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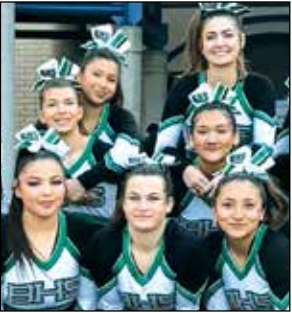
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# An Unbreakable Bond?

Local Duo Studies Effects of Long-Term Imprisonment



Michele Curiel, left, and Professor Doris Schartmueller presented their current findings to colleagues and attendees of the Western Society of Criminology conference held in Colorado in early February. Photo courtesy of Michele Curiel

By Seti Long

**BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Live Oak resident Michele Curiel and California State University, Chico professor Doris Schartmueller recently presented preliminary findings at the Western Society of Criminology conference in Denver, Colorado.

Two years ago, Curiel, then an undergraduate student, and Schartmueller began a research

project examining how life imprisonment sentences affect loved ones left behind. Their study, titled "Unbreakable Bond? Examining How Life Imprisonment Affects the Lives of Loved Ones on the Outside," focuses on the emotional and social impact on families.

Curiel, a first-generation Latina single mother, earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and an associate degree in criminal justice from California State University, Chico.

She is now pursuing a master's degree in public administration with an emphasis in criminal justice.

Schartmueller has taught in Chico State's Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice for more than a decade and regularly conducts research on prisons and comparative criminal justice.

Curiel met Schartmueller in class and approached her about collaborating after hearing her discuss research

*Continued on page 2*

## Del Monte Exit Shakes Sutter Peach Growers

By Susan Meeker

**YUBA CITY, CA (MPG)** - Del Monte Foods' bankruptcy reached a decisive point this month when a federal court approved the sale of most of the company's assets to three buyers. The ruling confirmed that the company's Modesto fruit cannery, the last Del Monte plant operating in California, will close because no buyer stepped forward to keep it open.

For Sutter County, the closure creates an immediate crisis for the region's cling peach growers, who have supplied Del Monte for generations and now have no confirmed processor for the 2026 season.

"This bankruptcy is going to have serious impacts on our local agricultural community," Sutter County Supervisor Karm Bains said during a recent board meeting. "For more than 140 years, Del Monte has been a cornerstone of American agriculture."

Bains said Del Monte's long presence helped define the region's farming identity and tied the community to the industry. Sutter County growers harvested about 106,000 tons of clingstone peaches in 2024, generating a gross value of \$66.4 million, according to the most recent crop report.

"Here in Sutter County, a major cannery and extensive peach orchards supported generations of workers and family farms," Bains said.

The Feb. 9 court approval finalized three major transactions. Fresh Del Monte Produce will acquire Del Monte Foods' vegetable, tomato and refrigerated fruit businesses, along with global ownership of the Del Monte brand. B&G Foods will take over the company's broth and stock lines. Pacific Coast Producers will acquire rights to Del Monte's shelf-stable fruit products in the United States, Puerto Rico and Mexico. None of the buyers agreed to purchase or operate the Modesto cannery. Industry analysts point to shifting consumer preferences away from traditional canned fruit to fresh, frozen and alternative packaging, along with rising labor, energy and transportation costs that have made large canning operations increasingly difficult to sustain.

Without the Modesto facility, more than 200 Sutter County peach-growing families have no confirmed processing

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# Gridley Pharmacy Opens Downtown

By Seti Long

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - A new independent pharmacy has opened in Gridley following the closure of Rite Aid last year, restoring a locally owned option for prescriptions and over-the-counter medications.

Pharmacist Manjinder "Manny" Singh opened Gridley Pharmacy in mid-January after Rite Aid closed, leaving the city with two remaining pharmacies. Increased traffic at CVS and Safeway led to longer wait times for customers.

Singh most recently worked at CVS in Gridley. He completed undergraduate studies at University of California, Davis and earned pharmaceutical degrees from North State University in Elk Grove. He has worked at several pharmacies in the region.

When Rite Aid shut its doors, Singh said he saw a need for another option in town. He partnered with



Pharmacy technician Anthony Morales, left, and Pharmacist Manjinder "Manny" Singh reunite to serve the community at Gridley Pharmacy. Photo by Seti Long

Anthony Morales, a pharmacy technician who has served the Gridley area for 34 years.

"Right now, we are receiving a really great response from the community," Singh said. He said

he appreciates the support from residents as the business establishes itself.

Gridley Pharmacy does not offer drive through service but provides free delivery in Gridley, Biggs and Live Oak. Singh said

the store aims to offer competitive pricing by operating independently. Vaccinations are also available.

Singh said he works with insurance providers to help

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# The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

Over the past five years, Butte County has seen significant ups and downs in residential construction. According to building permit data tracked by the

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, the story really breaks into two chapters. From 2020 to 2022, the county was in full rebuilding mode following the Camp Fire. Permits hit 1,837 units in 2020, peaked at 2,050 in 2021, then held strong at 1,853 in 2022. That three-year period alone accounted for nearly 5,800 new housing units. Then things shifted. In 2023, permits dropped to 929 units—less than half the previous year. The trend continued into 2024, with 946 units, indicating that construction

had settled into a slower, steadier pace. All told, Butte County authorized about 7,615 residential units between 2020 and 2024. The data tells the story of a community working hard to rebuild after a disaster, with the initial urgency gradually giving way to more typical development patterns. So, if Gridley is approximately 5,000 people. We've added about one Gridley to our area in the last 5 years.

\*\*\*  
Josh F.W. Cook is an alumnus of Butte College.

# An Unbreakable Bond?

Continued from page 1

opportunities with other students. They worked together through Chico State's Future Scholars Program, which provides paid research opportunities and mentorship for first-generation undergraduates.

Schartmueller and Curiel partnered with advocacy groups to recruit 26 participants from across the nation. Each shared experiences of having a loved one serving a life sentence. Including participants from different states allowed the study to reflect varied correctional systems, Schartmueller said.

A native of Austria, Schartmueller said prison systems there are smaller than those in the United States. She added that her comparative work has shaped her interest in long-term incarceration.

Incarceration can be a sensitive subject, and Schartmueller and Curiel said their goal is to highlight the range of emotions and trauma families experience and to encourage development of additional resources.

"We really started this project from scratch," Schartmueller said, noting she previously studied life sentences from the perspective of incarcerated individuals. "I've always been really interested in understanding more how even people outside of prison are affected by these really long prison sentences."

Both researchers said empathy for families does not equate to condoning crimes.

"Having empathy for these families doesn't mean you condone the crime," Curiel said.

According to California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation data, more than 40% of people incarcerated in California prisons are serving life sentences. As of January 2026, 5,170 individuals were serving life without the possibility of parole and 25,173 were serving life sentences.

"We knew that there were going to be many family members and loved ones affected in our state alone," Schartmueller said.

Curiel said she was surprised by the level of hope many participants expressed despite difficult circumstances.

"Giving families a platform, a safe space, to just talk about it and say, 'this is really hard,' is important," Curiel said. "At the end of the day, these are human beings. There are real tears behind these words and these interviews."

Schartmueller and Curiel continue to collect and review data. They hope to reach 30 participants before closing the study and publishing their final analysis.

"By doing this study, we became very protective of these families," Curiel said. "We realized we are not just researchers; we are keepers of these stories. These families trust us with their pain and to narrate their stories. They are counting on us to do something about this. Make it matter." ★

# Gridley Reviews \$1.16M Budget Shift

By Susan Meeker

**BIGGS, CA (MPG)** - Finance Director Martin Pineda walked the Gridley City Council through a sweeping midyear budget review earlier this month, outlining more than \$1 million in adjustments across city departments and explaining how grants, contract reimbursements and updated cost projections are shaping the city's financial outlook for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The revisions reflect salary obligations tied to recently approved labor agreements, shifts in capital project timelines and operational needs in both general fund and enterprise departments. Administration accounted for one of the larger adjustments, driven by higher personnel costs, attorney receivership expenses and mandated contributions for state programs. The department also added funding for compliance with SB 1383 and groundwater sustainability requirements.

The Gridley Police Department saw one of the most significant increases. Pineda said the city added funding for two additional officers, part-time staffing, body-worn camera payments and a new patrol vehicle. Pineda told the council that the overall increase to the department is about \$292,000.

"I know it's a big number but about \$190,000 of that is being covered through the City of Biggs contract," Pineda said.

