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# THE GRIDLEY HERALD

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APRIL 24, 2026 • VOL. 146 NO. 17

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## We're Diggin' It

*Fairgrounds Holds Volunteer Day*



Helping hands at Butte County Fairgrounds Volunteer Day assisted in refreshing flower containers, weeding and replanting new flowers where needed. Photo courtesy of Libby Tolman

By Seti Long

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Butte County Fairgrounds hosted a successful Volunteer Day on Saturday, April 18, with a strong turnout of service-minded individuals, groups and clubs.

Volunteer Day is an opportunity for the Gridley community to show its support and lend a hand in maintaining the Butte County Fairgrounds and some of its satellite facilities such as Veterans Memorial Hall.

Multiple facets of the community and its organizations came out for the event, including the Gridley Rotary

Club, Gridley High School Interact Club, Palermo Grange and 4-H clubs, West Gridley 4-H Club, nearly 30 LDS missionaries and locals from youth to adults.

Gridley's Quota Club acted as host of the event, welcoming and checking in volunteers as they arrived at the fairgrounds.

"We had guides to show people where their projects were," said Quota President Maggie Hepworth, as a variety of projects were scattered across the grounds.

Hepworth said that she and Peggy Harshbarger were on the planning committee for Volunteer Day,

learning how Quota could assist with the cleanup efforts.

"We helped manage all the workers throughout the projects," said Hepworth. "Groverlee Dahl oversaw the flower planting, and Lucila Johnson guided garden cleanup."

Tasks for volunteers included, but were not limited to, weeding gardens, trimming existing bushes and shrubs, planting new flowers, power-washing areas and painting building frames and tree trunks.

The American Legion helped work on the grounds and similar tasks at Memorial Hall, which is owned by

*Continued on page 3*

## Biggs Finances Hold Strong at Mid Year

By Susan Meeker

**BIGGS, CA (MPG)** - The City of Biggs is moving through the second half of the fiscal year in a solid financial position, with mid-year figures showing higher revenues, lower spending and reserves well above the required level.

City Administrator Nicolas Gauthier presented the mid year financial review to the City Council on April 14, covering activity through Feb. 28 and outlining the city's position heading into the final months of the 2025 26 fiscal year.

Through eight months, the General Fund generated \$627,652 in revenue and is projected to reach about \$1.16 million by June 30, slightly exceeding the adopted budget. Expenditures are expected to total \$886,512, coming in below budget and leaving an estimated operating surplus of nearly \$280,000. That performance is projected to push the city's ending General Fund balance to roughly \$1.47 million, well above its reserve target, Gauthier said.

Council members asked for clarity on how the city's new reporting format compares to the line item budgets used in prior years. Gauthier and financial consultant Joseph Arch explained that the city previously operated more than 120 separate funds, many of them inactive or outdated. Those accounts have now been consolidated to about a dozen, a change they said will make the city's finances easier to track and less prone to error. Arch said the transition year means some mid year reports appear more summarized, but future budgets will include clearer departmental breakdowns.

As part of that transition, Gauthier said staff are reviewing older rate policies, capital needs and department requests to prepare for the next budget cycle. Departments have been asked to identify both required needs and long term improvements, including maintenance issues and equipment replacement, so the council can evaluate priorities when the full budget process begins.

While the General Fund remains solid, the enterprise funds showed operating deficits at mid-year, including a projected end-of-year deficit of about \$53,000 in the water fund, nearly \$107,000 in the sewer fund and roughly \$378,000 in the electric

*Continued on page 3*

## Ruck the Buttes Honors Military Service



Participants gather for a group photo before beginning the Ruck the Buttes walk in Sutter on April 18.

Story and photos by Susan Meeker

**SUTTER, CA (MPG)** - Ruck the Buttes returned to Sutter County on April 18, drawing two dozen people to the base of the Sutter Buttes for a 15 mile military inspired walk that blended fitness, gratitude and a shared sense of purpose.

Event organizer Lauren Manor, owner of Garage Fitness in Colusa, hosted her second annual Ruck

the Buttes, her fourth ruck overall, and part of a growing trend of long distance walks held to honor service members and support veterans' causes.

"I want to continue to raise awareness for our military," Manor said.

Participants carried weighted vests as a nod to the packs used by service members in training and on missions. Manor said she hoped the event encouraged people to use

their bodies, breathe fresh air and come together with a shared purpose.

Manor launched her first ruck in Colusa with a 22 mile route, but said the Sutter Buttes course, at the base of the spectacular mountain range, brought a different challenge. The mileage was shorter, yet the rolling terrain forced walkers to work harder.

"Because of those slight hills, when you start getting tired and

you've got to go uphill, it's a whole other ball game," she said.

The event drew participants from Yuba, Sutter and Colusa counties, most of them civilians, but it also included retired Air Force Sergeant Anna Osoria Bates of Oroville, who started out at the front of the pack with a friend.

Arbuckle native Dave Myers, now living in Colusa, chose to ride a

*Continued on page 3*

# The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

Gridley FFA plant sale was a big success on Tuesday.

Residential customers pay an average electric rate of 38¢ per kWh with PG&E in Live Oak (and other PG&E service areas), 26.6¢ per kWh in Gridley, and 18.5¢ per kWh in Biggs. Those are factual, real numbers. Electric rates are reported at both the federal and state levels. At the federal level, the U.S. Energy Information Administration collects data through Form 861, the Annual Electric Power Industry Report, which all electric utilities are required to submit. At the state level in California, the California Energy Commission collects data through Form QFER 1306A, a quarterly filing required of all electric utility distribution companies operating in the state (the numbers above are from those sources). So, if anyone ever says that electricity costs twice as much in Live Oak as it does in Biggs, they are correct. CA residential electric prices increased 104% between January 2015 and April 2025. This increase was driven by the state government's CA energy policies. States around CA all pay less.

The annual community celebration, Red Suspenders Day, will be held on May 16th in Gridley. Mark your calendars. It includes a parade and all kinds of fun activities downtown. More information can be found by just Googling "Red Suspenders Day Gridley." The Chamber of Commerce is the organization in charge. It is a tradition.

The 25th Annual Kids Free Fishing Day, hosted by Gridley City Recreation, will take place on Saturday, May 9, from 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, 3207 Rutherford Avenue, Gridley, California. The event provides children with free fishing in a pond stocked with 1,000 pounds of delicious fish, with complimentary bait, BBQ lunch, on-site loaner fishing poles, shuttle service from parking lot 14, raffle prizes, and a Biggest Fish Caught Contest. Scotty Williams, long-time Editor of the Gridley Herald, taught everyone who would listen that the best fishing occurs around 6:30 a.m. Since every time I went fishing with him, he caught more fish than I did, I still assume he was right about anything angling- or basketball-related.

