their accounts with the stunning profits while other late-to-the-party buyers got slaughtered.

Mainstream news suggested Trump's new appointment to lead the Federal Reserve Board may have triggered the selloff or at least contributed to it.

Other analysts sided with me, saying that prices just got too ridiculous and needed to correct.

Whatever the reason(s), the question now becomes who got caught swimming naked when the tide went out and how bad the damage was.

Hopefully, no major financial institution got hit too badly. It wouldn't be the first time someone or some company took it in the shorts so badly as to cause a major default which starts a financial domino or two to start falling backwards causing residual damage to other financial institutions. Such an event can bleed into a larger part of the financial system causing even more havoc down the line.

Lord knows, we have seen that movie before.

The price action for both metals could be volatile in the next few days or weeks and making a major move on the buy or sell side should be exercised with extreme caution.

No doubt, some buyers will move in, thinking the rout is a buying opportunity, while others will think the sky is falling and leave the party altogether.

I would tend to make smaller moves no matter which way I think it might go, making sure I don't get too hurt if this is the beginning of an even larger move downwards.

It remains to be seen if this is just a healthy correction to be followed by even higher highs, or that the witching hour has arrived and its time to leave the party, at least for now, and revisit the metals at some later date.

*"Watching the markets
so you don't have to"*

This article expresses the opinion of Marc Cuniberti and is not meant as investment advice, or a recommendation to buy or sell any securities, nor represents the opinion of any bank, investment firm or RIA, nor this media outlet, its staff, members or underwriters. Mr. Cuniberti holds a B.A. in Economics with honors, 1979, and California Insurance License #0L34249 His insurance agency is BAP INC. insurance services. Email: news@moneymanagementradio.com ★

Time Together



By Kathy Craig Harteis

It does my heart good to have had these last few days on my annual adventure with pal Carolan.

If I've learned anything in this life it is to make the effort to spend valued time with people you love. Tomorrow is not promised.

It's easy to be lazy and make excuses why we don't have the time.

Why you just can't do something.

One of these days we will turn around and see the opportunity is gone. Don't let those opportunities slip through your fingers because of your own self pampering.

As for me and Carolan we have over the years (even when in different states) made the effort to have that annual road trip.

Yesterday we went to see 'Melania' and it was beautifully done. We loved it.

We went exploring and we went shopping. We first went to brunch where I had my first taste of chicken and waffles. I've always avoided that combo but now I get it. It's nothing we should eat everyday, but for an occasional treat it's perfect.

Are trip this year was down in Stanislaus and Merced Counties. Back in the 60's I used to work and live in that area. I had forgotten what a pretty area it is. Lots of palm trees and sunshine once the morning fog lifts. I remember those days fondly.

Chapters. We all have chapters of our lives. Time there in the 60's was one of my well written chapters.

The visit was good. Life is good today.

A native of Grimes, CA, Kathy Craig Harteis is a former local journalist and former owner and chief executive of Kathy Craig Media Consulting, in Colusa. She currently lives in Beach, North Dakota, where she lived for many years while raising her family. ★



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. ★



It looks like a local Little League is happening. The sign in front of Yuba Feather School in Challenge says to stop by for more information. They used to practice at the community center and was a popular event. We hope to see an interest in this.

We love to see the spring bulbs in full bloom. The bright yellow daffodils by the fire station look great. (love that red bench) Occasionally along the road we will see some that have been planted years ago. The jonquils around the old oak tree in front of Books & More look great.

We hope to see many of you at our Valentine Dinner tomorrow. The menu looks great and the karaoke promised to be fun. Dinner is served from 5:00 to 7:00 and the menu choices are pork loin, Marry Me Chicken, or veggie lasagna. There is a kids' dish: spaghetti. This dinner will help Next Step give a boost to someone as they attempt their

"next step" up the ladder to success.

The Yuba City Senior Center offers day trips and I just received their spring/summer offering. These sound like fun and a lot easier than driving yourself to an event. The most recent ones are seeing Beetlejuice in Sacramento on Feb. 19 or seeing Four Old Broads in Chico on March 8. They have many interesting trips planned; some are outdoor visits, sport events and more theater choices. For more information please call 530 822-4608 or stop by the center at 777 Ainsley Ave. in Yuba City.

Look Back in Time – In 1912 Marcus Weiss was developing a brewery on Rackerby with apparatus shipped in from the east (I wonder if there is a connection to Weiss Hill off of Forbestown Road).

Hope to see you in Brownsville soon.
~ Yvonne ★



**Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl**

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC LIEN SALE

Notice is hereby given that Erle Road Self Storage 5600 Lindhurst Ave, Marysville, CA 95901 intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, known as the "California Self Service Storage Facilities Act", Section 2328 of the UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provisions of the Civil Code.

The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on **Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 10:00 AM**, on the premises where said property has been in storage at Erle Road Self Storage 5600 Lindhurst Ave. Marysville, CA 95901, telephone 530-634-9781. Units to be sold belonging to the following:

Name
Cristian Merida
Ramsey G. German
Theresa Collen Miller Heibredner
Randy D. Laughlin
Devan Gabriel Anthony Walsh

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in CASH only. All purchased items sold AS IS, WHERE IS, and must be removed at the time of sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party. Auctioneer Kristie Oropeza, Bond# W150153447 (2/13/26 & 2/20/26)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sutter County Community Action Agency board meeting Thursday, February 19 at 3:00 p.m. at Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corporation, 950 Sharp Road, Ste. 1303, Yuba City or via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85711536616?pwd=SXXdTuUTd5hIRDetNnzBEt3ZlIDZs9.1>
Meeting ID: 857 1153 6616
Passcode: 282756 Or Dial in at (669) 900-9128
Contact Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corporation at 530-751-8555 or ysedc@ysedc.org for any questions.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025F-323

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
NORCAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING
201 D ST, Ste C.
Marysville, CA 95901
MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 613
Marysville, CA 95901
County of Yuba
Registered Owners:
THOMAS L. HUNT
PO Box 613
Marysville, CA 95901

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 07/20/2023.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
THOMAS L. HUNT

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on December 29, 2025.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By BRIDGETTE EVANS,
Deputy Clerk
Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026F-042

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
J Way HVAC
1944 Glenmore Dr.
Olivehurst, CA 95961
County of Yuba

Registered Owners:
Jordan Force Vanrenselaar
1944 Glenmore Dr.
Olivehurst, CA 95961

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Jordan Force Vanrenselaar
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on February 6, 2026.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By SARAH MULL,
Deputy Clerk
Feb. 13, 20, 27, Mar. 6, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026F-021

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
VoxLux
14437 Old Marysville Road
Camptonville, CA 95922
County of Yuba

Registered Owners:
Todd S. Stock
14437 Old Marysville Road
Camptonville, CA 95922