Other departments experienced reductions. Pineda said Finance cut \$50,000 in professional services after the city stopped using outside accounting consultants. Animal Control reduced salaries and retirement costs. Streets lowered salary and extra-help expenses after re-allocating part-time staffing to Parks. The Fire Department decreased equipment maintenance because a new fire truck is expected to reduce repair needs and

shifted funds to properly account for principal and interest payments on the truck loan.

Enterprise funds also shifted. Electric added funding for a new lineman but reduced projected power purchase costs. Water increased spending on chlorine and meter equipment. Sewer added funds for fuel, credit card processing fees and the replacement of a failed grinder that must be completed this fiscal year. Pineda told the council the grinder is a vital piece of equipment and needs to be replaced immediately.

Several major capital projects remain fully grant-funded. Pineda said the Feather River sewer crossing project is covered entirely by state funding. The Outdoor Equity Program will continue through 2026 with remaining grant dollars. The Gridley Sports Complex is reimbursable up to \$3 million. Although the project is projected to exceed that amount in future years, the current fiscal year remains within the reimbursable threshold. Pineda said the project is currently projected to be about \$900,000 over budget but that overage is expected to affect next year's budget rather than the current one.

When council members asked for clarity on how much of the \$1.1 million increase remains unfunded, Pineda explained that most of the adjustments tied to grants and the Biggs police contract are fully covered this year. He also said the city is pursuing additional grants and noted that staff is actively working on several applications.

The council took no action during the study session but approved the midyear budget adjustment during its regular meeting that followed, raising the city's approximate \$25 million spending plan by \$1.16 million, including \$503,298 in grant reimbursements, \$306,031 in RDA passthrough revenue and \$187,357 from the Biggs police contract. ★

# Firefighters Rescue Goat in Biggs

By Lloyd Green

**BIGGS, CA (MPG)** - CAL FIRE Butte County firefighters rescued a baby goat last week afternoon after it became trapped inside a culvert in Biggs.

The Emergency Command Center in Oroville received the call at about 2:30 p.m. reporting the animal stuck underground.

Crews responded and located the goat approximately 50 feet inside the culvert.

Firefighters set up air monitoring equipment before entering the confined space. Personnel then used a ladder to reach the goat and bring it to the surface.

The animal was not injured.

After the rescue, responders named the goat "Lucky." ★



A CAL FIRE Butte County firefighter carries a baby goat up a ladder from inside a culvert in Biggs after crews responded to a report of the animal trapped about 50 feet inside. Photo courtesy CAL FIRE Butte County



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# Del Monte Exit Shakes Sutter Peach Growers

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home for their 2026 crop, officials said. Many growers say they cannot easily shift to other processors because of capacity limits, transportation costs or existing contracts. County officials said the loss of the cannery will also affect far more than growers. Local trucking companies, packing sheds, farm labor contractors and suppliers all depend on the seasonal movement of fruit into Modesto. Bains said the disruption will be felt across the region and will influence agricultural planning for years to come.

Sutter County is working with agricultural groups and industry partners to identify possible alternatives, Bains said. Discussions include short-term processing

options and support for growers who may be forced to make difficult decisions about their orchards. With preparations for the 2026 harvest already underway, growers say the lack of a buyer leaves them facing the possibility of removing trees, a step officials warn would permanently alter Sutter County's agricultural landscape and diminish one of the region's signature crops.

"Our focus is on protecting family farms," Bains said.

County officials stressed that time is short. Without a processor in place soon, they said the fallout could ripple through the local economy, affecting jobs, small businesses and the broader agricultural community. ★

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# LOCAL EVENTS

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Crafts
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Classes

# Biggs Cheer Debuts at State

# Filing Opens for June Primary

By MPG Staff

**BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The candidate filing period for the June 2 Statewide Direct Primary Election opened Feb. 9 and runs through March 6, according to Butte County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters Keaton Denley.

Voters will choose candidates for federal, state, judicial, school and county offices. The ballot includes United States Representative for the 1st Congressional District, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General and Insurance Commissioner. Voters also will select a Member of the State Board of Equalization for the 1st Equalization District and a Member of the State Assembly for the 3rd Assembly District.

Judicial seats include four associate justice positions and Superior Court judges for

Department 2 and Department 3. School offices include State Superintendent of Public Instruction and County Superintendent of Schools.

At the county level, offices up for election include Supervisor for the 2nd and 3rd districts, Assessor, Auditor-Controller, County Clerk-Recorder and Treasurer-Tax Collector.

Denley urged prospective candidates to review the Candidate Guide available at [www.ButteVotes.net](http://www.ButteVotes.net) or contact the Elections Office at 530-552-3400, Option 1. Information for state and federal offices is available through the Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov).

The filing window closes at 5 p.m. March 6. Candidates must submit required documents within that period to qualify for the ballot.

The primary will determine which candidates advance to the November general election. ★



Biggs High School cheerleaders compete at the CIF State Cheer Championship Invitational on Jan. 31 in Folsom. Photo courtesy of Angie Cote

By Seti Long

**BIGGS, CA (MPG)** - Biggs High School cheerleaders competed at the California Interscholastic Federation State Cheer Championship Invitational on Jan. 31 in Folsom.

The team entered the non-tumbling medium-sized school division under the direction of Angie Cote.

"This is the first time Biggs High has ever had a competition team," said Cote.

Cote added that the routine combined cheer and dance elements, with a focus on

stunts and pyramids.

Earlier in the season, the team placed second at the CIF Northern Section competition in the novice category on Jan. 17. Biggs was one of 100 high schools selected to compete at the CIF State Championships.

At the state event, the Wolverines faced 10 teams in their division and placed seventh overall.

"I could not be prouder of these girls and their drive to succeed," said Cote. "This was a huge accomplishment, and we are looking forward to a bigger and better season next year." ★

# Gridley Pharmacy Opens Downtown

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customers address high-cost prescriptions when possible.

Morales assists customers at the front counter, answers phones and handles afternoon deliveries.

"We're looking forward to how much we can grow and what else we can do for the community," Singh said.

Gridley Pharmacy accepts most major insurance plans. The store is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The pharmacy can be reached at 530-456-6449. ★



Anthony Morales assists customers and answers calls at Gridley Pharmacy. Photo by Seti Long

# Sheriff Welcomes Three Deputies



Correctional Deputies Davis Wilson, Cristian Briseno and Jeffry Siler stand with Sheriff Kory Honea during a swearing-in ceremony earlier this week at the Butte County Sheriff's Office. Photo courtesy Butte County Sheriff's Office

By MPG Staff

**BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Sheriff Kory Honea swore in three new correctional deputies earlier this month, marking the start of their careers with the Butte County Sheriff's Office.

The new deputies are Davis Wilson, Cristian Briseno and Jeffry Siler. Honea administered the oath during a

ceremony held at the sheriff's office.

Honea congratulated Wilson, Briseno and Siler and said he looks forward to the dedication and service they will bring to the department and to the community.

The ceremony adds three members to the correctional staff as the department continues to fill positions within the jail division. ★

# Juvenile Arrested in Shooting

By MPG Staff

**LIVE OAK, CA (MPG)** - A 17-year-old Marysville resident was arrested Feb. 11 in connection with a shooting in the 2800 block of Pennington Road, according to the Sutter County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies responded about 3 p.m. to reports of gunfire. Investigators determined that occupants of a vehicle fired multiple shots at a person who ran from them. The gunfire struck a nearby residence and a vehicle. No injuries were reported.

The Gridley Police Department later located the suspect vehicle and conducted a traffic stop on Highway 99 in Gridley. Officers recovered a firearm believed to have been used in the shooting.

Authorities arrested the juvenile on suspicion of attempted homicide, shooting at an inhabited dwelling, unlawfully carrying a firearm, participation in a criminal street gang and promoting or assisting a criminal street gang. Officials booked the teen into Juvenile Hall.

Christian Seaborn, 30, of Yuba City, was also arrested on suspicion of being an accessory to a crime, participation in a criminal street gang, promoting or assisting a criminal street gang, driving under the influence of alcohol and a parole hold. He was booked into the Sutter County Jail.

The investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Sutter County Sheriff's Office at 530-822-7307. ★

# GHS Performing 'Guys and Dolls' in March



Gridley High School Drama Club will present the romantic musical comedy "Guys and Dolls" March 11 to 13 in the Guardian Building. Cast members are, front row from left, Reed Bevin, Jackie Arriola, Ruby Pearl, Aaliyah Johnson, Marko Zarate and Kadence Halstead; middle row, Melody Thompson, Claire Robertson, Abbey Castro, Trey Luquin, Annalise Castro, Hailey Hall, Lydia Thompson, Asia Clark and Saydee Moreno; back row, Peyton Quist, William Bevin, Hudson Price, Grady Orme, Owen Stewart and Zack Vallejo. Photo courtesy of Cindy Scott

By Cindy Scott

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - The Gridley High School Drama Club is preparing to bring the classic musical "Guys and Dolls" to the stage next month in the Guardian Building.