Teal Hamman, a local young woman, super athlete, and probable heir to the entire Hamman family of business empire, received a Gridley Ford Bronco for her birthday. This is a significant upgrade for her family, who had been forced, in recent years, to purchase "electric vehicles", more or

less street-legal golf carts. Teal is already drawing the attention of Division 1 college athletic recruiters. With the Gridley Ford Bronco, we are now confident she'll make it to the school that offers her the best deal.

Andy "Maximo" Pickett, the Butte County chief administrative officer, announced he will be retiring by the end of the year. He's lasted five years. Gridley's Elisa Arteaga will soon be tied with Brian Ring in Oroville for the title of longest-serving Butte County City Administrator. After three years, Mark Sorensen, the City Manager of Chico (and former Biggs manager), also announced his retirement. Biggs' new guy, Nic Gauthier, has less than a year in. Live Oak Manager Benjamin Moody, less than a year (he is Sutter County). Paradise is on their second interim administrator because no one will take the job. Arteaga and Ring both started in 2023. The average tenure of city administrators in California is 4 years. Elisa is soon to be the champion of making the water run, the toilets flush, the cops show up, and the lights stay on.

It is annoying that the Postal Service removed garbage cans from the post office lobby. I'm hoping that by putting that in the newspaper, the Google internet algorithm will pick it up and the post office will get the message.

Josh F.W. Cook is a graduate of Gridley High School and California State University, East Bay. ★

# Gridley Prepares for Red Suspenders Day



Red Suspenders Day returns to Gridley on Saturday, May 16, featuring a parade, bed races, classic car show, pancake breakfast and family activities throughout the day. Photo courtesy of Gridley Area Chamber of Commerce

By Lloyd Green Jr.

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Gridley will celebrate its 65th annual Red Suspenders Day on Saturday, May 16, with a full day of events honoring local firefighters and police while bringing the community together downtown.

The tradition began in 1961 as a fundraiser for volunteer firefighters and has grown into one of Gridley's largest annual events, drawing families, visitors and local organizations.

The day begins at 7 a.m. with the pancake breakfast at Railroad Park, served until 10 a.m. by Gridley Little League with help from the Knights of Columbus. Chamber Treasurer Lisa Van De Hay said the breakfast offers a full community experience.

"The kids do a great job about being attentive to the guests," Van De Hay said. "They walk around making sure everyone has everything they need to enjoy their meals."

Car enthusiasts will gather throughout the morning for the classic car and motorcycle show along Kentucky Street between Spruce and Sycamore streets. Registration opens at 7 a.m., with judging from 8 to 10 a.m. and the show running until 1 p.m. Vehicles from multiple decades will be featured, along with motorcycles and visiting groups such as the Gold Country Street Rods.

To participate in the show, registration information can be found online at: gridleyareachamber.org/events/rsd-car-show

The event continues with the 11 a.m. parade through downtown, followed by the police motorcycle rodeo at noon on Washington Street. Retired motorman Jim Roberts will lead the competition, where officers navigate cone courses designed to test precision riding skills.

"They have cones set up and they maneuver through them very skillfully," Van De Hay said.

Families can also head to Rotary Park throughout the morning for games and activities, including the Lions Club Marshmallow Competition at 9:30 a.m. Van De Hay said the event has quickly become a highlight.

"It's great to see the families come out and participate in the many different marshmallow games," Van De Hay said.

Other activities include vendor booths in all parks from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., children's games in Rotary Park, bed races at 9:30 a.m. on Virginia Street and live music at the Daddow Park gazebo from 12 to 2:30 p.m. Firemen's games will begin at 1 p.m. in Rotary Park.

The day concludes with the Gridley Museum's tri-tip dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. on Kentucky Street.

"We are excited to celebrate 65 years of Red Suspenders Day with our community," Van De Hay said. "We also invite our neighbors to come out and have a good time with us."

More information is available through the Gridley Area Chamber of Commerce at 530-846-3142 or at gridleyareachamber.org. ★

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# Gridley Welcomes Pharmacy with Ribbon Cutting

Story and photo  
by Seti Long

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Two familiar faces stand behind the counter of the only privately owned medical dispensary in town, Gridley Pharmacy.

Gridley Pharmacy was brought to the community by Manjinder “Manny” Singh after the closure of Rite Aid Pharmacy last year.

Singh is no stranger to the world of prescriptions. His experience as a pharmacist has taken him to multiple locations throughout the area, with Singh most recently working at CVS in Gridley.

The pharmacist did his undergraduate studies at the University of California, Davis and attended North State University in Elk Grove for his pharmaceutical degrees. From there, he has worked in multiple locations throughout the area.

When Rite Aid closed, Gridley lost one of three pharmacies and one of two with drive-thru services. The remaining two, CVS and Safeway pharmacies, were hit with increased traffic and wait times.

Singh saw a need and rallied former college colleague



Manjinder “Manny” Singh, center, is joined by members of the Gridley Area Chamber of Commerce, staff and community members during a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of Gridley Pharmacy in Gridley.

Anthony Morales for assistance. Morales has served the Gridley area as a pharmacy technician for 34 years, and together the duo are a welcome sight to former customers.

Gridley Pharmacy officially opened its doors to the public in mid-January and has been quickly gaining notice in the community for its unique offerings and customer service.

“Right now, we are receiving

a really great response from the community,” says Singh, who shared how thankful he is for the community’s support.

Gridley Pharmacy might not offer drive-thru pickup, but it does provide free delivery to customers in the Gridley, Biggs and Live Oak areas.

Singh says that he is excited to provide the community with more options when it comes to prescriptions and

over-the-counter medicinal needs. As owner of Gridley Pharmacy, he cuts out the “middleman” and is often able to offer products to customers at a lower price than chain stores and larger pharmacies. He reminds the public that vaccinations are also available at Gridley Pharmacy.

In addition, Singh says that he can work with insurance companies in an effort to find solutions to high-cost prescriptions.

Meanwhile, Morales mans phones and aids in customer service, making deliveries to customers in the afternoons.

“We’re looking forward to how much we can grow and what else we can do for the community,” says Singh.

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

## Ruck the Buttes Honors Military Service

Continued from page 1

bicycle on a longer loop that took him through the middle of the Sutter Buttes and around the north side while his daughter Gracie completed the ruck with ten pounds in her pack. He set out at the same time she did so they could finish close together.

“That’s a 45 mile bike ride,” he said.

Manor gathered the group before the event to thank them for coming and to recognize the military members in attendance. She also honored her own family’s service, naming her late father, Sergeant Lewis Manor, her brothers, Staff Sergeant Nathan Manor and Staff Sergeant Lincoln Manor, and her nephew, Lt. Col. Owen Manor.

Manor had help along the route. Duke Craft provided transportation for participants who didn’t walk the full distance, and siblings Ellie and Jaxon Craft handed out water and snacks as the group spread out across the course.