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/1/2025.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Todd S. Stock
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on January 23, 2026.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By NELIDA WILLIAMS,
Deputy Clerk
Feb. 13, 20, 27, Mar. 6, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026F-017

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Glenwood Apts
1848 Turpen St
Olivehurst, CA 95961

MAILING ADDRESS
2060 Archer Ave
Live Oak, CA 95953
County of Yuba
Registered Owners:
Lawanda J. Reed
2060 Archer Ave
Live Oak, CA 95953

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/1/1989.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Lawanda Reed
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on January 21, 2026.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By DAISY HENDRICKSON,
Deputy Clerk
Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026F-024

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
GTR Junk Removal and Handyman

6188 Farrell Way #B
Marysville, CA 95901
MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 2393
Marysville, CA 95901
County of Yuba
Registered Owners:
Ruben Garcia
PO Box 2393
Marysville, CA 95901
Elizabeth Lopez
PO Box 2393
Marysville, CA 95901

This business is conducted by a Married Couple.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Ruben Garcia
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on January 26, 2026.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By MANDY LUIS,
Deputy Clerk
Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026F-030

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
FreshNet Collaborative

1644 Stepney Way
Plumas Lake, CA 95961
County of Yuba
Registered Owners:
Amanda Chaney
1644 Stepney Way
Plumas Lake, CA 95961

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/27/2026.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Amanda Chaney
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on January 27, 2026.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By BRIDGETTE EVANS,
Deputy Clerk
Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026F-039

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Shinobi Massage

1910 Hall Street
Marysville, CA 95901
County of Yuba
Registered Owners:
Isai Barragan
1910 Hall Street
Marysville, CA 95901

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Isai Barragan

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on February 3, 2026.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By NELIDA WILLIAMS,
Deputy Clerk
Feb.13, 20, 27, Mar. 6, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026F-002

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Gold King Batteries

5838 Lindhurst Ave.
Marysville, CA 95901
County of Yuba

Registered Owners:
Jesus Alfredo Cerda Cuellar
11 Mantauk Point Place
Sacramento, CA 95835

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/02/2026.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Jesus A. Cerda
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on January 02, 2026.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By NELIDA WILLIAMS,
Deputy Clerk
Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026F-019

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
TAQUERIA AZUL

22 E 12th St.
Marysville, CA 95901
County of Yuba

Registered Owners:
Esmeralda R. Guzman Mendez
22 E 12th St.
Marysville, CA 95901

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/22/2026.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Esmeralda Guzman Mendez
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on January 22, 2026.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By NELIDA WILLIAMS,
Deputy Clerk
Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026F-016

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
HB Home Sales

1082 Ironwood St.
Plumas Lake, CA 95961
County of Yuba

Registered Owners:
Hayden Anthony Boungnasiri
1082 Ironwood St.
Plumas Lake, CA 95961

This business is conducted by an Individual.

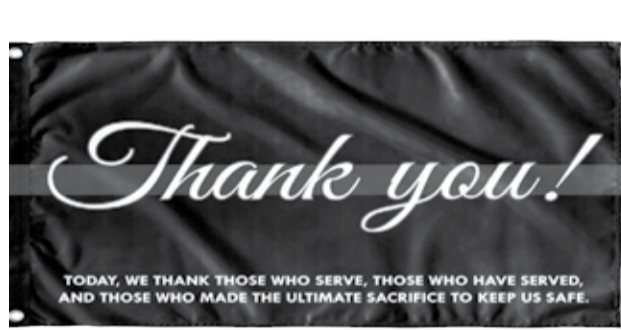
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/20/2026.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Hayden Boungriasiri
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on January 21, 2026.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By NELIDA WILLIAMS,
Deputy Clerk
Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 2026



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026F-010

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Sierra Custom Lumber

15714 Oak Valley Rd
Camptonville, CA 95922
County of YUBA
Registered Owners:
Stephanie Raupp
15714 Oak Valley Rd
Camptonville, CA 95922

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/12/2026.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Stephanie Raupp
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on January 12, 2026.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By BRIDGETTE EVANS,
Deputy Clerk
Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025F-322

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Shawn Melton

Oddman Doing Oddjobs
1552 Sea Holly Street
Plumas Lake, CA 95961
County of YUBA
Registered Owners:
Shawn Melton
1552 Sea Holly Street
Plumas Lake, CA 95961

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/01/2025.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Shawn Melton
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on December 19, 2025.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By BRIDGETTE EVANS,
Deputy Clerk
Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026F-033

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
GoWright Bookkeeping

2207 Nicklaus Dr.
Linda, CA 95901
MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 9150
Beale AFB, CA 95903
County of Yuba

Registered Owners:
Connie Gomez Wriighthouse
PO Box 9150
Beale AFB, CA 95903

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).

Signed:
Connie Gomez Wriighthouse
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on January 29, 2026.

(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).

DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
By NELIDA WILLIAMS,
Deputy Clerk
Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

Community Events

CREATIVE THINKERS COMMUNITY CLASSES
THURSDAY EVENINGS 6:30 to 8:30 pm at
Steelhouse Coffee, 437 Center St, Yuba City

YUBA COUNTY SENIORS ON THE GO
FREE LUNCHEON 3RD WED OF THE
MONTH • 11 AM TO 1 PM
Tri-Counties Community Center, 1830 B St, Marysville
Free Seminars especially for Seniors

BINGO • FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAYS
OF THE MONTH • STARTS AT 6 PM
Tri-Counties Community Center, 1830 B St, Marysville

Next Step Community Breakfast
Second Sunday of the Month at Brownsville Community
Center downstairs located at 17103 Ponderosa Way.
Complete breakfast includes: Coffee, orange juice &
peaches. Choice of eggs, ham or sausage. Choice of
pancakes, french toast or biscuits & gravy.
Adults \$10, Children under 12 \$5, 3 & under Free.

ROY BOURG VFW POST 4095's 'CORNHOLE
TOURNAMENTS' OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
6 pm 2nd & 4th Mondays
4965 Powerline Rd, Olivehurst. Info: 530-777-9057

DOBBINS CERTIFIED FARMERS MARKET
BACK IN THE SPRING OF 2026
SATURDAY • 10 am-2 pm
9761 Marysville Rd, Dobbins
Vendor Information call Teresa McFall 530-635-0452



Free Dental Event Planned in Yuba City, Feb. 19

By MPG Staff

YUBA CITY, CA (MPG) - The Sutter County Oral Health and Women, Infants and Children programs will host a free Dental Day event for families with young children on Feb. 19 in Yuba City.

The event will run from 3 to 5 p.m. at 1445 Veterans Memorial Circle and will offer dental

screenings for children ages 0 to 5, along with oral health education and dental kits while supplies last.

Dental Day aims to help families learn about early childhood oral health and connect with available resources. Organizers said early prevention plays a key role in long term dental health and overall well being for children.

The event is open to

families and caregivers and will include educational activities focused on proper dental care for young children.