First produced on Broadway in 1950 and later adapted into a 1955 film starring Frank Sinatra and Marlon Brando, "Guys and Dolls" remains a staple of American musical theater.

Set in New York City's gambling underworld, the story follows Sky Masterson, who wagers that he can win the heart of missionary Sarah Brown. At the same time, his friend Nathan Detroit,

a craps game organizer, struggles to convince his longtime fiancée Adelaide to marry him. Through music and comedy, the characters confront questions about loyalty, faith and commitment.

Gridley teachers Ethan Jacobsen and Connie Quist serve as producers and directors. They are guiding students through rehearsals while also overseeing set construction and coordinating lighting and sound design.

The production will run for three performances: March 11 at 4 p.m., and March 12 and March 13 at 7 p.m. Tickets will be available through the Gridley High School Sideline Store at [ghs.gusd.org](http://ghs.gusd.org). ★

# Gridley Police Report



January 26, 2026 - February 5, 2026

**Jan. 26:** At 2:18 p.m. on the 1500 block of SR 99, Gridley, Dominic Joseph Brown, 42, was arrested on suspicion of probation violation: rearrest/revoked (M) (1203.2(a) PC) and disorderly conduct: alcohol (M) (647(f) PC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

**Jan. 28:** At 2:46 p.m. on Vermont Street and Laurel Street, Gridley, Carlos Ariel Magana, 41, was arrested on an outside agency misdemeanor warrant and was booked into Butte County Jail.

**Jan. 30:** At 4:27 p.m. on the 1500 block of SR 99, Gridley, Marchall James Hollingsworth, 35, was arrested on suspicion of probation violation: rearrest/revoked (M) (1203.2(a) PC) and possession of unlawful paraphernalia (M) (11364(a) HS) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

**Jan. 31:** At 6:43 p.m. on the 100 block of Washington Street, Gridley, Don Gordon Butler, 73, was arrested on suspicion of disorderly conduct: alcohol (M) (647(f) PC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

**Feb. 1:** At 5:42 p.m. on the 1900 block of SR 99, Gridley, Sergio Pereaquin, 31, was arrested on suspicion of probation violation: rearrest/revoked (M) (1203.2(a) PC), DUI alcohol (M) (23152(a) VC), DUI alcohol/0.08 percent (M) (23152(b) VC) and VOP of DUI probation with BAC of 0.01 or greater (23154(b) VC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

**Feb. 1:** At 7:29 p.m. on the 1900 block of SR 99, Gridley, Esequiel Banuellossanabia, 57, was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence with prior convictions per 23550 VC (F) (23152(a) VC), driving under the influence 0.08 percent with prior convictions per 23550 VC (23152(b) VC), probation violation: rearrest/revoked (M) (1203.2(a) PC) and driving on a suspended license: special circumstances (14601.5(a) VC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

**Feb. 2:** At 12:35 a.m. on the 800 block of California Street, Gridley, Noah Michael Kennedy, 20, was arrested on suspicion of vandalism: damage property (M) (594(a)(2) PC) and disorderly conduct: alcohol (M) (647(f) PC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

**Feb. 3:** At 4:47 p.m. on the 800 block of California Street, Gridley, Noah Michael Kennedy, 20, was arrested on suspicion of disorderly conduct: alcohol (M) (647(f) PC) and was booked into Butte County Jail.

**Feb. 4:** At 5:48 p.m. on the 500 block of Macedo Road, Gridley, Christina Mae Powell, 52, was arrested on two outside agency felony warrants and was booked into Butte County Jail.

**Feb. 5:** At 4:13 p.m. on the 1500 block of SR 99, Gridley, Tara Christine McDavitt, 42, was arrested on suspicion of DUI alcohol (M) (23152(a) VC) and DUI alcohol/0.08 percent (M) (23152(b) VC) and was booked into Butte County Jail. ★

# News Briefs

## California First District Opens 2026 Art Competition

The Office of California's First Congressional District has opened the 2026 Congressional Art Competition to high school students across the district. This year's theme is "America, a 250-year Celebration of Liberty." Students can find guidelines and entry details at [forms.house.gov/services/ca01-art-competition](https://forms.house.gov/services/ca01-art-competition). The deadline to apply is Friday, April 10. The annual competition will continue following the recent passing of Rep. Doug LaMalfa. The program offers high school students in the First District an opportunity to present their work at the national level. The winning artwork will hang for one year in the U.S. Capitol alongside entries from other congressional districts nationwide.

## Traffic Stop Leads to Firearm, Drug Arrest

A traffic stop Saturday night in Chico led to the arrest of a 23-year-old man on firearm and drug charges, according to the Butte County Sheriff's Office. A deputy conducted a traffic enforcement stop at about 8:26 p.m. Feb. 8 near the intersection of Warner Street and West Sacramento Avenue for vehicle code violations. The driver was identified as Nathaniel Baker of Chico. During the stop, deputies found a firearm in Baker's waistband. A search also located cocaine on Baker and additional cocaine inside the vehicle, the sheriff's office said. Investigators determined Baker was prohibited from possessing firearms. Baker was arrested on charges including being a prohibited person in possession of a firearm, possession of a controlled substance while armed with a loaded firearm, carrying a loaded firearm on his person and possession of a controlled substance. He was booked into the Butte County Jail. ★

# Butte College Scholarships Open

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](https://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](https://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](mailto:foundation@butte.edu) or 530-895-2359. ★

# Community Calendar

## Butte County Libraries

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

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

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

**Tuesday, Feb. 24:** LEGO Tuesdays, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B)

**Wednesday, Feb. 25:** Color your world, 11 a.m. to noon. Adult arts and crafts. (G) Afternoon kids' club, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (G)

**Thursday, Feb. 26:** Biggs chess club, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B)

Friday, Feb. 27: Sure start family play time, 9 a.m. to noon. (G)

**Saturday, Feb. 28:** Dungeons & Dragons Day, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. All experience levels welcome for adventurers 13 and older. (G)

## Saturday, Feb. 21

### Blaze it Up Biochar Workshop

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 3874 Foothill Blvd., Oroville. Come join us at our new fire resilient demonstration site. We'll be joined by our fiery friends from The Biochar Coalition for a demonstration on how to create and use biochar from brush and bramble. By transforming quenched coals into a vital resource, we enrich soil, protect watersheds, and drive sustainability. Join us in turning waste into value for a stronger, greener future. Call 530-712-3993 for more information.

### Chinese New Year at the Oroville Chinese Temple

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

## Butte Humane Society's Forever Home Project

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Butte Humane Society Adoption Center, 13391 Garner Lane, Chico. Matson & Isom Technology Consulting is sponsoring all adoption fees on Saturday, Feb. 21. We have extended our adoption walk-in hours for this event. We hope to see you there and can't wait to help you bring home a new family member.

## Sunday, Feb. 22

### Almond Blossom Run 2026

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

## Thursday, Feb. 26

### Wildfire Prevention and Environmental Policy Lecture Series: Jay Famiglietti

Doors open at 7 p.m., lecture at 7:30 p.m. at Laxson Auditorium, 400 W. 1st St., Chico. Join this renowned climate scientist and water expert for an urgent and engaging talk on the connection between wildfire, drought, and our changing climate. Known for making complex science accessible, Jay will share eye-opening insights on water scarcity, wildfire prevention, and what we can do to protect our future. Tickets and more information at [www.chicoperformances.com](http://www.chicoperformances.com).

## Saturday, Feb. 28 and Sunday, March 1 2026 Museum Weekend

Explore Butte County is your host for this event. Visit museums, galleries, and cultural centers across the county all weekend long. Enjoy free admission to participating museums each day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. More information and an updated list of museums at [www.explore-buttecounty.com/museumweekend](http://www.explore-buttecounty.com/museumweekend).

## Saturday, Feb. 28

### Celebrate Black History Month in Chico at the "BHM Pop-Up"

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Stonewall Alliance Parking Lot, corner of Orient & 6th, Chico. Join Stonewall Alliance of Chico and BLACC (Building Leaders, Advocates, & Community Connections) for this 4th annual event, free to the

public. You will have the chance to explore a variety of vendors and information booths, enjoy delicious food, and support amazing black-owned businesses.