Twenty four participants took on the course in matching T-shirts and 21 crossed the finish line around four hours later.

“It was a success,” Manor said. “Everyone had a good day.”

Rucks like this one have continued to gain traction nationwide, often organized to show appreciation for those who serve or to support veterans’ causes. Manor said her focus was to bring people together in a way that honors service and encourages gratitude. ★



Participants salute the American flag before the start of Ruck the Buttes in Sutter on April 18.

## We’re Diggin’ It



These guys know how to roll – paint that is, as they work to restore the exterior of the fairground’s restrooms at Volunteer Day. Photo courtesy of Libby Tolman

Continued from page 1  
Butte County and managed by the fairgrounds.

Other sites included in Volunteer Day cleanup efforts were the Gridley Post Office, which had its flower beds weeded, and the community garden at St. Timothy’s Church, which received the beautifying touch of the Miss Butte County Scholarship Program royalty.

Butte County Fairgrounds CEO Matt Reed noted that volunteers even came from across Butte County to assist.

“We were fortunate enough to have the Sheriff’s Crew from the county come out,” said Reed, recognizing the

12 crew members who trimmed trees in the arena area and helped mow.

Reed appeared pleased with the turnout and grateful for those who pitched in, especially after a one-year hiatus from the event.

“The fact that we took a year off allowed us to kind of build up some projects,” said Reed, which allowed for better project planning.

“When we came back, people still wanted to show up,” said Reed, thankful for the continued community support.

The committed volunteers play a significant role in preparing the fairgrounds for their upcoming busy season, as the fairgrounds have only a few

maintenance crew members on hand.

“It’s hard for them to do by themselves, because there are only four of them,” said Reed. “So this makes it a lot easier to get things prepped. The rest of the year we’re just taking care of it and making sure it stays maintained.”

After hours of hard work, the fairgrounds fed the volunteers a meal cooked by Kathy Sannar and crew, with Pono Nako on the barbecue, cooking half-pound burgers and hot dogs for workers to refuel.

“The burgers were so thick,” said Vanessa Wilson of the Butte County Fairgrounds. “They did an amazing job.” ★

## Gridley Financial Advisor Honored



Joe F. Cunha, center, with members of his team at the Edward Jones office in Gridley. Cunha was recently named to the 2026 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Advisors list and qualified for the firm’s national recognition conference. Photo courtesy of Edward Jones

By MPG Staff

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Financial advisor Joe F. Cunha of Gridley has been named to the 2026 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Advisors list and has qualified for a national Edward Jones recognition conference, according to a pair of company releases.

Cunha earned the state ranking from Forbes and SHOOK Research, which evaluates advisors through interviews and a review of industry experience, best practices, compliance records and assets under

care.

In a separate announcement, Edward Jones said Cunha also qualified for its Momentum conference, set for May 19-22 in Dallas. The event recognizes top-performing advisors across the firm and brings together participants from the United States and Canada.

“This is a great honor to be recognized for the success of my practice and the experience my team and I deliver to our clients,” Cunha said. “The opportunity to collaborate with leaders of the firm and other

successful advisors is an incredible resource for us to continue providing value.”

Edward Jones said conference selection is based on sustained growth, client relationships and service quality, rather than a set attendance limit.

Cunha’s office is located at 505 Spruce St. in Gridley. He and his team can be reached at 530-846-2894.

Edward Jones, a North American financial services firm, has more than 20,000 financial advisors and serves more than 9 million clients, according to the company. ★

## Biggs Finances Hold Strong at Mid Year

Continued from page 1

fund. Arch said the funds remain above reserve targets but will require long-term planning, including potential rate increases, to keep pace with system maintenance and capital replacement needs.

Before the mid year update, the council reviewed the draft audit for fiscal year 2024 25. Arch reported that the city’s net

position reached approximately \$26.7 million at the close of the prior fiscal year.

“It’s an improving picture,” he told the council, noting increases of about \$1.2 million in governmental activities and \$244,000 in business type operations.

The audit is expected to be returned to the council for formal acceptance at a future meeting. ★

# Live Oak Advances Fee Increases, Eyes Land Sales

By Shaunna Boyd

**LIVE OAK, CA (MPG)** - At the April 15 meeting of the Live Oak City Council, City Manager Ben Moody presented a list of unused city-owned properties that could potentially be sold. This item came at the request of council, who are looking for options to increase revenue to address the ongoing budget deficit.

The city owns a total of 56 parcels, but there were 23 recommended for council review at this time. Based on size, some properties will be subject to the Surplus Land Act, which requires the land to be offered first for the development of qualifying affordable housing.

Some properties the council agreed to consider for sale include two adjacent parcels on Epperson Way, fragments from an old railroad right-of-way; several vacant parcels on N Street; a residential parcel on Date Street; and a 0.15-acre parcel on Pennington Road adjacent to the cemetery, which expressed an interest in purchasing.

There is also a row of five parcels on Richard Ave., each about half an acre in a residential zone, which could possibly be split into smaller lots and sold. Councilmember Nancy Santana said residential parcels in the that area would be “highly desirable” and sell quickly.

A large 8.48-acre property on Pennington Road is deed restricted for public use, or must be deeded back to Caltrans, so the council decided it should be kept and considered for leasing options. An undeveloped 6.56-acre parcel on Larkin Road adjacent to farmland was also originally granted from Caltrans, so council decided that one should be considered for a farm lease.

After hearing council feedback on all the properties, City Manager Moody said staff will review the Surplus Land Act requirements, secure property appraisals, and request proposals for eligible properties. Each property will come back to council for official action.

The council also



considered updates to the Master Fee Schedule, presented by Finance Director Ethan Gutierrez. Increases were recommended to keep up with the cost of inflation and reflect the actual cost of services.

Gutierrez said most fees had not been updated since 2021, so they were recommended to increase by 33% to align with the current Consumer Price Index (CPI). Going forward, he recommended the fees be reviewed on an annual basis.

The primary focus of discussion was on Planning fees and Recreation fees, due to the increased demand for services, as well as changes in

regulatory requirements and operational costs in these areas. In both departments, fees were well below the average for the region, and even with proposed increases they still won't cover the actual costs of service.

Some highlights of the proposed Planning fee increases include use permits going from \$1,899 up to \$6,000 and environmental reviews from \$645 up to \$4,500.

The proposed recreation fee increases include bumping up most program fees from \$30 to \$40. Basketball would go from \$40 to \$60, with wrestling and youth soccer going from \$50 to \$60. If service

levels and participation remain consistent across programs, the proposed fee adjustments are expected to generate an additional \$35,000 annually.

Swimming pool fees were proposed to increase from \$1 for a day pass and \$0.50 for a night pass to \$2 for each, bringing in an additional \$22,000.