Dental Day is presented in partnership with Smile California and the Sutter County Children and Families Commission.

For more information, families may contact the Sutter County Oral Health Program. ★

High Court Declines Redistricting Case

By Lloyd Green

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The U.S. Supreme Court declined this week to hear a Republican backed challenge to California's new congressional map, leaving in place district lines adopted under Proposition 50 and clearing the way for the 2026 election cycle to proceed under the voter approved system. The high court's decision allows California's updated map to stand after a lawsuit filed by state Republicans argued the ballot measure violated the U.S. Constitution. The challenge was supported by the U.S. Department of Justice during the Trump administration.

By refusing to disturb the lower court rulings, the Supreme Court effectively ended the legal effort without issuing an opinion.

Gov. Gavin Newsom framed the decision as a rebuke of partisan redistricting efforts that originated outside California.

"Donald Trump said he was 'entitled' to five more Congressional seats in Texas. He started this redistricting war. He lost, and he'll lose again in November," Newsom said in a prepared statement.

Attorney General Rob Bonta said the ruling preserves a process voters intentionally approved to counter partisan manipulation.

"The U.S. Supreme Court's decision is good news not only for Californians,

but for our democracy," Bonta said. He added that Proposition 50 passed after former President Donald Trump urged Texas Republicans to redraw congressional lines to gain additional seats.

According to Bonta, California lawmakers responded by advancing the measure to voters, who approved it statewide. He said his office has now defended the initiative seven times in court.

While the legal battle played out at the national level, the outcome carries practical consequences for rural counties in Northern California, including Colusa County, where congressional boundaries influence how agricultural, water and infrastructure issues are represented in Washington.

With the map finalized, local election officials and potential candidates now have certainty heading into the 2026 cycle, avoiding what could have been months of confusion or last-minute changes.

Republican leaders criticized the court's refusal to intervene, arguing the map advantages Democrats. However, courts that previously reviewed the case found the measure fell within California's authority to regulate its own elections.

The Supreme Court's action does not set precedent but signals the justices were unwilling to reopen the dispute.

For now, California's congressional districts remain unchanged, and the fight over redistricting shifts back to the ballot box. ★

Prune Growers Meeting Set Feb. 18 in Yuba City

By MPG Staff

YUBA CITY, CA (MPG) - The University of California Cooperative Extension will host the 2026 South Sacramento Valley Prune Grower Meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at the Sutter County Veterans Hall, 1425 Veterans Memorial Cir, in Yuba City.

The program begins at 8:15 a.m. and will include updates from the California Prune Board, research on prune orchard systems, rest breaking trials, disease

management, regulatory updates, weed control, and early findings on sunburn control in prunes. Continuing education hours approved by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation will be available.

There is no cost to attend. Growers are asked to pre register online to assist with lunch planning at <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=45654>.

Lunch is sponsored by the California Prune Board. ★

Community Calendar

Sutter County Library

Sutter County library main branch, at 750 Forbes Ave., Yuba City has the following events this week. Call 530-930-2315 for more information on general library offerings.

Friday, Feb. 13: Skill share, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. All ages are invited to come share a skill or learn something new. The library will provide all the supplies necessary for sewing, knitting, crocheting, or cross-stitching.

Saturday, Feb. 14: Chess club, 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 16: Library closed in observance of Presidents' Day.

Tuesday, Feb. 17: Stay and Play, 11 a.m. to noon.

Wednesday, Feb. 18: Story time and craft, 11 a.m. to noon. LEGO club, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 19: Story time and craft, 11 a.m. to noon. Cooking demo with Blue Zones Project Yuba Sutter, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 20: Skill share, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. All ages are invited to come share a skill or learn something new. The library will provide all the supplies necessary for sewing, knitting, crocheting, or cross-stitching.

Saturday, Feb. 21: Puzzle race, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Families can compete against other groups in a friendly, fun environment.

Yuba County Library

Yuba County Library has the following upcoming events at Health & Human Services, 5730 Packard Ave., Marysville (location may vary, as noted):

Friday, Feb. 13: Valentine's Day heart hunt for kids up to 5 years old, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Yuba County Government Center, 915 8th Street., Marysville. Paper hearts will be hidden around the Center and children find them to receive a prize. There will also be Valentine's Day crafts and a story for the kids. Registration is required. Valentine's Day craft time and trivia for all ages, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Yuba County Government Center, 915 8th Street., Marysville.

Monday, Feb. 16: Library closed in observance of Presidents' Day.

Tuesday, Feb. 17: First five story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Registration is required. Lunar New Year craft time, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Yuba County Government Center, 915 8th Street., Marysville

Wednesday, Feb. 18: "Camped Out with a Good Book" community helper story time with Maria Jimenez from HHS, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Registration is required. "The Rockin' Yuba River: the Geology of the South Yuba River" with California State Parks, 1:45 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Yuba County Government Center, 915 8th Street., Marysville. For ages 7 and above; must register for event.

Thursday, Feb. 19: First five story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Registration is required. Cooking demo with Blue Zones Project Yuba Sutter, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Yuba County Government Center, 915 8th Street., Marysville. Registration is required.

Friday, Feb. 20: DIY "Blind Date with a Book", 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the

Yuba County Government Center, 915 8th Street., Marysville. Registration is required.

Call 530-749-7380 for more information or email library@co.yuba.ca.us

Friday, Feb. 13

Mardi Gras Crab Boil Feed

5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds, Franklin Hall, 442 Franklin Ave., Yuba City. This event benefits Marysville High School Safe & Sober Grad Night – class of 2026. Join us for an unforgettable night of Mardi Gras magic, bold flavors, and community celebration. Enjoy a delicious New Orleans-style crab boil dinner, drawings and raffle prizes, dessert auction, and more. Email to purchase tickets: marysvillegradnight@gmail.com

40th Annual Business Appreciation Gala

6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain, 3317 Forty Mile Rd., Wheatland. Join the Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce as we honor the rockstars of our community, celebrating the businesses who've been killing it this year and the volunteers who've given it all to make the Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce and our local community stronger than ever. Tickets and more information at www.yubasutterchamber.com.

Saturday, Feb. 14

Cupid & Cars – Grumpy's Garage Sale

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Grumpy's Hot Rod, 1335 Harter Parkway, Yuba City. This Valentine's Day, ditch the roses and fall in love with horsepower. Bring your ride, bring your sweetheart, or bring your crew to our kickoff show and garage sale. Car show registration \$25 entry fee per show car. We're cleaning out the shop so all reasonable offers accepted – all garage sale items must go. Register at the showroom or contact 530-845-5151 for more information.

Monday, Feb. 16

Art Fix & Mix

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Burrows Center for the Arts, 624 E St., Marysville. A free, social time for all artists to spend time with like-minded people. Work on or show your art or spend time exploring various art mediums.