## Crab Feed Fundraiser

5 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Oroville Convention Center, 1200 Myers St., Oroville. Sponsored by the Exchange Club of Oroville Foundation, enjoy all-you-can-eat fresh Dungeness crab while supplies last, plus clam chowder, pasta, salad, bread, and a decadent cheesecake finale. Proceeds benefit "Love Luggage" supporting foster youth in Butte County. Tickets and more information at [love-luggage.net](http://love-luggage.net).

## Meeting Minders

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Gridley Unified School District (GUSD) Board** meetings are generally on the first and third Wednesday each month, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call 530-846-4721

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# Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

All trees are pruned and sprayed. Some very prolific bulbs have been removed, some weeding has happened, many small plants transplanted into bigger pots for the Green Thumb Garden Club sale at Red Suspender's Day. Now to tidy up in various places that collect debris. The greenhouse has successfully helped seeds to germinate. I use seed mats

to warm the wee one up so their roots grow well. The miniature daffodils are showing off in little bits of bright yellow. The tree and tiger lilies are showing themselves a wee bit above the ground. The aprium is budding out as is the dwarf peach. We'll see how the other peaches do this year. I'm hoping for blossoms on the column apple trees. I had blossoms last year but no fruit set. Maybe fruit will set this year. Spring is showing itself everywhere.

As I cut back the narcissus, I discovered many snails tucked into the foliage. One baby snail was in the dried-out bloom from Autumn Joy Sedum at about 2 1/2' up. A couple more were enjoying the bloom on the reblooming

iris, also about 2' in the air. Little rascally slimer climbers. Then I noticed a lot of dry slime on the ver-bena and promptly baited that pot of plants. Out front I noticed some of the miniature daffodils with chewed on flowers. These are some of my favorites and it feels like an insulting attack to see them munched on. Out came the full -strength snail bait to protect them. I like to go organic as much as I can. I have tried so many things and I know that the snails love these little low to the ground daffodils so I don't pussyfoot around anymore. I go full strength right away or I would only see raggedy bits of small bright yellow daffodils. Happy Gardening. ★



## Grape Glut Lessens as Growers Scrap Vines

After a yearslong glut, the market for California winegrapes could reach equilibrium in the near future. The state saw "an explosion" of vineyard removals during the past two years, Jeff Bitter, president of the grower-owned marketing group Allied Grape Growers, said last month at the Unified Wine and Grape Symposium in Sacramento. Between October 2024 and August 2025, winegrape growers removed more than 38,000 acres across California—roughly 7% of the state's acreage—leaving about 477,000 acres. Experts projected there will be future demand for around 410,000 acres of winegrapes in the state. "We haven't got to where we need to be yet in order to balance supply and demand," Bitter said. But he added that ongoing removals and an unknown amount of abandoned acreage due to financial stress could bring production close to the industry target as early as this year.

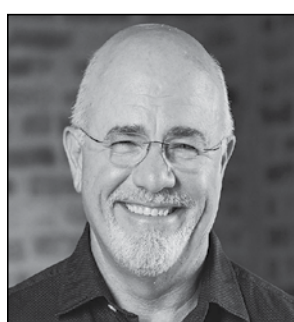
## Bill Brings Back Overtime Tax Credit Proposal

A bipartisan bill introduced last month by California state legislators would create a tax credit to offset the cost to farmers of paying overtime wages. Senate Bill 921, authored by state Sen. Shannon Grove, R-Bakersfield, and state Sen. Melissa Hurtado, D-Sanger, aims to mitigate the impact that California's agricultural overtime law has had on work opportunities for farmworkers. In 2016, the state adopted Assembly Bill 1066, which beginning in 2019 phased in a requirement that

farmworkers—like workers in most sectors—be paid time and a half when they work more than 40 hours a week or eight hours a day. The law was intended to boost earnings for farmworkers. But research indicates it reduced farmworker income as employers cut hours to avoid paying overtime. "Behind every meal is a story of love, sacrifice and hard work in the fields," Hurtado said in a statement. "SB 921 honors the sweat and sacrifice behind our food with a modern, fair approach to wages."

## Solving Veterinary Shortage is Crucial For Agriculture

California's agriculture sector leads the nation due in part to the state's thriving dairy, cattle and poultry sectors, all of which rely on veterinarians. However, the U.S. Department of Agriculture last year identified 243 rural veterinary shortage areas across the country—an all-time high—including in counties across California. "We currently face a critical shortage of food-animal veterinarians nationwide," Gary S. May, chancellor of the University of California, Davis, said in an Ag Alert® commentary. "That's why UC Davis is expanding its capacity to train future generations of veterinarians who will return to their communities and serve the state." The campus' veterinary school recently received a \$120 million gift from philanthropists Joan and Sanford I. Weill. May said the funding will be used to "expand its impact by training these future doctors, advancing large-animal care and strengthening California's health and agricultural future at an unprecedented scale." ★



Dave Ramsey

# Dave Ramsey Says Compromises Are Part of Marriage

Dear Dave,

My wife and I have been married for two years, and we both have good jobs. Together, we bring home around \$190,000 combined. We also have \$100,000 in a savings account, and no debt except for our mortgage. A couple of weeks ago, I was contacted about an opportunity to take a job in commercial real estate in my hometown. To be honest, this kind of work has been a dream of mine for several years. The problem is my wife is upset by the idea of moving. She says it's because she doesn't want to be even further away from her family, but it seems like something else is bothering her. Do you have any advice?

– Freddie

Dear Freddie,

Anytime you're in a relationship and something like this happens, it's a little like making a sale in that you've got to dig out

the real reason for the objection. It could very well be that she doesn't want to be further away from her family, and that's natural—to an extent. But like you said, there could be other factors involved.

There might be something in your past that bothers her, or something she doesn't want you to revisit. There may even be feelings of discomfort with your family for things that have happened or been said. It could also be the insecurity that goes along with a move, a new home and a new job. I don't know how far away you're talking about moving, but it could also be she's worried about leaving her job.

From a relationship standpoint, you two each need to lay your cards on the table and be honest with each other. Open up, and really talk about it. Otherwise, it's going to become a sore spot and cause even more problems. Part of marriage is making compromises. Sometimes compromises must be made by one, or both, people in or-

der to do what's best for the relationship in the present and in the long run.

It could be that you just need an impartial referee. Would you both be willing to attend a few sessions with a good pastor or marriage counselor together? Talking to either one doesn't mean your marriage is on the rocks, but sometimes a compassionate and objective third party can help dig down below the surface to uncover issues and help find a reasonable solution to problems.

I hope this helps. God bless you both, Freddie.

– 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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# Newsom's Spending Binge Outstripped Revenues, Creating California's Chronic Deficit



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

An array of charts buried in the fine print of the state budget, unknown to all but a few fiscal nerds, details what California has collected in revenues and spent over the last half-century.

The current charts in Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed 2026-27 budget reveal how spending has exploded during his governorship, far outstripping stagnant population growth, inflation and even a hefty increase in revenues.

The result, according to both Newsom's Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst Office, is a multibillion-dollar "structural deficit," meaning that revenues cannot cover spending that Newsom and the Legislature have enacted.

"Both our office and the administration expect the state to face multiyear deficits, with estimates ranging from \$20 billion to \$35 billion annually," Legislative Analyst Gabe Petek says in his overview of the proposed budget.

"These deficits are concerning for three reasons. First, after four years of projected deficits and a cumulative total of \$125 billion in budget problems solved so far, the state's negative fiscal situation is now chronic.

"Second, structural deficits have grown — our November outlook is the most negative forecast of the budget's position since the pandemic.

Finally, deficits have persisted even as the state's economy and revenues have grown, underscoring that the problem is structural rather than cyclical. Taken together, these trends raise serious concerns about the state's fiscal sustainability."

The budget's historic charts are important because they support Petek's deficit warning and undercut politicians' temptation to shift the blame to economic conditions, emergencies such as the Los Angeles wildfires or reductions in federal aid by President Donald Trump.

Here's what one chart reveals:

In the seven budgets Newsom has signed, beginning with 2019-20, and the eighth one he has proposed, revenues have increased by 60%, mostly from taxes that tapped into a 48% increase in Californians' personal income during the period. Total spending, however, jumped 72%, from \$203 billion to \$349 billion.

During that same period, the state's population has been stagnant at 39.6 million while inflation at the national level has been 29%, averaging 3.4% a year, with California's inflation slightly lower at about 3%. In other words, revenues have increased at roughly twice the rate of inflation while spending has jumped even higher.