Gutierrez explained that the recreation fee increases will not cover the actual cost of service. But he said they are not aiming for full cost recovery because the programs provide such an essential benefit to the community: “Youth programs are the heart of Live Oak.”

City Manager Moody added that the city doesn't take the Planning increases lightly, especially as they aim to encourage development and bring in new businesses. But he said the planning activities take up a lot of staff time, so they are working to find a “balance.” The proposed Planning fees are set just below the median, so the city wouldn't be recovering the full cost. Moody said there will be ongoing

benefits from completed projects, such as increased sales taxes and property taxes.

The council consensus was that the fee increases were reasonable. But Mayor Jeremy Chapdelaine asked whether the planning fee increases could be phased in over time, which could prompt developers to move forward on projects sooner to take advantage of the lower cost. Moody agreed “we don't want to jeopardize growth.”

Vice Mayor Aaron Pamma said the city is finally getting “some traction” on new development, so he supported phased increases as well.

The council voted 4-0 (with Councilmember Ashely Hernandez absent) to approve the fee increases, with the exception of the Planning fees Staff will update the Planning fee recommendations and bring that back for action at a future meeting. The currently approved increases will go into effect on May 1.

The next meeting of the Live Oak City Council is scheduled for May 6. ★

# Sutter County Moves to Lower Rural Speed Limits

By Susan Meeker

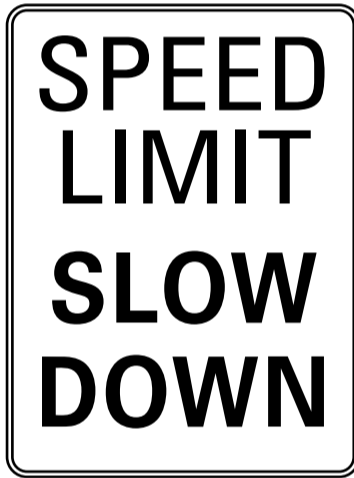
**YUBA CITY, CA (MPG)** - The Sutter County Board of Supervisors on April 14 advanced two ordinances establishing new speed limits on rural roadways, citing traffic safety concerns and engineering studies. Final approval is scheduled for April 28.

Supervisors voted unanimously to set a 45-mph limit on South Butte Road between Irwin Avenue and Morehead Road, in Sutter, and a 50-mph limit on Riviera Road between Larkin Road and Metteer Road, in Live Oak.

Both items were heard in separate public hearings and continued for adoption later this month.

Neal Hay, director of development services, presented the engineering and traffic surveys behind the recommendations.

For South Butte Road, Hay said the study began after complaints about speeding west of the community of Sutter, on a stretch of roadway with rural mail delivery on both sides of the roadway. About 730 vehicles travel the segment daily, which previously defaulted to 55 mph under county code when no speed limits were posted. The 85th percentile speed was about 50 mph, but Hay said conditions such as residents crossing to reach mailboxes supported lowering the limit. Two accidents were reported in the past year.



The second change affects Riviera Road near its intersection with Larkin Road, where the county reviewed accident

reports and visibility issues.

Hay said Larkin Road carries more than 3,800 vehicles per day as drivers use it as an alternate route to Highway 99. Speeds on Larkin Road exceeded the posted limit, while Riviera Road traffic remained below it.

Supervisor Jeffery Boone, who represents the district and had requested stop sign enforcement, emphasized ongoing safety concerns at the intersection. He said residents have reported problems and that the long, straight stretch of roadway encourages drivers to exceed the limit.

“There have been a few accidents at that location,” Boone said. “I got a feeling we really

need that stop sign there because it's a straight shot for probably five miles and people exceed the speed limit.”

Boone noted that traffic increases significantly during walnut and peach seasons and said the intersection may need to be reevaluated later in the year.

Despite his lingering concerns, Boone made the motion to introduce the ordinance, which passed unanimously.

Once formally adopted, county crews will install new signs, and the updated limits will allow law enforcement to use radar for enforcement. The changes take effect 30 days after final passage. ★



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# Food & Farm NEWS

## California Asparagus Growers Hang on Despite Acreage Decline

Ever-increasing labor costs in California and free trade that led to a surge in cheaper, duty-free asparagus imports from Mexico have pushed the state's asparagus industry to the brink of extinction. But a handful of growers and packers continue to hang on, with some even expressing a ray of optimism. "I think we've felt better about it the last two years," said Aaron Barcellos, a partner in the family-owned A-Bar Ag Enterprises near Firebaugh. "Last year and this year, the markets, for whatever reason, haven't had the (imported) grass, and we're finding better markets." California asparagus production topped 37,000 acres in 2000 before it started to decline, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture figures. The state now has probably fewer than 1,000 acres of commercial asparagus, according to industry estimates.

## Melissa Hurtado on Ag Overtime: 'Everyone Can Win'

Following research that showed California's 2016 agricultural overtime law resulted in an overall decline in farmworker earnings, state Sen. Melissa Hurtado, D-Sanger, coauthored Senate Bill 921, which would create a tax credit to offset the cost to farmers of paying overtime premiums. "Just going around the Senate district at different types of events where there were farmworkers, I've had

individuals come up to me and tell me that it's killing them—that they're getting reduced hours and they want more hours," Hurtado told Ag Alert® last month in an interview. "It's something I've been very vocal about, which is not a popular thing to do as a Democrat, but it's a necessary thing to do. We can get it right. This doesn't have to be a situation where everyone loses. Everyone can win."

## March Heat Wave Affected Crop Timing for California Farmers

The record-breaking heat wave last month wreaked havoc on the timing of some California crops. Celeste Alonzo, who grows vegetables in Riverside County, said the unusual weather brought her sweet corn harvest forward by nearly two weeks. "We're harvesting corn, and we usually don't harvest until around April 10. We thought we'd be harvesting on April 3, which is still ahead of schedule, but we started harvesting in late March. We had early fruit and early flowering," Alonzo told Ag Alert® earlier this month in a field report. Meanwhile, the high temperatures caused problems for Alonzo's bell peppers. "That early flowering and fruiting combined with the heat has been a challenge, especially with the baby plants," she said. "We're making sure they're getting enough water so they don't die in the heat wave. We're just not used to this weather at this time." ★

## Candidates For Governor Ought to Get Serious About These Pressing Issues



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Eric Swalwell's abrupt departure from the campaign for governor due to revelations about sexual transgressions leaves nine men and women remaining as serious contenders for spots on the November ballot.

So far their campaigns have produced a scattershot of positions and promises that have only occasionally touched on California's real world issues. However, by sheer coincidence, there's been a recent flurry of think tank reports and articles on those issues that should be required reading for would-be governors and moderators of forums to question the candidates.

In no particular order:

### Schools

The Public Policy Institute of California delved into the worrisome lack of academic achievement among in California's public schools. It notes that in state tests just 49% of students met or exceeded state standards in English language and 37% in math.