Thursday, Feb. 19

Help me Grow Screenings

10 a.m. to noon at Ettl Hall at Sutter County Museum, 1333 Butte House Rd., Yuba City. These free health and developmental screenings are provided to Sutter County children, birth through age 5. The program provides an opportunity for parents to have their parenting and child development questions answered in a fun and relaxed environment. Children who complete a screening can receive a free backpack filled with learning tools to keep the learning going at home. If there is a need for additional services, Help Me Grow staff can help families link to recommended resources.

Dental Day

3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 1445 Veterans Memorial Circle, Yuba City. Bring the whole family for an afternoon filled with information and resources about your family's dental health. Screenings for children up to age 5. Brought to you by Sutter County Oral Health and WIC programs.

"The Curious World of Seaweed"

5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 1333 Butte House Rd., Yuba City. This latest installment of the Sutter County Museum speaker series features Josie Iselin, artist, author and ocean activist behind the current exhibit of the same name at the Sutter County Museum.

Friday, Feb. 20

Sutter-Yuba Punjabi Employee Pesticide Safety Training

8:30 a.m. to noon at 142 Garden Hwy., Yuba City. Check-in at 8:30 a.m., program begins at 9 a.m., followed by lunch donated by Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau and Pacific Coast Producers. Limited to 50 people, call Simar Bains at 530-822-7500 to register.

Saturday, Feb. 21

Almond Blossom Antique Tractor Day

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy a beautiful drive through the almond blossoms and the Sutter Buttes. Tractors leave Sutter High School at 9 a.m., rides are first-come, first-served for \$5 each or \$20 per family. At 10 a.m. a full slate of tractor events are available at SYO park, 7740 Butte House Rd., Sutter. Event brought to you by Sutter Lions Club.

Yuba-Sutter Winter Pow Wow

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Tri Counties Community Center, 1830 B St., Marysville. Open to the public, this free event is sponsored by the American Indian Education Program, Marysville Joint Unified School District. This is a Native American tradition that brings together many different tribes and communities. Pow Wows are cultural celebrations that include dancing, singing, socializing, crafts, arts, and food.

Scholastic Art & Writing Regional Awards

Two sessions, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Sutter Theater Center for the Arts, 754 Plumas St., Yuba City. Students from throughout the north state region will have their art and writing on display. The free awards celebration will take place with some students moving on to the regional awards level and then, if selected, on to the nationals in New York City. Seating is limited, register at www.yubasutterarts.org.

Marysville JAACL Day of Remembrance –

Tule Lake: An Inside Look

Noon to 2 p.m. at 1333 Butte House Rd., Yuba City. Join us in Ettl Hall for the annual Day of Remembrance of Japanese American Internment. Light refreshments will be served. This program is presented in partnership with the Marysville Chapter

of the Japanese American Citizens League and is sponsored by Shoei Foods, USA.

Kids Club

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Yuba Sutter Marketplace, 1215 Colusa Ave., Yuba City. Celebrate the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Horse with us. Kids Club is held in our North Court Area near JCPenney. Register in advance at www.shopyubasuttermarketplace.com.

Meeting Minders

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

American Legion Post 42 meets the second Monday each month at 211 17th St., Marysville. For more information, call 530-743-0948.

Marysville City Council meeting, 6 p.m., first and third Tuesday each month in the City Council chambers at 526 C St. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Rotary Club of Yuba City meets Wednesdays at noon at the Harvest Room, 1475 Tharp Rd., Yuba City.

Seniors on the Go – Olivehurst, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the VFW, 4956 Powerline Rd., Olivehurst. Enjoy a free community lunch and stay for activities. Next event is Wednesday, Feb. 25. All seniors and their guests are welcome, no registration required. Call 530-392-2187 for more information.

Seniors on the Go – Yuba County, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month at the Tri-Counties Community Center, 1830 B St., Marysville. Enjoy a free luncheon followed by free seminars especially for Seniors. Call 916-296-1907 for more information.

Sutter County Board of Supervisors meeting, 3 p.m., generally on the second and fourth Tuesday each month, in the council chambers, 1201 Civic Center Blvd., Yuba City. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 24.

City Council meetings for Yuba City, 6 p.m., first and third Tuesday each month in the council chamber at City Hall, 1201 Civic Center Blvd. Call 530-822-4817 for more information. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Yuba County Board of Supervisors meeting, 9 a.m., generally on the second and fourth Tuesday each month, in the board chambers, 915 8th St., Marysville. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 24.

Community Resources – Find Food

First Presbyterian Church, 10 a.m. to noon every Friday at 1905-C Covillaud St., Marysville. Call 530-742-5541 for more information.

First Lutheran Church, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. every Friday at 850 Cooper Ave., Yuba City. Call 530-673-8894 for more information.

Olivehurst Seventh Day Adventist Church, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 1767 14th St., Olivehurst on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month, or by appointment. Please call 530-742-7855

The Salvation Army Food Pantry, 401 Del Norte Ave., Yuba City on the third Friday each month from 9 a.m. until food is gone. Call 530-673-7353 for more information.

Yuba-Sutter Food Bank, at www.feedingys.org has a full list of food pantries throughout the area. Call 530-673-3834 for more information. ★

Film Festival Highlights Environmental Action

By MPG Staff

NEVADA COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The South Yuba River Citizens League will bring its annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival back to Nevada City and Grass Valley from Feb. 19 through Feb. 23, featuring a new slate of environmental and adventure films focused on inspiring action.

The nationally recognized festival, now in its 24th year, will once again offer both in-person and virtual screenings. Organizers said the hybrid format is intended to broaden access while maintaining the community experience at downtown venues.

The 2026 theme, "Mobilize," centers on individuals and communities responding to environmental and social challenges with urgency and persistence. Festival organizers said the selected films highlight grassroots efforts as well as large-scale collaborations working

toward measurable change.

The program includes award-winning films addressing topics such as conservation, climate change, wildlife, water, energy, agriculture and environmental justice. The films pair cinematic storytelling with messages aimed at encouraging civic and community engagement.



The festival is presented by the South Yuba River Citizens League, a Nevada City-based nonprofit founded in 1983 that works to protect and restore rivers throughout the regional watershed. Organizers said the event reflects the group's mission by connecting local river advocacy to global environmental efforts.

Following the Nevada County screenings, the festival will continue its annual tour with more than 100 partner-hosted events nationwide. A full schedule and film lineup are available at wsff.eventive.org. ★

Sutter Parents Complete Parenting Program

By MPG Staff

SUTTER COUNTY, CA. (MPG) - The Sutter County Probation Department announced Feb. 4 that 10 local parents completed the Parent Project, a 10-week parenting program focused on supporting families with strong-willed children.

The program provides practical tools to help parents manage challenging behavior while improving

communication and strengthening family relationships. Course topics include positive discipline, consistent structure in the home and effective communication skills.