Those numbers are reflected in a nearly 28% increase in the state's workforce, from 376,990 to 481,850, as the budget expanded programs that were in place when Newsom became governor and added new categories. Spending on health care, especially for low-income Californians, has been one major driver, while constitutional formulas for financing public schools have been another.

Another chart provides a clue to the massive error in revenue projections by Newsom's budget staff in 2022 which sparked the spending surge.

In 2021, as the state's economy began recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown and as billions of dollars in federal relief flooded the state, general fund revenues jumped 53% above the pre-pandemic 2019 level, topping \$200 billion for the first time in history.

For reasons known only to themselves, Newsom and his aides assumed that the new revenues figure would be at least semi-permanent. It fueled Newsom's claim, as the 2022-23 budget was being finalized, that the state enjoyed a \$97.5 billion surplus, and his bragging that "no other state in American history has ever experienced a surplus as large as this."

Newsom's declaration fueled an immediate spending increase that carried into the following years. But the projected revenue increase turned out to be an illusion, and subsequently the administration acknowledged that it had over-estimated revenues by \$165 billion over four years.

The structural deficit has been with us ever since, totaling \$125 billion so far, as Petek describes. Newsom clearly envisions a presidential campaign after his governorship ends, but the self-inflicted budget mess may haunt him.

*Dan Walters is one of the most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends.* ★

# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



## Break the Losing Streak

Well, Kings fans, your hometown team is setting records, albeit not the ones anyone wants.

After leading every team in the NBA in scoring and making the playoffs just 3 short years ago the Sacramento Kings currently own the worst record in the league. Just 12 wins and 44 losses set a Sacramento franchise record entering the all-star break for most anemic effort since the franchise arrived over 40 years ago.

If that sounds bad, it's potentially not the worst news. In all my years of following the NBA never have I so brazenly heard the word tanking bandied about.

Radio hosts and columnists use this word with no apprehension, and many are posing tanking as a form of strategy. Nothing could be more abominable or thoroughly nauseating.

As much as I admire the fan base of the Kings, at no time have I ever considered that this fan base would trade losing games with purpose to potentially acquire a better draft pick.

The day that Doug Christie intentionally tries to lose a basketball game, is the day that I turn in my season tickets and find another organization to support.

Tanking is a dirty word, and it sends a message to the youth of our fan base that no one should want to consider.

The Sacramento Kings have made blatant mistakes to be sure, and injuries have contributed greatly to a paltry 12 wins thus far this season, but at no time have I believed that the owner or the coaching staff of this team is intentionally trying to lose a game.

Hefty fines were recently handed out to the Utah Jazz and Indiana Pacers for intentionally trying to throw basketball games. Yes, tanking is a real thing, and anyone associated with it should be ashamed.

When Adam Silver had the Herculean mountain to climb taking over as commissioner for David Stern, he had no illusions as to what lay ahead and the difficulty of the task. Since 2014 Silver has put into practice all that David Stern tried to teach him, but perhaps his most daunting task is yet before him. It is unlikely that tanking can be stopped 100% of the time, but getting this

dirty word out of our everyday vocabulary is something Adam Silver must conquer.

Don't ever let this nasty concept get watered down Kings fans, because once you open Pandora's box it's ever so hard to put the lid back on.

So, what should the Kings do? Find the Lion on the team, the very heart of the team, and build around that player! Someone with a heart for winning and an engine that never stops.

Yes, he's here, and his name is Domantas Sabonis! His name is synonymous with winning, and he was the center piece of the team that led the NBA in scoring, while he single-handedly led the NBA in rebounding.

It was a glorious year that saw the Kings finally taste the playoffs and came within a gnat's eyelash of knocking off the Golden State Warriors in the first round of the playoffs.

This was just 3 short years ago, and although the Kings have made monumental missteps such as trading away DeAaron Fox, there remains more than a remnant of talent on this team.

What the Kings need is a steady hand, and someone to bring this talent together.

The upcoming draft looms large, and GM Scott Perry will be tested to see if he can double down on Nique Clifford and Max Raynaud who have acquitted themselves admirably thus far in their rookie debut.

Please Kings fans, don't ever buy into tanking and give it the cold shoulder it deserves. Let's continue in the Sacramento tradition of never giving up and striving to win every game.

We may not have an NBA championship, but don't let anyone say we don't have honor.

The recent acquisition of DeAndre Hunter has yet to make his presence felt but let's welcome him with open arms and see how he can play alongside Keegan Murray who is slated to return soon from injury.

Winning games Kings fans! That's who we are and who we should be.

Get out to a game and let's light the beam together!  
*All the best!* ★

# SPARKY'S CORNER

## SMOKE DETECTORS



CAL FIRE/ Gridley Fire Department would like to remind everyone of the importance of smoke detectors in the home. With Day Light Saving Time Starting on the 8th of March, it's time to change the batteries or replace that old detector. Smoke alarms save lives! Smoke spreads fast inside a home, smoke detectors will alert you early and give you time to get out. Having a working smoke detector cuts the chances of dying in a reported fire in half. Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke detectors or no working smoke detectors. Working smoke detectors increase the chance of surviving a home fire by 50 percent.

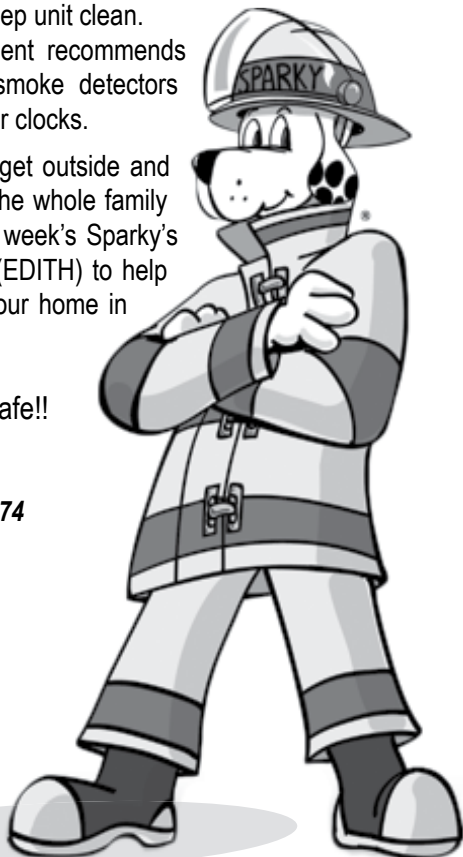
### Here's What Sparky Wants You To Know!

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area or hallway and on every level of your home. They should be mounted on the ceiling 4 inches from the wall away from windows and vents.
- Test your smoke alarms every month.
- Smoke detectors have a life span of 10 years, make sure to inspect your detectors to make sure they are not expired.
- Never paint over a detector and keep unit clean.
- CAL FIRE/ Gridley Fire Department recommends changing the batteries in your smoke detectors twice a year when you change your clocks.

When a smoke detector sounds, get outside and stay outside. Have a planned area the whole family knows to meet outside. Check next week's Sparky's Corner for Exit Drills In The Home (EDITH) to help you plan and practice evacuating your home in the event of an emergency.

Thank You, and Be Safe!!

Sparky the Dog  
Gridley Fire Station 74



# Ask DR. UNIVERSE

## How was the Earth Made?

- Penny, 8, Washington State

Dear Penny,  
Blue oceans, green forests, a cozy blanket of oxygen. Our planet is a super comfy home. It's hard to imagine there was ever a time it didn't exist.

I asked my friend Julie Ménard how Earth formed. She's a planetary scientist at Washington State University.

She told me it started with the Big Bang. That was nearly 14 billion years ago.

"The Big Bang is not an explosion," Ménard said. "It's an expansion. Everything in our universe today was in a tiny spot—smaller than the eye can see. Eventually, the pressure and density got so high that it started to expand."

That expansion is why our universe has space, time, energy and matter.

At first, the universe was like a hot stew. Instead of carrots and potatoes, it had particles. As the soupy universe cooled, particles collided to make atoms and elements. Lumps of gas came together until they were super heavy. They collapsed into fiery stars.

About 4.6 billion years ago, a star exploded near where our solar system is now. That explosion caused a shockwave that sent a nearby cloud of dust and gas spinning.