Results of federal tests were even less satisfactory, with only 29% of fourth-graders and 28% of eighth-graders proficient in reading and 35% and 25%, respectively, in math.

Mississippi, long a laggard in academic skills, got serious about raising reading

comprehension by adopting phonics. California, after years of political debate, finally semi-adopted phonics, although not completely requiring it. An article in Atlantic magazine reveals that in Mississippi, just adopting phonics was not enough; statewide mandates, coupled with state oversight, were needed to make phonics work — a suggestion maybe California needs to follow suit.

### Jobs

Outgoing Gov. Gavin Newsom loves to brag about California's \$4 trillion economy but rarely mentions the darker side — several years with virtually no job growth. The Public Policy Institute of California digs into that stagnation and reports, "Job gains have been limited to a few key sectors like health care and local government, while stock market gains have been driven by AI. Unemployment has not increased much in the past two years, though it remains higher than in 2022 and above almost all other states.

"One major challenge for the next governor will be providing expensive services like health care to a growing older adult population while the share of workers shrinks," PPIC says.

The conservative Pacific Research Institute plows the same economic ground in a report. "The data shows that California's economic challenges are no longer theoretical — they are measurable and worsening," said Wayne Winegarden, one of the report's authors. "The state's weak job growth and shrinking private sector signal that California is at a crossroads. Without meaningful policy reforms, the gap between California and the rest of

the country will continue to widen."

One aspect of California's economic sluggishness is an outflow of workers due to its sky-high living costs. Another report from the Public Policy Institute of California says the state has seen a net loss of nearly 1.3 million people since 2020. The outflow, coupled with a record low birth rate, makes California especially reliant on immigration for new workers, which in turn is affected by turmoil in federal immigration policy.

### Homes

A study by UC-Berkeley's California Policy Lab delves even further into the state's loss of population to other states, citing high living costs, especially for housing, as the prime factor.

It notes that "in 2012 the state's median household income was roughly sufficient to qualify for a mortgage on a mid-tier home, but it now falls substantially short of the level needed to qualify for even a bottom-tier home."

However, those who abandon California more easily become homeowners due to much lower prices and see improvement in their overall financial wellbeing.

This is not an exhaustive catalogue of California issues that the campaigns for governor should address. Water supply and homelessness also need attention, as well as the insurance crisis and the state's chronic budget deficits. But these reports are a good start for serious debate.

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. ★

# Then and Now

## Gridley Museum's Photo Contest



Shown is a historic Gridley building in its prime back "Then". Based off this photograph, where was this building and what is located there "Now"? Please submit your guess of what/where the building is to the Gridley Museum in writing. **MUST INCLUDE:** The number of the photo you are submitting your guess on, your full name, best contact phone number and email address (if possible) and your guess. Limit one guess per photo/per person, contest open to residents of Gridley, Live Oak and Biggs ages 12 and up. An answer key will be posted after the contest ends July 4, 2026. The Gridley Museum is located at 601 Kentucky St., Gridley and can be reached at 530-846-4482. Photo courtesy of the Gridley Museum

## Veterans Stand Down Dinner set May 30

By Lloyd Green Jr.

**YUBA-SUTTER, CA (MPG)** - The 14th annual Yuba-Sutter Veterans Stand Down Fundraising Dinner is set for May 30 at the 530 Event Center in Marysville, bringing together community members, leaders and supporters to raise funds for services that assist local veterans and their families.

Organizers say the dinner serves as the primary fundraiser for the Stand Down program, which provides access to health-care, housing support, employment resources and essential supplies for veterans, active duty service members and their families.

Proceeds from the event help sustain services tied to the annual Stand Down, a three-day event scheduled for Aug. 20 through Aug. 22 at the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds in Yuba City. The program

is based on a model first used during the Vietnam War to give returning service members a place to rest, receive medical care and reconnect with support systems.

Each year, the local Stand Down serves veterans regardless of housing status, as well as active duty personnel and their dependents. More than 2,800 volunteers support the effort, with some former participants returning to help others.

Organizers said the fundraising dinner highlights the community's role in ensuring continued support for military families. Attendees can expect an evening focused on recognition and outreach tied to veteran services.

Community members, businesses and organizations are encouraged to attend, sponsor or donate. Ticket and sponsorship information is available at yubasutterveterans.org. ★

## Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

Any one feeling confused this Spring? First it became too hot early. I fell for that Fool's Spring and emptied my greenhouse. Then the night temperatures dipped with warm days which is a fairly normal weather pattern. This made me think I could leave my tender plants outside. The days warmed, the night temperatures went up about five degrees. That

seemed doable. All of a sudden, nights dropped to low 40s at night and 50s in the day. I still didn't move plants back to safety. Now, my tender plants that will not look their best for the weekend plant sale. Ah well, tough love with plants. No one is dead but they are not thriving either. We'll see what happens. I may be lowering prices. I'd tell you the date and place but this column is written a full week ahead of when you read it, so not happening. I'll talk about it later you can be sure.

The strawberries are liking this weather as is the chard. The artichokes have gone crazy and we are eating them as fast as we can. If snow peas had been planted, they would be doing great, I think.

Lettuce should be happy. One summer squash plant is sad looking but another one is thriving. Same plant planted with the same batch of seeds at the same time. I'm guessing there is some little mini-micro climate (if something that teenie exists) and one squash is in the warmer tiny spot and the other is not. This is not based on anything factual, simply me guessing about the mysteries of life.

May is on the horizon. Hopefully it be a mild 75-80 degrees and not shock us all with temperatures in the 90s immediately. Enough complaining about the weather. May your flowers and vegetable take off with the blessing of warmer weather. ★

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Serving Butte and Sutter Counties

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# Sutter County Honors Museum Volunteers

By Susan Meeker

**YUBA CITY, CA (MPG)** - Sutter County officials recognized the contributions of local volunteers during a proclamation marking National Volunteer Week, highlighting the role they play in supporting the Sutter County Museum and the broader community.

The Board of Supervisors proclaimed April 19-25 as National Volunteer Week, noting that volunteers serve as a critical resource across the county by contributing their time, skills and expertise to community programs and services.

The proclamation specifically honored Sutter County Museum volunteers, who contributed nearly 5,000 hours of service over the past year supporting museum operations.

Museum Director Molly Bloom said the level of support provided by

volunteers is essential to the museum's day-to-day operations.

"I think that people don't always realize how much work goes into running the museum," Bloom said. "With a small staff team, we're grateful to our volunteers for all that they do."



Volunteers assist with exhibits and public programs, staff the front desk, answer visitor questions, help facilitate field trips and support the museum's nonprofit board, according to the presentation.

County officials also emphasized that volunteer efforts extend beyond individuals, often involving families and contributing to broader community engagement.