Participants also learned strategies to support school success and explored the difference between influence and control in parenting. Probation officials said some parents entered the program with skepticism but reported

increased confidence and appreciation for the approach by the end of the course.

The department congratulated the graduates and encouraged other families to consider future sessions. Parent Project classes are offered in English and Spanish.

For more information or to enroll, contact the Sutter County Probation Department at 530-822-4371. ★

Parole Denied for Nevada County Child Sex Offender

By MPG Staff

NEVADA COUNTY, CA (MPG) - A state parole board denied parole Tuesday, Feb. 3, to Luis Ponce following a hearing that included testimony from victims and family members and opposition from the Nevada County District Attorney's Office.

District Attorney Jesse Wilson appeared at the hearing and argued that Ponce continues to pose a serious risk to public safety, particularly to children. Victims and family members addressed the parole board, describing the lasting harm caused by the crimes and expressing concern about Ponce's potential release.

Ponce was convicted in 2007 in Nevada County Superior Court of 16 felony counts of sexual abuse involving two children under the age of five. He was originally sentenced to 68 years to life in state prison.

Authorities uncovered the crimes after Ponce left a DVD at his workplace that contained child sexual abuse material. Investigators later found dozens of additional DVDs, including videos documenting sexual abuse of very young children.

In 2015, Ponce successfully appealed his sentence, arguing ineffective assistance of counsel. He was re-sentenced to 30 years to life.

During the parole hearing, Wilson cited statements made by Ponce that prosecutors said minimized the severity of the crimes and showed a lack of accountability and insight into his behavior. Wilson told the board those factors supported continued incarceration.

One family member told the parole



board, "It doesn't even make any sense why we are here."

Following the parole denial, Wilson criticized California's elderly parole laws, which allow earlier parole consideration based on age and time served.

"I share the frustration expressed by the victims and their families," Wilson said. "Victims suffer unimaginable trauma from these crimes, only to be forced to relive that experience before a parole board decades before the sentence they were promised is served."

California's Elderly Parole Program allows most incarcerated individuals age 50 and older to receive earlier parole hearings regardless of sentence length. Recent expansions to the law have lowered the eligibility age, resulting in parole consideration years earlier than originally anticipated for some life sentences.

Consistent with the position of prosecutors and victims, the parole board denied Ponce's request for release. ★

Yuba Sheriff Seizes Four Pounds of Fentanyl

By MPG Staff

YUBA COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Yuba County Sheriff's Office Problem Oriented Policing Team dismantled a fentanyl supply network responsible for distributing large quantities of the drug into Yuba County and nearby communities.

Sheriff's officials said the investigation began in January 2026 with the arrest of a fentanyl dealer operating in Yuba County. Deputies seized about 10 ounces of fentanyl during that arrest. Detectives continued the investigation to identify the source of the supply rather than stopping at the street level.

Investigators later identified two suspected suppliers based in Oakland who allegedly funneled fentanyl into Yuba County and surrounding areas.

On Feb. 3, the POP Team worked with the Alameda County Narcotics Task Force to carry out a coordinated operation in Oakland. Detectives arrested both suspects and seized nearly four pounds of fentanyl. Authorities took both individuals into custody without incident. They face multiple felony charges related to narcotics trafficking.



The investigation remains active, and officials expect additional arrests. The Sheriff's Office said it is releasing limited information about the suspects due to the ongoing nature of the case.

Sheriff's officials said the operation reflects the department's focus on disrupting fentanyl distribution at every level and working with regional partners to combat drug trafficking that affects local communities. ★



Marysville POLICE LOG



January 28 - February 3

Wednesday, Jan. 28

- 2:34 a.m. Transient arrested on the 100 block of 12th Street.
- 8:21 a.m. Crime report for "attempt to locate" on the 800 block of F Street.
- 4:31 p.m. Auto theft reported on the 900 block of 5th Street.
- 5:36 p.m. Pedestrian stop on the 700 block of 14th Street resulted in an arrest.
- 7:53 p.m. Vandalism on the 100 block of Biz Johnson Drive.

Thursday, Jan. 29

- 8:27 a.m. Arrest for violation of city ordinance on the 100 block of Biz Johnson Drive.
- 10:16 a.m. Pedestrian stop on the 600 block of E Street resulted in an arrest.
- 2:01 p.m. Vandalism to vehicle reported on the 2000 block of Covillaud Street.
- 3:48 p.m. Court order violation reported on the 1700 block of Ellis Lake Drive.
- 5:36 p.m. Unwanted person arrested on the 900 block of E Street.
- 7:36 p.m. Transient arrested on the 400 block of 4th Street.
- 9:48 p.m. Traffic stop on the 1400 block of Simpson Lane resulted in an arrest.

Friday, Jan. 30

No incidents reported.

Saturday, Jan. 31

- 7:41 a.m. Hit and run reported on the 200 block of E Street.

Sunday, Feb. 1

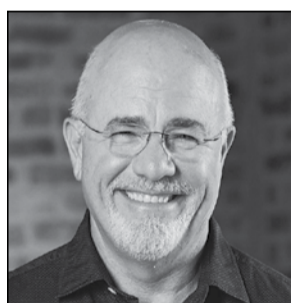
- 5:22 a.m. Suspicious circumstances crime reported on the 900 block of Gengler Street.
- 11:35 a.m. Auto theft reported on the 500 block of Rideout Way.

Monday, Feb. 2

- 7:12 a.m. Disabled vehicle report on the 1100 block of 10th Street resulted in an arrest.
- 11:49 a.m. Fraud crime reported on the 1500 block of B Street.
- 1:52 p.m. Fraud crime reported on the 300 block of 6th Street.
- 2:06 p.m. Reckless driver arrested at E. 10th Street and Ramirez Street.

Tuesday, Feb. 3

- 12:43 a.m. Traffic stop on the 900 block of E Street resulted in an arrest.
- 4:28 p.m. Auto theft reported on the 300 block of 6th Street.
- 7:00 p.m. Transient arrested at 6th Street and E Street.
- 7:05 p.m. Transient arrested on the 800 block of J Street. ★



Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey Says They Represent Security to Her

Dear Dave,

My wife and I have paid off all of our credit card debt, but she doesn't want to follow your suggestion to cut up the cards and close the accounts. She wants us to keep the cards in a safe deposit box at the bank, and use them for nothing but emergencies. I think this has something to do with the fact she grew up in a poor family. We're doing okay, but it makes me wonder if some part of her is afraid of being poor again. We both know this isn't what you recommend, but what can I do to convince her we should get rid of the credit cards once and for all?

- Geoff

Dear Geoff,

Honestly, I'm not sure I'd approach this with the idea of convincing her of something. Under the circumstances, maybe it'd be a better idea to start off by having a gentle, understanding conversation, and

talking things through.