Most of the stuff in the



An artist made this to show what a dusty accretion disc around a protostar looks like. Accretion happens in our homes, too. Have you ever seen a dust bunny under your bed? That forms when dust and debris in your house bumps and clumps together. AKA accretion. NASA2.0

spinning cloud rushed to the center of the cloud. It formed a protostar—our baby Sun. As it spun around the baby Sun, the cloud flattened into a disc. It spun faster and faster.

Bits of dust and gas in the disc started bumping into each other. They clumped together into bigger bits. That bumping and clumping is called accretion.

Little by little, bits of dust and gas banged together until planetesimals formed. Those itty-bitty planet builders were about the size of a few city blocks. They were big enough to have their own gravity. That gravity pulled and pushed different planetesimals toward each other. They bashed together and formed protoplanets—sometimes called baby planets.

Then those protoplanets collided and formed planets—like our Earth.

"With each of those impacts, there's a little more heat that is added to it," Ménard said. "So, when the planet first formed, it was a ball of lava. It was molten."

For about a billion years after it formed, Earth was super-hot. Plus, tons of comets and asteroids collided with it. It was very different from the planet we know.

Eventually, things cooled and settled down. Earth slowly changed into the cozy, life-supporting home it is now.

You could say it was a stellar improvement.

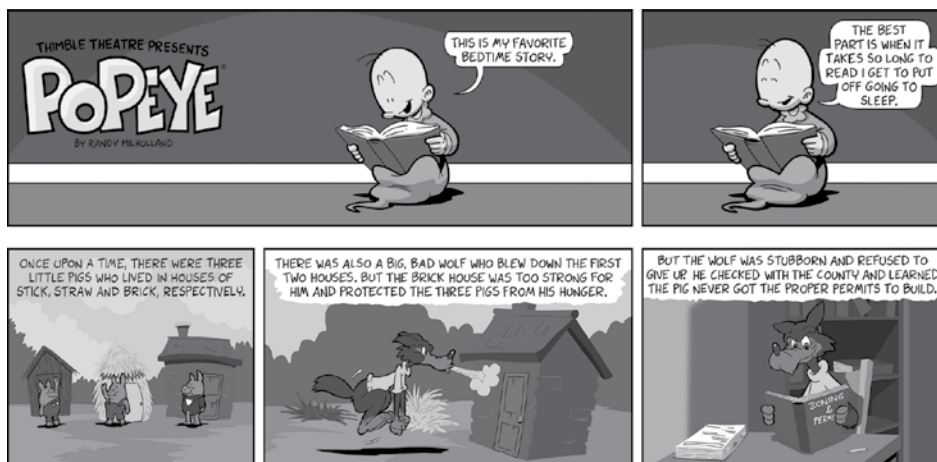
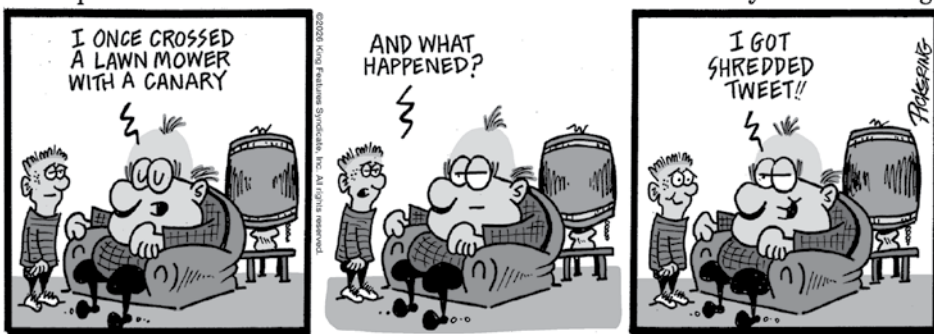
Sincerely,

Dr. Universe

# COMICS & PUZZLES

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## Out on a Limb

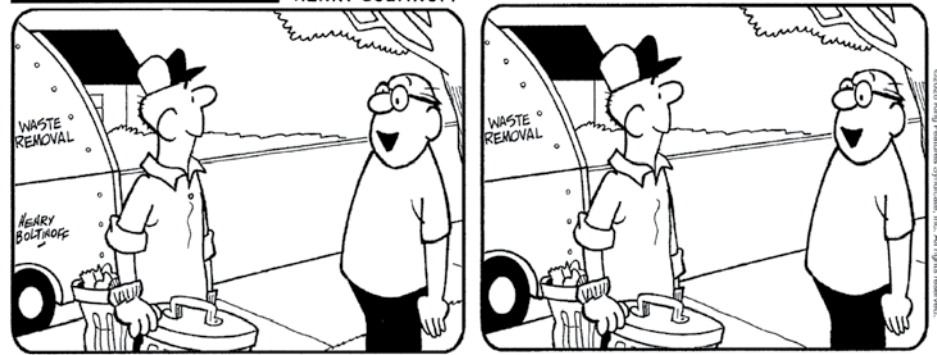
by Gary Kopervas



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Wheel is larger. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Window is missing. 4. Button is missing. 5. Sleeve is longer. 6. Sidewalk is wider.

## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



## GRIN and BEAR IT



## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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  - Rank above maj.
  - Sore spot
  - "Happily \_\_\_ after"
  - Familiar routine
  - "Wow!"
  - Retina, pl.
  - "Explorer Shackleton's first name
  - New on the block?
  - Barbara Eden's TV character
  - Rumple
  - "First one to circumnavigate globe, almost
  - "Lewis' or Clark's vessel
  - Fictional giant
  - Plaintiff
  - Shrovetide dish
  - Zig or zag
  - Dunking cookie
  - \_\_\_ and the City"
  - "C\_\_\_ la vie!"
  - Backgammon predecessor
- DOWN**
- Take drugs
  - Bohemian, e.g.
  - Skin opening
  - Short for self-synchronous
  - Don't just stand there!
  - "Fear of Flying" author
  - Skirt length
  - Part of a hammer
  - Wholly engrossed
  - Obtain, but just barely
  - Gardening tool
  - Junk yard stuff
  - "Dr. Livingstone, I \_\_\_?"
  - Fictional cowboy Bill
  - One better than bogey
  - J.M. Barrie's Pan
  - Plunder
  - "Geographical feature named for Ponce de Leon
  - "Inspiration for hide-and-seek game
  - City in Belgium
  - North Pole workers
  - Winter driving hazard
  - Homesteader's purchase, sing.
  - Likewise
  - "Possibly America's

CROSSWORD												
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## LEGAL ADVERTISING

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

300 Spruce • Suite C  
Gridley, CA 95948FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000036  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Affordable Junk Hauling and Moving, Affordable Junk Hauling & Moving, 3474 Argonaut Avenue, Oroville, CA 95966

Llewellyn, Robert, 3474 Argonaut Avenue, Oroville, CA 95966

Date filed in Butte County: January 14, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026  
AFFORDABLE 2-20-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000037  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Camelroots, 17 Franciscan Way, Chico, CA 95973

Salah Ajamal, 17 Franciscan Way, Chico, CA 95973  
Date filed in Butte County: January 14, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 14, 2026

This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026  
CAMELROOTS 2-20-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000067  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Branding Memories, 852 Township Road, Gridley, CA 95948

Branding Memories LLC, 852 Township Road, Gridley, CA 95948  
Date filed in Butte County: January 23, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 23, 2026

This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company  
NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026  
BRANDING 2-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000019  
The following person(s) are

doing business as: Sycamore and Belle, 2586 Widgeon Lane, Durham, CA 95938

Romo, Brianna, 2586 Widgeon Lane, Durham, CA 95938  
Date filed in Butte County: January 9, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026  
SYCAMORE 2-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000070  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Ridge Top Fallers, 6121 N Libby Road, Paradise, CA 95969

Ridge Top Fallers LLC, 6121 N Libby Road, Paradise, CA 95969  
Date filed in Butte County: January 23, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 15, 2026

This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company  
NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026  
RIDGE 2-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000043  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Aladdin Bail Bonds, 1940 Feather River Boulevard Suite G, Oroville, CA 95965

Two Jinn Inc, 1000 Aviara Parkway Suite 300, Carlsbad, CA 92011

Date filed in Butte County: January 15, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: June 1, 2024  
This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026  
ALADDIN 2-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-0000954  
The following person(s) are doing business as: MeeK's Building Solutions, 1100, 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Chico, CA 95928

US LBM Operation Co, 2009 LLC, US LMB Operating Company 2009 LLC, 2150 E Lake Cook Road Suite 1010,

Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

Date filed in Butte County: December 31, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: December 1, 2025

This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company  
NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026  
MEEKS 2-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000099  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Vintage Coaches, 15299 Forest Ranch Way, Forest Ranch, CA 95942