The board's proclamation described volunteers as a driving force behind positive changes, supporting areas such as arts, historical preservation, education and civic involvement throughout Sutter County.

In addition to National Volunteer Week, supervisors issued proclamations recognizing several other April observances, including Week of the Young Child, observed April 4-10, Child Abuse Prevention Month, recognized throughout April, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, observed April 19-25, and National Library Week, observed April 19-25, all focused on education, safety and support services across the community. ★

# Supervisors Oppose Return of State Fire Fee

By Susan Meeker

**OROVILLE, CA (MPG)** - The Butte County Board of Supervisors on March 14 authorized a letter opposing Senate Bill 1404, a proposal that would reinstate a state fire prevention fee on rural property owners.

The letter, signed by Board of Supervisors Chair Bill Connelly, and sent to Sen. Josh Becker, chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, urges lawmakers to reject the measure.

SB 1404, authored by State Sen. Henry Stern, D Los Angeles, would revive the State Responsibility Area fire prevention fee, which was suspended in 2017 when lawmakers shifted wildfire prevention funding to California's cap and trade program, now known as Cap and Invest. That agreement eliminated the fee through 2031.

The bill does not specify the amount property owners would pay. The previous SRA fee, implemented in 2012, was set at \$150 per habitable structure, with most rural homeowners paying \$115 after a fire district credit. That program drew widespread criticism for billing errors and administrative problems, including charges to property owners outside designated areas, and was repealed five years later as part of the broader funding shift tied to the state's climate program, officials said. ★

In his letter, Connelly wrote that reinstating the fee would break the state's earlier commitment and place new costs on residents who are already facing financial strain. He noted that many households in the wildland urban interface continue to recover from the Camp Fire and the North Complex and remain vulnerable to rising insurance premiums, nonrenewal, and the high cost of home hardening improvements.

"Many of these residents are already struggling with affordability, including those on fixed and low incomes, and cannot absorb additional fees," Connelly wrote.

During the March 14 meeting, Butte County Chief Administrative Officer Andy Pickett referenced the board's earlier opposition to the fee. "You all worked very hard a decade ago to put an end to this unjust fee and now it looks like it's trying to make a comeback," Pickett said.

A coalition including the Rural County Representatives of California and the California State Association of Counties has also opposed the measure, arguing the proposal would shift costs back to rural property owners despite the state's existing funding structure.

Pickett said the county will continue monitoring the bill as it moves through the Legislature. ★

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000195**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Paradise Countertops and Cabinets, 940-B Easy Street, Paradise, CA 95969

**Benjamin C Price, 1683 Cameo Lane, Paradise, CA 95969**  
Date filed in Butte County: February 24, 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: April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

**PARADISE 4-24-26**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000202**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Entwood Property Management, 2515 Ceanothus Avenue #100, Chico, CA 95973

**Entwood Property Management, Inc., 2515 Ceanothus Avenue, Chico, CA 95973**  
Date filed in Butte County: February 26, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: July 1, 2016

**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

**PARADISE 4-24-26**

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: April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

**ENTWOOD 4-24-26**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000244**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Wampum Ranches, Indian Hill Land Co, 59 Wright Avenue, Gridley, CA 95948

**Claire Lund Berkley Exempt Trust, 59 Wright Avenue, Gridley, CA 95948**  
Date filed in Butte County: March 6, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: June 10, 1970

**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: April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2026

**WAMPUM 5-1-26**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000141**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Nor Cal Brokerage Co, 470 H Street, Biggs, CA 95917

**Susana M Green, PO Box 501, Biggs, CA 95917**  
Date filed in Butte County: February 9, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 2026

**WAMPUM 5-1-26**

**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: April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2026

**NOR 5-1-26**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000328**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Little Roots Plants by Mia & Matteo, 17 Leslie Lane, Oroville, CA 95966

**Sarmiento, Janneo Orchid, 17 Leslie Lane, Oroville, CA 95966**  
Date filed in Butte County: March 26, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: March 8, 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: April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 2026

**LITTLE 5-8-26**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000300**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Sips N Smiles, 291 Chaffield Avenue, Biggs, CA 95917

**Cheryl B Jackson, 291 Chaffield Avenue, Biggs, CA 95917**  
Date filed in Butte County: March 23, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: March 16, 2026

**SIPS 5-8-26**

**Date filed in Butte County: March 23, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: March 16, 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: April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 2026

**SIPS 5-8-26**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000256**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Reynosa Speech Therapy, 2445 Oro Dam Boulevard Suite 8, Oroville, CA 95966

**Reynosa Speech Therapy PC, 5327 Parkdale Avenue, Oroville, CA 95966**  
Date filed in Butte County: March 9, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: April 10, 2025

**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: April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 2026

**REYNOSA 5-8-26**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000380**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Guiding Hands Senior Living Referral and Placement Service, 6516 Jack Hill Drive, Oroville, CA 95966

**Secunda Y Conway, PO Box 23, Palermo, CA 95968 and Sharon Covey, 6516 Jack Hill Drive, Oroville, CA 95966**  
Date filed in Butte County: April 8, 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: April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 2026

**GUIDING 5-8-26**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000211**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: La Milpa De Guerrero, 1414 Park Avenue #120, Chico, CA 95928

**Julio Cesar Maldonado, 1414 Park Avenue #120, Chico, CA 95928**  
Date filed in Butte County: March 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

**LA MILPA 5-8-26**

**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: April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 2026**

**LA 5-8-26**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000363**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Mountain Charlie Sheds, Dynamic Steel Structures, Pro Steel Build, 4801 Feather River Boulevard, Oroville, CA 95965

**Cary S Barnett, 4801 Feather River Boulevard, Oroville, CA 95965**  
Date filed in Butte County: April 3, 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: April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 2026

**MOUNTAIN 5-8-26**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000293**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Holly Pines Storage, 6428 Hollywood Road, Magalia, CA 95954

**Fredalee N Gleason, PO BOX 733, Magalia, CA 95954**  
Date filed in Butte County: March 20, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 28, 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: April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2026

**HOLLY 5-15-26**

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME**

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

**CASE #26CV01118**  
Petitioner Nickolas Danny Gilpin filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Nickolas Danny Gilpin to Nickolas Danny Gilpin Tonelli.