I say this because one of the things you mentioned is that she grew up poor. In my mind, this could mean that the credit cards represent security for her. But, if you had \$10,000 or so set aside for emergencies, you'd have the security of knowing that a transmission repair, or a new water heater wouldn't really be an emergency—it'd be reduced to a minor inconvenience. On top of that, having an actual cash emergency fund sitting there would mean you wouldn't have to go right back into debt again when something goes wrong.

There are lots of deep emotions involved in this situation, Geoff. Let her know you understand her concerns, and that you respect and sympathize with everything she has experienced. But also explain how financial security wouldn't be disappearing by doing this. The credit cards would be replaced by your very own money. In addition, you'd also be substituting what the credit cards do

with a debit card.

After this, ask her if there's a reasonable amount you two could have in the bank that would make her feel comfortable, and take away the worry and stress. Talk it out, see if you can settle on an amount, and then agree that when you've saved and hit that number, the cards get cut up and you close the account.

You'll have to be patient and understanding. Above all, you'll have to communicate and work together as a team on this. But trust me, it'll be worth it!

- Dave

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

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For vendor info call Teresa McFall 530-635-0452



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The morning show from 6 am to 9 am weekday mornings with Fish informs and entertains with interviews from local business owners, civic leaders, community organizations and everyday people who are making a difference in our great community.

Interviews are at 8:15 a.m. each morning unless noted

- February 13 / 7 am Sutter Co. Office of Emergency Management w/Ann Hennessey
- February 13 / 8 am Amy Nore, Yuba County Office of Education
- February 16 / 7 am President's Day NO INTERVIEWS
- February 16 / 8 am Marni Sanders, Blue Zone Project
- February 17 / 7 am TBD
- February 17 / 8 am Crystal Martin, Yuba River Endowment
- February 18 / 7 am TBD
- February 18 / 8 am Wendell Anderson, Yuba County Sheriff
- February 19 / 7 am Tara Crogan, Chili Cook Off
- February 19 / 8 am Dave Shaw, Financial Information
- February 20 / 7 am TBD
- February 20 / 8 am Dan Flores, Economic Development

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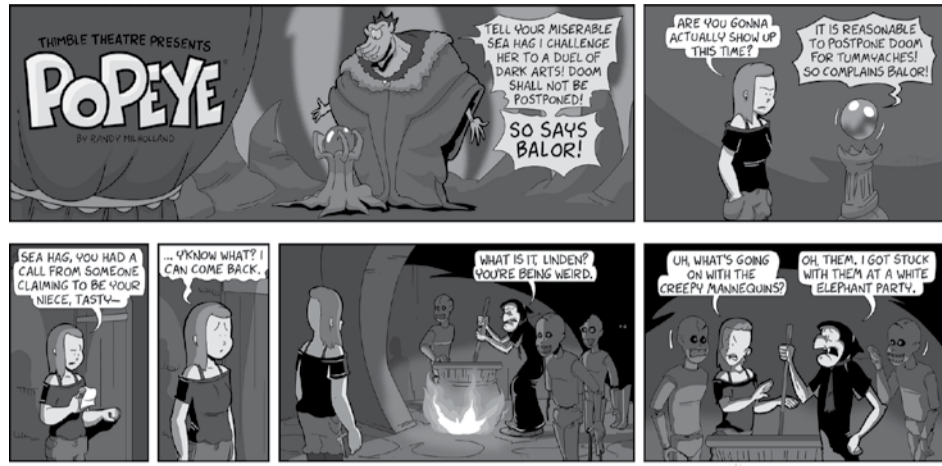
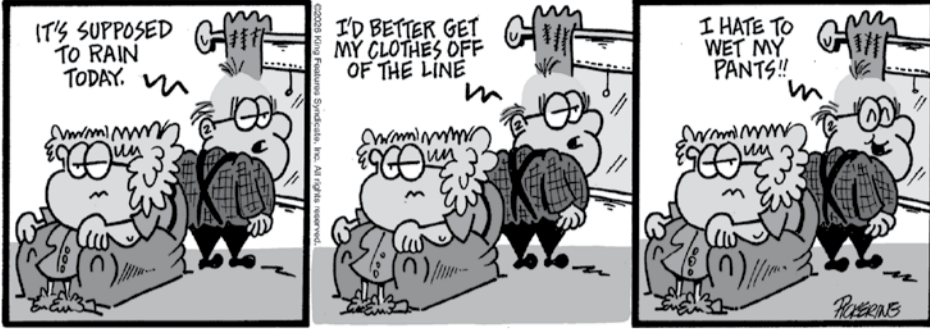


(Lou Binninger can also be heard on No Hostages Radio podcast, or read at Live with Lou Facebook & Nohostagesradio.com)

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



HOCUS-FOCUS

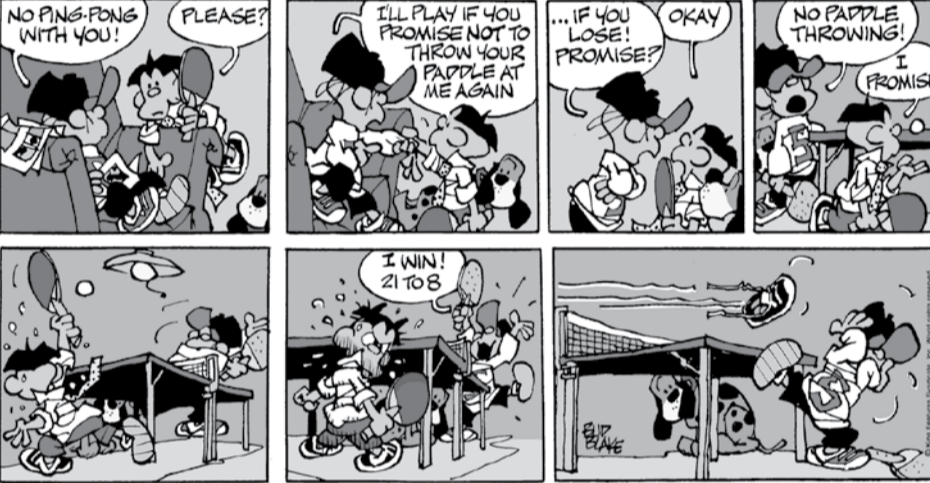
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



GRIN and BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



S	H	E	E	P		M	P	G		A	C	R	E			
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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • THE 1990s

CLUES

- CROSSWORD**
- ACROSS
- First cloned mammal
 - Fuel economy acronym
 - Land measure
 - Pascal of "The Mandalorian" fame
 - Second 0 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
- DOWN**
- Design detail
 - M nchen mister
 - Jittery
 - Irregularly notched
 - *Harry of Privet 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
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California Gas Prices Edge Higher as February Kicks Off

Gas prices are up as spring nears but are still cheaper than 2025 prices.