Theresa Aflague, PO Box 2935, Paradise, CA 95967  
Date filed in Butte County: January 30, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Feb 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026  
VINTAGE 3-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000090  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Rolls Real Estate, 1834 Mangrove Avenue, Chico, CA 95926

Jarolls Inc, 1834 Mangrove Avenue, Chico, CA 95926  
Date filed in Butte County: January 28, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 2014

This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Feb 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026  
ROLLS 3-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000097  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Ryon Family Partnership, 7225 Durnel Road, Nelson, CA 95958

Edwin E Ryon, Charles H Ryon, Elizabeth A Rolland, Janet L Hewitt, Patricia J Jones, PO Box 1097, Magalia, CA 95954  
Date filed in Butte County: January 30, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on:

January 1, 2014

This Business is conducted by: A General Partnership. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Feb 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026  
RYON 3-6-26

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

Steven S Sheridan, 5717 Reed Lane, Paradise, CA 95969  
Date filed in Butte County: February 2, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Feb 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026  
FAN 3-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000075  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Bird Caller Farm and Garden, 4194 Nighthawk Way, Chico, CA 95973

Navarro, Matthew Emerson, 4194 Nighthawk Way, Chico, CA 95973  
Date filed in Butte County: January 26, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 20, 2026

This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Feb 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026  
BIRD 3-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000106  
The following person(s) are doing business as: CF Certified TCG, 17 Partners Trail, Oroville, CA 95966

Fogarty, Chad Michael, 17 Partners Trail, Oroville, CA 95966  
Date filed in Butte County: February 2, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Feb 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026  
PM 3-13-26

Business and Professions Code.  
Publish: Feb 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026  
CF 3-6-26

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

Kegan J Waite, 493 Sheldon Avenue, Gridley, CA 95948  
Date filed in Butte County: February 5, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Feb 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026  
KW 3-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000116  
The following person(s) are doing business as: W C Irvine Fruit and Produce, 949 Keith Avenue, Gridley, CA 95948

Ellena Waller, 949 Keith Avenue, Gridley, CA 95948  
Date filed in Butte County: February 3, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: June 1, 2020

This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Feb 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026  
WC 3-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000079  
The following person(s) are doing business as: PM Gonzalez Farms, 14805 State Highway 99, Chico, CA 95973

Pedro J Gonzalez and Margarita Martinez De Gonzalez, PO Box 1552, Williams, CA 95987  
Date filed in Butte County: January 27, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: December 2, 2025

This Business is conducted by: A Married Couple. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Feb 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026  
PM 3-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000133  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Prime Times Gaming, 3556 Calle Principal, Chico, CA 95973

Christopher J Zarback, 3556 Calle Principal, Chico, CA 95973  
Date filed in Butte County: February 6, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: October 31, 2025

This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Feb 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026  
PRIME 3-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000142  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Big F8th, 5340 Clark Road, Paradise, CA 95969

Kingdom Biz LLC, 5340 Clark Road, Paradise, CA 95969  
Date filed in Butte County: February 9, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Feb 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026  
BIG 3-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000095  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Foothill Farm & Orchard, 7098 La Porte Road, Bangor, CA 95914

Lopez Arcangeli, Wendy Ann, 7098 La Porte Road, Bangor, CA 95914  
Date filed in Butte County: January 29, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Feb 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026  
FOOTHILL 3-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000155  
The following person(s) are doing business as: US Cash Homebuyer, 591 E 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Suite 10, Chico, CA 95926

Lucille J Ramsey, 591 E 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Suite 10, Chico, CA 95926  
Date filed in Butte County: February 11, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: February 11, 2026

This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code. Publish: Feb 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026  
US 3-13-26

## NOTICE OF WAREHOUSE LIEN SALE

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

OLIVE HILL MANUFACTURED  
COMMUNITY

Dated: February 7, 2026 at San Jose, California

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

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

BIGGS-WEST GRIDLEY WATER DISTRICT  
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT  
CEQA MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and CEQA Guidelines, the Biggs-West Gridley Water District ("BWGWD") hereby provides notice of its intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the following project:

- Name of Project:** Biggs-West Gridley Water District 2026 Water Transfer Program.
- Project Proponent and Lead Agency:** Biggs-West Gridley Water District, 1713 West Biggs Gridley Road Gridley, California 95948; principal contact – Danny Robinson, General Manager, (530) 846-3317.
- Project Description:** BWGWD proposes to sell during the 2026 irrigation season up to 18,780 acre-feet ("AF") of water to participating member districts of the State Water Contractors, Inc. or other south of Delta purchasers, including Central Valley Project contractors, or a buyer diverting the transfer water from within or upstream of the Delta (collectively, "Buyers"). Buyers and others are seeking up to approximately 100,000 AF of transfer water from various willing sellers in the Sacramento Valley during the 2026 irrigation season. Purchasing this water would lessen potential water supply shortages to these parties that may occur as a result of dry hydrologic conditions and regulatory restrictions on pumping in the Delta. As a willing seller, BWGWD would make up to 18,780 AF of water available to Buyers by idling cropland (i.e., non-irrigation of farmland by voluntary participants). Water made available by crop idling within the boundaries of the BWGWD would then be retained and stored by the Department of Water Resources ("DWR") in Lake Oroville for delivery to Buyers. BWGWD's proposed transfer will comply with the most current Draft Technical Information for Preparing Water Transfer Proposals prepared by DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation dated December 2019 (Draft Technical Information), as applicable to land idling transfers.
- Project Location:** The project area, from which the water for this transfer will be made available, is defined by the BWGWD's legal boundaries, which encompasses approximately 34,800 acres in the northern Sacramento Valley, mostly in Butte County with a small portion of that acreage in Sutter County (See attached draft IS/MND). Within the BWGWD's boundaries are approximately 31,300 irrigable acres, of which approximately 22,739 acres are dedicated primarily to the production of rice.
- Hazardous Waste Sites:** The project location is not identified on any of the lists enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5.
- Public Review:** A copy of the draft Initial Study and related documentation is available for public review at [www.bwgwater.org](http://www.bwgwater.org) and during business hours at BWGWD's office at the above address. Public comments on this proposal to adopt a negative declaration will be received by BWGWD at the above address beginning on February 20, 2026, and ending at 3:30 p.m. on March 23, 2026. Following the review and comment period, the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will be on the District Board of Directors' agenda for potential adoption at a noticed regular or special meeting to be held at a later-determined date at the District's offices located at 1713 West Biggs Gridley Road, Gridley, California.

Dated: February 12, 2026

Danny Robinson, General Manager

The Gridley Herald 2-20-2026

# Biggs Advances City Upgrades

By Susan Meeker

**BIGGS, CA (MPG)** - New City Administrator Nicolas Gauthier is wasting no time putting his stamp on City Hall, moving the city forward on necessary upgrades, employee programs and Biggs' ongoing responsibilities as a public power city.

One of the most immediate actions came with the council's unanimous authorization on Feb. 10 to replace three aging City Hall computers that no longer support required Windows security updates.

According to the city's IT contractor, the outdated machines were unable to receive patches, leaving the network vulnerable to malware, ransomware and unauthorized access, Gauthier said. Two of the computers serve office staff while the third is the city administrator's workstation, all necessary to protect sensitive city data and maintain continuity of municipal operations. Biggs operates with a small administrative staff and relies on secure, up-to-date systems to manage billing, utility accounts and regulatory reporting. The council approved spending \$3,985 on the new equipment and will keep the existing administrator's Windows 10 unit as a backup if needed.

Gauthier also recommended the council extend the City Employee Safety Recognition Program, which rewards departments that maintain safe work

practices and avoid preventable injuries. The program provides quarterly recognition, including a certificate and a group lunch for the department meeting its safety goals. Gauthier said the incentive helps reinforce consistent safety standards across departments and supports a culture of accountability at minimal cost to the city. After brief discussion, the council approved the extension on a 4-1 vote, with supporters noting the program's role in reducing workplace incidents and encouraging positive reinforcement rather than penalties.

While the cost of the safety program is minimal, Councilmember Angelica Sanchez dissented, saying she preferred to wait until the city is certain it has a balanced budget.

Also at the Feb. 10 meeting, the council unanimously appointed Gauthier as Biggs' representative on several Northern California Power Agency committees. The designations place him on committees overseeing facilities and pooling, the Lodi Energy Center, legislative and regulatory affairs and utility operations, ensuring Biggs maintains full participation in regional power planning and policy discussions.