**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 May 27, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Department 6, Room TBD, Superior Court of California, County of Butte,

**5-15-26**

**300 Spruce • Suite C Gridley, CA 95948**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ELSA R. SLEEZER CASE NO. 26PR00118**

**To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate of Elsa R. Sleezer.**

**A Petition for Probate has been filed by Sam Sleezer, Patrick Sleezer, Kym Sleezer, Lathrop Sleezer, in the Superior Court of California, County of Butte, requesting Sam Sleezer be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.**

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

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

**A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: May 5, 2026, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 1. Superior Court of California, County of Butte, 1775 Concord Avenue, Chico, CA 95928.**

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

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

**YOU MAY EXAMINE** the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Sam Sleezer, 19387 Olinda Road, Anderson, CA 96007; 530-567-8558

**Publish: April 17, 24, May 1, 2026**

**SLEEZER 5-1-26**

**PUBLIC NOTICE – PUBLIC NOTICE**

**GRIDLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 429 Magnolia Street Gridley, CA 95948**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED ADOPTION OF A DEVELOPER FEE STUDY AND THE INCREASE OF THE STATUTORY SCHOOL FEE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Governing Board of the Gridley Unified School District will consider input from the public on the proposed adoption of a Developer Fee Justification Study for the District and an increase in the statutory school facility fee ("Level I Fee") on new residential and commercial/industrial developments as approved by the State Allocation Board on January 28, 2026. The adoption of the Study and the increase of the Level I Fee are necessary to fund the construction of needed school facilities to accommodate growth due to development.

Members of the public are invited to comment in writing, on or before May 6, 2026 or appear in person at the hearing at 6:30 p.m. on May 6, 2026, at the following location:

**District Office Board Room 429 Magnolia Street Gridley, CA 95948**

Materials regarding the Study and the Level I Fee are on file and are available for public review at the District Office located at 429 Magnolia Street, Gridley, CA or on the Gridley Unified School District website [www.gusd.org](http://www.gusd.org)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OF PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING SCHOOL FACILITIES FEES AS AUTHORIZED BY EDUCATION CODE SECTION 5 17620 AND GOVERNMENT CODES 65995**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that immediately following a public hearing on the matter, a proposed resolution(s) will be considered by the Governing Board of Gridley Unified School District at its regular meeting on May 6, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., which if adopted by the Board will implement development fees established by the proposed annual residential construction and reconstruction at \$5.38 per square foot and against commercial or industrial construction at \$0.87 a square foot. Education Code Section 17620 and Government Code Section 65995 authorize the proposed fees. Data pertaining to the cost of school facilities is available for inspection during regular business hours at the District's administrative offices. The fee, if approved by the Governing Board, will become effective on July 5, 2026, which is 60 days after the proposed adoption of the resolution levying such fee by the Governing Board.

Dated: April 6, 2026  
Published: April 17, 2026 and April 24, 2026 (The Gridley Herald)  
Posted: McKinley Primary, Wilson Elementary, Sycamore Middle School, Gridley High School, Alternative Education Complex, Gridley City Hall, Gridley Library

# Community Calendar

Does your group or organization have an upcoming community event? Email [lloyd.green@mpg8.com](mailto:lloyd.green@mpg8.com)  
Events are typically published within two weeks of their scheduled date, as space allows.

## Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26

### Wildflower Ride & Festival

The Saturday festival is free and open to the public, noon to 6 p.m. at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, 2357 Fair St., Chico. The air will be alive with the sounds of live music, laughter, and the hum of excitement as cyclists of all ages explore the festival. Grab a drink, browse local vendors, test your skills at the bicycle skills training rodeo, and soak up the energy of fellow riders and community members. Whether you're here to ride, celebrate, learn, or just enjoy the festive atmosphere, there's something for everyone, and of course, plenty of bikes! Sunday, check-in begins at 5:30 a.m. and rides close by 6 p.m. Choose from eight options for routes up to 125 miles for all ages and abilities. Registration and more information at [www.wildflowercentury.org](http://www.wildflowercentury.org).

### North Sierra Wine Trail

Noon to 5 p.m. each day. Taste your way through the North Sierra wineries, featuring more than 10 wineries on an all-weekend tasting pass. Sip, explore, and enjoy the beauty of the region. List of participating wineries, more information, and tickets are available at [www.northsierrawinetrail.org](http://www.northsierrawinetrail.org).

## Saturday, April 25

### Oroville Nurses Community Event

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Oroville Hospital, 2767 Olive Highway, Oroville. The family-friendly event will include activities, free tacos while supplies last and a free children's book for attendees. Nurses will offer free wellness checks, and a rally is scheduled for 12 p.m. The event is part of a national hospital tour organized by National Nurses United focused on community engagement and support for local hospitals.

## Friday, May 1

### Annual Hearing Fair

You are invited to the annual Hearing Fair hosted by the Communication Sciences and Disorders (CMSD) graduate program. This free event will provide hearing screenings, resources and referral information, and hearing health education. Drop in from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Chico State campus, Aymer J. Hamilton building, room 100, Arcadian Ave., Chico, (behind the Bidwell Mansion Visitor's Center).

### Chasing Seasons:

#### From Blossoms to Snowflakes

Join us for an evening of creativity, style, and transformation at Butte College's Annual Spring Fashion Productions. This immersive runway experience is inspired by the beauty and evolution of the four seasons. This year's production showcases original designs by Butte College student designers alongside curated ready-to-wear looks from select Chico retailers. Doors open at 6 p.m., show runs 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Butte College main campus ARTS Black Box Theatre, 3536 Butte Campus Dr., Oroville. Tickets available at [www.butte.edu/campus-events](http://www.butte.edu/campus-events).

## Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3

### NAFA® Flyball Tournament

North American Flyball Association, Inc. hosts this local competition for dogs at the Butte County Fairgrounds, 199 E. Hazel St. Competition sign-ups are closed but spectators are welcome to watch this high-energy competition. Flyball teams consist of four canine competitors that take turns racing down a there-and-back course while hurdling jumps and catching tennis balls. For more information, see [www.flyball.org](http://www.flyball.org).

## Saturday, May 2

### 2026 Bocce Regional Competition

This regional competition is the culmination of the 8-week bocce season for Special Olympics Northern California athletes competing for Butte, Lake, Shasta, Siskiyou and Yuba/Sutter/Colusa counties. 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sam Brannan Park, 806 Gray Ave., Yuba City. Join over 150 Special Olympics Northern California athletes, coaches, and volunteers at this event.

### Live Oak Community Clean-up Day

Get rid of your clutter and trash – the city of Live Oak and Recology Yuba-Sutter provide this event for Live Oak residents only, 8 a.m. to noon at 9633 N St., Live Oak. Bring a utility bill as proof of residence. See the [www.liveoakcity.org](http://www.liveoakcity.org) website for a list of accepted items and be prepared to sort appropriately and load and unload. You'll also find free compost available, while supplies last.

### Preserving Food with Friends

Join us for these hands-on classes, limited to 12 students. 10 a.m. at The Garden at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 410 Jackson St. This month's class will be about dehydrating. Register in advance at [preservingfoodwithfriends@gmail.com](mailto:preservingfoodwithfriends@gmail.com) or call 530-777-8469 for more information.