AAA Mountain West Group News Release

CALIFORNIA (MPG) - The month of February is kicking off with higher gas prices across California. The statewide average for a gallon of regular gasoline rose 13 cents since last week to \$4.39. That price is still 11 cents lower than this time last year.

The national average for a gallon of regular is up a couple of cents from last week at \$2.89. Current prices remain below what they were this time last year when the national average was \$3.12.

"Gasoline demand is down as fewer drivers hit the road during the recent winter storms. But this is the time of year when pump prices start nudging higher, as spring approaches and refineries start making the switch to summer-blend gasoline production," said Doug Johnson, spokesperson, AAA Mountain West Group.

Fuel prices around the state vary by city, with San Francisco reporting the highest average at \$4.61 per gallon, followed by Oakland at \$4.46 and San Jose at \$4.39. Sacramento's average stands at \$4.37, while Fresno reports \$4.31, and Stockton has the lowest among these cities at \$4.25 per gallon.

According to new data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), gasoline demand decreased last week from 8.75 million b/d to 8.15 million. Total domestic gasoline supply increased from 257.2



This is the time of year when pump prices start nudging higher, as spring approaches and refineries start making the switch to summer-blend gasoline production. Photo courtesy of Freepik

million barrels to 257.9 million. Gasoline production decreased last week, averaging 9.0 million barrels per day.

Oil Market Dynamics

At the close of Feb. 5 formal trading session, WTI rose \$1.93 to settle at \$65.14 a barrel. The Energy Information Administration reports crude oil inventories decreased by 3.5 million barrels from the previous week. At 420.3 million barrels,

U.S. crude oil inventories are about 4% below the five-year average for this time of year.

EV Charging

The national average per kilowatt hour of electricity at a public EV charging station remains at 38 cents. In California, the average cost is 42 cents.

Gas

The nation's top 10 most expensive

gasoline markets are Hawaii (\$4.40), California (\$4.39), Washington (\$3.97), Nevada (\$3.51), Oregon (\$3.49), Alaska (\$3.46), Washington, DC (\$3.09), Arizona (\$3.08), Pennsylvania (\$3.08), and Illinois (\$3.03).

The nation's top 10 least expensive gasoline markets are Oklahoma (\$2.36), Arkansas (\$2.44), Texas (\$2.45), Mississippi (\$2.45), Kansas (\$2.47), Louisiana (\$2.49), Missouri (\$2.50), Tennessee (\$2.50), Iowa (\$2.54), and Alabama (\$2.55).

Electric

The nation's top 10 most expensive states for public charging per kilowatt hour are West Virginia (51 cents), Alaska (48 cents), Hawaii (45 cents), Louisiana (45 cents), New Hampshire (43 cents), California (42 cents), South Carolina (41 cents), New Jersey (41 cents), Alabama (41 cents), and Tennessee (41 cents).

The nation's top 10 least expensive states for public charging per kilowatt hour are Kansas (25 cents), Wyoming (27 cents), Missouri (27 cents), Nebraska (29 cents), Delaware (31 cents), Utah (31 cents), Maryland (31 cents), Iowa (32 cents), Vermont (32 cents), and Michigan (33 cents).

Drivers can find current gas and electric charging prices along their route using the AAA Mobile App, now available on CarPlay. Find current fuel prices at [prices.aaa.com](https://www.prices.aaa.com). Find local news releases at [mwg.aaa.com/news/press-release](https://www.mwg.aaa.com/news/press-release). ★

Assembly Democrats Refuse to Stop a Double Tax on Drivers

Lawmakers vote against stopping a per-mile driving tax from being added on top of the gas tax

Assembly Republican Caucus News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- Recently, Assembly Democrats passed a bill to study a new mileage tax in addition to the gas tax. Feb. 2, they doubled down by

refusing to add protections that would stop drivers from being charged twice.

Republicans offered a proposal, ACA 12 (Wallis), that would have required clear taxpayer protections to be written into the California Constitution before any per-mile

driving tax could move forward. Those protections would not allow a mileage tax to be added on top of the gas tax and require any per-mile charge to be fair and uniform.

"First, they want to tax gasoline and ban combustion engines to force California drivers into

electric vehicles, then they realize that means less revenues from gas taxes so they come up with a mileage tax to cover the difference," said Assemblymember Heath Flora.

"This is the last thing we should be thinking about; creative ways

to tax Californians who already pay among the highest taxes while having the highest cost-of-living in the country."

By voting down the proposal, Assembly Democrats made it clear they intend to charge Californians twice just to drive. ★

United Way to Help Residents this Tax Season

United Way Capital Region News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- Local residents throughout the Sacramento region are eligible to file their taxes for free through United Way California Capital Region's Free Tax Prep program that runs through April 15.

Households that earned less than \$68,000 in 2025 can file for free, and trained tax volunteers will help maximize cash back from state and federal credits, including the federal and state Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC and CalEITC).

United Way's Free Tax Prep program saves participants an average of \$200 in preparer fees.

The program provides free tax help virtually and in person in multiple languages and locations across Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties. United Way recommends filing as early as possible to receive tax credits sooner. For more information or to sign up: www.YourFreeTaxPrep.org or call 2-1-1.

This year, the local United



Members of United Way's Free Tax Prep team help a client sign in to have her taxes prepared in 2025. The program is now open for the current tax season. Photo courtesy of United Way

Way is partnering with Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way to offer its Free Tax Prep program in Colusa, Sutter and Yuba counties as well. For services in that region, call 844-546-1464.

"At United Way, we believe every family deserves the dignity and peace of mind that comes from financial stability," said Dr. Dawnté Early, president and CEO, United Way

California Capital Region. "Our Free Tax Prep program is more than a service; it's an opportunity for our community to keep more of what they've earned and to build a stronger foundation for the future. When we remove barriers and open doors, families thrive – and when families thrive, our entire region grows stronger together."

Since 2020, United Way's Free

Tax Prep program has helped more than 28,000 people across the region file their taxes for free, with nearly \$40 million received in total federal refunds.

For those interested in volunteering for the program, more Free Tax Prep volunteers are needed. Each year, hundreds of Free Tax Prep volunteers donate their time helping people file taxes online or at dozens

of in-person sites. For more information, visit www.YourFreeTaxPrep.org.

United Way California Capital Region has been a driving force across the region for more than 100 years, listening, responding and taking comprehensive action to meet local needs. From advancing youth opportunities and helping kids excel in school, to strengthening local communities and investing in families' financial security and health, United Way mobilizes communities to build a future where everyone can reach their full potential and thrive.

Working across Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties, the local United Way provides books and literacy tutoring, addresses housing and food security, leads the region's largest tax preparation initiative, works with foster youth across school districts, launched the region's first guaranteed income program and leads the Community Schools initiative in West Sacramento. To make a donation, visit www.YourLocalUnitedWay.org. ★

Sacramento Educators Among Statewide Education Grant Recipients

SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union, Education Foundation for California Schools News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- The Education Foundation for California Schools, a nonprofit created by SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union and the Orange County Department of Education, awarded 95 grants to teachers in California to support programs that inspire students to learn and excel in core subjects, including language arts, science, mathematics, foreign language and social studies.