Gauthier told the council he plans to continue reviewing internal systems and bring forward additional recommendations as he evaluates city operations and long-term needs. ★

# 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. ★

# Butte Supervisors OK Youth Services Contract

By Susan Meeker

**OROVILLE, CA (MPG)** - The Butte County Board of Supervisors approved a new 16-month contract with Youth for Change to provide mental health and wraparound services for young people involved in the county's juvenile justice system.

The agreement follows a November 2025 request for proposal issued by the Butte County Probation Department seeking a provider for a full range of mental health services. Three organizations responded: Victor Community Support Services, EA Family Services and Youth for Change. According to the department, Youth for Change was selected because it submitted the lowest bid while meeting all service requirements outlined in the RFP.

Under the contract, Youth for Change will deliver individual, family and group therapy; crisis intervention; case management; rehabilitation services; plan development; informal mental health evaluations; and high-fidelity wraparound programming. The services are intended to support youth under Probation's

supervision and strengthen family-based interventions, officials said.

The contract runs from Feb. 1, through June 30, 2027, with a not-to-exceed amount of \$660,083. Funding comes from the state's Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act of 2000 and county staff reported no impact to the county's General Fund.

The agreement designates Probation's Rebecca Henderson as the county project manager and lists Youth for Change CEO Beth Parsons as the contractor representative. The contract incorporates standard county terms, including confidentiality requirements, audit provisions, insurance coverage and compliance with state and federal regulations.

It also includes a clause requiring the contractor to disclose any use of generative artificial intelligence in service delivery.

Youth for Change currently holds several other county contracts, including agreements with Behavioral Health and the Department of Employment and Social Services for mental health, outreach, wrap-around and transitional housing services. ★

# Paradise Man Arrested After Traffic Stop

By MPG Staff

**MAGALIA, CA (MPG)** - A 57-year-old Paradise man was arrested Feb. 2 after a traffic stop in Magalia led to the discovery of more than 16 grams of methamphetamine, according to the Butte County Sheriff's Office.

A deputy stopped a white Chevrolet Corvette about 11:40 p.m. near Rosewood Drive and Skyway for a vehicle code violation. The driver was identified as Shane Gibson.

A Paradise Police Department K-9 unit

responded and conducted a free air sniff around the vehicle. The dog alerted to the presence of narcotics, deputies said.

During a search of the vehicle, deputies located a backpack containing about 16.57 grams of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

Gibson was arrested and booked into the Butte County Jail on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Authorities said a felony drug charge was added under Proposition 36 due to Gibson's prior drug related convictions. ★

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### ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

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

CASE #26CV00043

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

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing March 11, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Department 6, Room TBD, Superior Court of California, County of Butte, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928

Filed on January 15, 2026  
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court  
Publish: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026  
HOLCOMB 2-20-26

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

CASE #26CV00149

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

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the rea-

sons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing March 25, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Department TBD, Room TBD, Superior Court of California, County of Butte, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928

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

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

CASE #26CV00110

Petitioner Charlene Marie Berryhill filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Charlene Marie Berryhill to Charlene Marie Vanorden.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing March 11, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Department 6, Room TBD, Superior Court of California, County of Butte, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928

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

### CITATION TO PARENT

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

A MINOR MALE.

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

the court finds that any of the real parties in interests cannot afford counsel, that amount will be paid by the county. 4. The court may continue the proceeding for not more than thirty (30) days as necessary to appoint counsel and to enable counsel to become acquainted with the case. Dated: Jan 20, 2026  
Published 1/30, 02/06, 2/13, 2/20/2026  
FRIZZELL 2-20-26

### SUMMONS

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)  
CASE NUMBER: 23CV00952

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: DAULTON MCCALLA, an Individual; JEFFREY M. OULES, an Individual; and DOES 1 through 10, Inclusive  
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: ROCKY TOP RENTALS, LLC, a Limited Liability Company.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want

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

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

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar

a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)), o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

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

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



# Gridley Earns Shot at Fourth-Straight League Title



Gridley senior Bikram Kullar (10) dribbles the ball on Feb. 10 during the Bulldogs' victory against Orland. Photo by Steven Bryla

**By YSBC Sports**

**GRIDLEY, CA (YSBC)** - The Gridley Bulldogs boys' basketball team set up an opportunity to claim a share of their fourth consecutive league title after they beat the Orland Trojans 63-48 on Tuesday, Feb. 10.

Nathan Link expressed to Yuba Sutter Butte Colusa Sports that he was happy with the defensive effort in the win. "We worked on it during practice and we were able to be physical with them," Link said.

Gridley and Orland had battles over the past few seasons on the hardwood despite the Bulldogs taking the last eight matchups.

The Bulldogs denied limited chances for Orland to have second-chance opportunities as they rebounded the ball great throughout the night.

Gridley's tough defense forced the Trojans to slow starts in the first four minutes of the first three quarters in the game.

Gridley pushed the pace up the floor quickly and that led to multiple players getting into the mix on the scoring sheet for the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs opened with a 9-0 run to start the game and in the second quarter, Gridley started the quarter with a 9-2 run.

Bulldogs junior Ulysses Anguiano finished with 13 in the win, including 10 points in the first half.

The Bulldogs built a decisive double-digit lead at the half as they led 34-17.

Gridley extended their lead 23 at the end of the third and although the wasn't officially over, Orland would have needed a miracle to come back and win the game.

Gridley's offense had multiple contributors in the scorebook, but Bulldogs senior Bikram Kullar led Gridley with 14 points in the win.

The Bulldogs win sets up an opportunity for Gridley to clinch a share of their

Gridley head coach

fourth-straight league title if they beat Oroville on Feb. 13.



Gridley sophomore Israel Garcia (2) dribbles the ball up court on Feb. 10 during the Bulldogs' win over Orland. Photo by Steven Bryla

Gridley was blown out by the Tigers 63-25 in the game as the Bulldogs offense struggled. Gridley only had one quarter where they put up double-digit points.

The Bulldogs were given the No. 3 overall seed in the CIF Northern Section Division IV bracket and hosted Live Oak on Wednesday. ★

# Northern Section Releases Schedule for Hoops

**By YSBC Sports**

**SUTTER-BUTTE COUNTIES, CA (YSBC)** - The CIF Northern Section released their boys and girls basketball postseason brackets on Saturday, Feb. 14.

Here are the matchups and some input on the first-round matchups.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.

**Division IV**  
Live Oak at Gridley - Live Oak failed to win a league game for the third consecutive season and lost by double digits every league game this year.

Gridley dominated everyone in the league except Oroville as those were the two Westside League losses the season.

The Bulldogs are looking to return to the section finals for a third-straight season.

**Thursday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m.**  
**Division VI**

Plumas Charter at Biggs - Biggs is poised and has the talent to return for a third-straight appearance in a section final.

As the Wolverines owned the Mid-Valley League this year, they had a lot of close matchups during league play.

On top of the gritty defense in the Biggs program, the Wolverines have an offense that is a nightmare for opponents to defend.

All five starters in the Biggs lineup are averaging double-digit points per game. The Wolverines share the ball extensively up and down the floor and are one of the most fun teams in the area to watch.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m.

Live Oak at Winters - Live Oak is an improved roster and hasn't tasted victory since the



Gridley sophomore Madi Carey (2) attempts a layup on Feb. 3 in the Bulldogs win over Coming. Photo by Chris Pedigo

first week of December.

Despite the distant time between a win, the Lions are a lot more competitive and heading into the right direction for the future of the program.

Winters had a strong run in the Sacramento Valley League where they finished in second place of a competitive league.

Central Valley at Gridley - Gridley got a favorable draw in this bracket and was expected to take this first-round matchup with ease.

The Bulldogs couldn't have asked for a better final week of the regular season as they had impressive victories over Orland and Oroville.

Gridley's big three that consists of senior Aubree Weaver and sophomores Iris Counihan and Madi Carey. The trio paved the way for the win over Oroville as they combined for 42 points. ★

Counihan had a monstrous game against the Trojans where she erupted for 31 points.

Central Valley headed into the matchup on Tuesday without being victorious in their previous 10.

If Gridley held onto the win on Tuesday, they would have played the winner of Winters and Live Oak on Thursday.

**Friday, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m.**

Biggs at Loyalton - The Division VI bracket in the Northern Section could be the deepest bracket of the tournament as the top five teams all won their leagues.

Biggs rolled through the second half of their schedule as they won by double digits in each league game since Jan. 27.

The Wolverines are composed as a team and they share the ball unselfishly. ★



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