The grants, awarded in \$1,000 and \$5,000 funding levels, totaled more than \$280,000. The Education Foundation for California Schools awards grants to California teachers from kindergarten to community college. Grants may be used to purchase materials or equipment to support the development of new programs in core subjects.

Among the 95 educators honored statewide, seven Sacramento County teachers were selected to receive grants, a distinction shared by only 12 counties across California.

"For more than two decades, the teacher grant program has celebrated the passion and innovation of California's educators," said Josh Smith, vice president, school and community

relations at SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union and executive director of the Education Foundation. "These grants help educators teach in meaningful ways by bringing new educational resources into the classroom, expanding learning opportunities for their students."

Grant recipients represent 45 school districts spanning Northern and Southern California Placer, Sacramento and Yuba counties.

About SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union

SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union is the largest credit union serving school employees and their families, and for the seventh year in a row, Forbes has named SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union the top credit union in California. The organization is dedicated to delivering World-Class Personal Service and improving the financial lives of its members.

In J.D. Power's 2025 inaugural U.S. Credit Union Satisfaction Study, its members ranked them #1 for overall satisfaction. Today they serve more than 1.5 million members with a full range of financial products and services. SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union was founded in 1934, when 126 school employees pooled \$1,200 and established a member-owned cooperative to help improve each other's

lives. The credit union has more than \$35 billion in assets and remains the largest credit union in California and the third largest credit union in the United States. For more information about SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union, visit schoolsfirstfcu.org. Insured by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

About the Education Foundation for California Schools

The Education Foundation for California Schools is a nonprofit, 501 (c) (3) organization founded in 2003 by SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union and the Orange County Department of Education to provide financial assistance to teachers in California public and private schools through grants. The grants help fund educational programs that impact students throughout the state. Every year, grants are awarded to California teachers from kindergarten to community college and can be used for materials or equipment to support the development of new educational programs in core subjects. Since 2003, more than 1,000 teachers have received grants totaling more than \$2.5 million. Applications are submitted in October each year and are chosen based on various factors. For more information about the Education Foundation for California Schools, visit caeducationfoundation.org. ★

Yuba Water Funds Regional Wastewater Plan



A stand of trees in the North Yuba River watershed. Photo courtesy of Alex Boesch/Yuba Water Agency

By MPG Staff

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Yuba Water Agency approved a grant exceeding \$3 million to the Olivehurst Public Utility District (OPUD) to complete planning and design work for a regional wastewater transmission and treatment project serving Wheatland and South Yuba County.

The funding will support final design, permitting and land management work for a

new wastewater pipeline connecting the City of Wheatland to OPUD's existing wastewater treatment plant. The project will allow Wheatland to discontinue use of its current treatment facility, which is nearing the end of its service life, and instead utilize available treatment capacity at OPUD's plant.

Yuba Water previously approved a loan of up to \$80 million to support construction of the regional project. The agency said the effort is intended

to address long term wastewater infrastructure needs in South Yuba County while consolidating treatment services.

Additional information on the project is available through Yuba Water's public engagement platform.

During the same meeting, Yuba Water received a presentation on a large tree study focused on forest health and wildfire resilience in the North Yuba River watershed.

The study used field data

and advanced drone imagery to examine the role of large trees in forest ecosystems. Findings showed that while large, fire adapted trees contribute to forest resilience, an overabundance of some large, fire intolerant species, including white fir, can increase wildfire risk and threaten legacy pine stands.

The results are expected to inform forest restoration and wildfire risk reduction efforts led by the North Yuba Forest Partnership, a collaboration

of nine organizations working across 275,000 acres of the North Yuba River watershed.

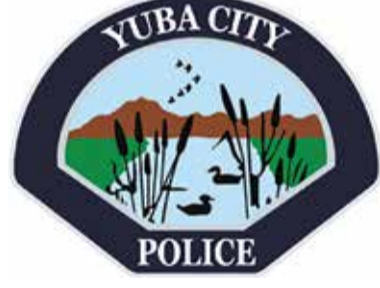
The study was jointly funded by Yuba Water and The Nature Conservancy. Other partners include the U.S. Forest Service Tahoe National Forest, South Yuba River Citizens League, Camptonville Community Partnership, Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe, National Forest Foundation, Sierra County and Blue Forest. ★

Yuba City Police Lt. Retires After 24 Years

By MPG Staff

YUBA CITY, CA (MPG) - Yuba City Police Lt. Michelle Brazil has retired after 24 years with the Yuba City Police Department, concluding a career that included patrol, investigations, training and leadership roles.

Brazil's service was recognized last month when she received the department's Meritorious Service Medal. Mayor Marc Boomgaarden and members of the Yuba City Council also presented her with a city proclamation, citing her



long-standing commitment to public safety and the community.

Brazil joined the department in 2002 and served as a police officer, sergeant and lieutenant. During her career, she worked in a variety

of assignments, including training new officers, investigating major crimes, serving as a hostage negotiator and leading specialized units.

Department officials said Brazil demonstrated professionalism and steady leadership throughout her tenure. She received multiple awards over the years for leadership, teamwork and lifesaving actions.

The department credited Brazil with supporting officer safety, strengthening departmental operations and maintaining a high level of service to Yuba City residents. ★



Lieutenant Michelle Brazil, right, is recognized by Yuba City Police Chief Jim Runyen during a recent ceremony honoring her retirement after 24 years of service with the Yuba City Police Department. Courtesy photo

Rideout Recognized for Bariatric Surgery Care

By MPG Staff

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - Adventist Health and Rideout has been designated a Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Distinction Center for Bariatric Surgery, a recognition awarded to hospitals that meet national standards for quality, safety and patient outcomes in weight-loss surgery.

The designation is based on objective, evidence-based criteria developed by Blue Cross Blue Shield in collaboration with clinical experts and medical organizations. Hospitals earning the distinction demonstrate consistent performance in surgical outcomes, patient care and program structure.

According to the health system, the recognition reflects the work of its bariatric surgery team and its focus on coordinated, long-term care for patients undergoing weight-loss procedures.

"This designation



The bariatric program at Adventist Health and Rideout includes surgical services along with nutrition counseling, patient education and follow-up care designed to support long-term weight management. Photo courtesy of Adventist Health and Rideout

reflects the exceptional work of our bariatric team and the comprehensive care they provide," said

Dr. Arturo Garcia, director of metabolic and bariatric surgery at Adventist Health and Rideout. "It reinforces

our commitment to improving health outcomes for our patients."

The bariatric program

at Adventist Health and Rideout includes surgical services along with nutrition counseling, patient

education and follow-up care designed to support long-term weight management. ★