### Salsa Taste-Off

Noon to 4 p.m. in downtown Oroville, 1998 Montgomery St. You be the judge – downtown businesses compete for the title of "Best Salsa" and you vote for the winner. Shop and win: every \$20 spent in any downtown business will earn you a raffle ticket for a chance to win a \$50 gift card to the downtown business of your choice. Tickets and more information at [www.butte365.com](http://www.butte365.com).

### Rose Garden Party

2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Bask in a dreamy springtime soiree at this event from Chico Area Recreation District. Gather your entire family or a group of friends and join us at the Creekside Rose Gardens, 545 Vallombrosa Ave., Chico, for a warm day of flower crowns, crafts, yard games, and more. Tickets and more information at [www.chicorec.gov](http://www.chicorec.gov).

### Rhythm & Riffs Music Festival

4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Enjoy this high-energy celebration of live music featuring ensembles from Butte College and Chico State. Held at Café Coda, 265 Humboldt Ave., Chico, guests can savor live music, food trucks and a relaxed, community-focused atmosphere.

### A Toast to the Stansburys

6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the historic Stansbury House, 307 W. 5th St., Chico. Chico Community Ballet proudly announces its annual fundraiser, providing an evening of elegance and entertainment in support of local arts. Guests will enjoy a lively evening of live music, local wine and beer tastings, silent auction, and more! This event for 21 and above offers a rare opportunity to explore the beautifully preserved Victorian Stansbury House. All proceeds will benefit Chico Community Ballet, helping to fund performances, costumes, and educational programs. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at [www.chicocommunityballet.org](http://www.chicocommunityballet.org).

## Sunday, May 3

### 2026 Spring Fae Festival

Noon to 4 p.m. at Patrick Ranch Museum, 10381 Midway, Durham. Spend the day at this Fantasy Festival full of handmade goods, delicious food options, and lots of fun activities for the entire family. Grab a "Fae Fest Field Guide" at headquarters to find hidden gems and activities throughout the festival grounds. Enjoy a sip & shop experience by visiting the bar inside the barn with beer, cider, and seltzers. This event is free to enter and fun for all ages.

### Library Happenings

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

#### Butte County Library Happenings

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, April 24:** Sure Start family play time, 9 a.m. to noon. (G)

**Saturday, April 25:** Dungeons & Dragons Day, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. All experience levels welcome for adventurers 13 and older. (G)

**Tuesday, April 28:** LEGO Tuesdays, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B)

**Wednesday, April 29:** Color your world, 11 a.m. to noon. Arts and crafts for adults, (G) Afternoon kids' club, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (G)

**Thursday, April 30:** Chess club, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B)

**Friday, May 1:** Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (G)

**Saturday, May 2:** Afternoon kids' club, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (B)

#### Sutter County Library

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

**Friday, April 24:** Skill share, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Learn something new or share a talent with others in this relaxed, social crafting program for all ages. Participants can explore sewing, knitting, crocheting, and cross-stitching with all supplies provided by the library. No experience is necessary.

**Saturday, April 25:** Chess club, 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 28:** Stay and play, 11 a.m. to noon.

**Wednesday, April 29:** Story time and craft, 11 a.m. to noon. LEGO club, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Friday, May 1:** Skill share, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Learn something new or share a talent with others in this relaxed, social crafting program for all ages. Participants can explore sewing, knitting, crocheting, and cross-stitching with all supplies provided by the library. No experience is necessary.

**Saturday, May 2:** Chess club, 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### 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 April 28 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 April 28 and more information is available at 530-552-3300.

**Downtown Chico Thursday Night Market** continues every Thursday night, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. through September 24. You'll find the market on Broadway between 2nd and 4th Streets, including side streets and City Plaza, Chico. Enjoy more than 100 vendors along the streets, a certified farmers' market, weekly live performances by entertainers of all kinds, and lots of family fun. For more information call 530-345-6500.

**Durham Grange Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Sunday through Oct. 25 at 9386 Midway in Durham, behind Dollar General. This vibrant market promises an array of fresh produce, delicious foods, handmade goods and more, making it the perfect spot to shop local and support small businesses.

**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@butte-county.net](mailto:literacy@butte-county.net) for more information.

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

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

**Gridley Unified School District (GUSD) Board** meetings are generally on

the first and third Wednesday each month, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call 530-846-4721 for more information.

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

**Live Oak Lions Club** meets every Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the Train Depot, 9826 Hwy. 99. Club mailing address is P.O. Box 325. Phone 530-701-3722.

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

**Survivors of Suicide Support Group** meets the first and third Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. at the Gridley Recreation Department, 194 Washington Street. Next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 6.

## Community Resources – Find Food

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

**First Baptist Church of Live Oak Food Pantry**, 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month, at 2480 Pennington Road, Live Oak. This is a drive-through Food Pantry, with entrance on Gum Street and exit on Pennington Road. Next distribution will be April 26. Call 530-695-2894 for more information.

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

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

**North State Food Bank**, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. monthly at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 410 Jackson St., Gridley. Next distribution on Tuesday, May 12. Call 530-712-2600 for more information.

**North State Food Bank**, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Biggs Methodist Church, 441 C St., Biggs. Next distribution on Tuesday, May 12. Call 530-712-2600 for more information.

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

# Kings Korner

## By V.G. Harris



## The Ping Pong Balls Are Coming

Yes, the NBA regular season is over, and our hometown ballers are once again watching from the sidelines.

With a grand total of 22 wins the 2025-26 season turned out very different from what the Sactown faithful envisioned.

Within a couple of weeks, the ping pong balls will determine the order of the upcoming draft, and as the Dallas Mavericks can attest, anything is likely to happen.

The Kings franchise and fans collectively will hold their breath, as anything can happen when it comes to the first five picks.

Without a doubt the Kings will get a high draft pick, but the real question is, how high.

Experts and pundits from all corners believe we're looking at one of the deepest drafts in many years, and that bodes well for Sacramento.

But what can we take away from a season bereft with disappointments.

For one thing we can look forward to a starting unit at the start of next season that is 100 percent healthy, and hope that the first-round draft choice in the upcoming draft makes an immediate impact. Something like De'Aaron Fox did when he became one of the best point guards in the history of the Kings franchise.

And what should we make of Keegan Murray after a season of injuries? Will this talented wing man once again return to a consistent 3-point shooter as he was in his rookie year just four short seasons ago?

Keegan had an amazing rookie season followed by one head scratching season after another as his 3-point shooting declined year after year.

Keegan set an NBA rookie record by recording 206 3-pointers, and Sacramento fans thought this was just the beginning.

Sadly, although Keegan shot an amazing 41 percent from beyond the arc, he would not accomplish this again. In the following three seasons Murray shot 35 percent, 34 percent, and in an injury shortened 2026 a dismal 27 percent.

So, will the real Keegan Murray please stand up. The Kings will in all likelihood hold onto Murray and resist trade offers, as his value has slipped just as his percentage has.

The real question is can this talented player

return to form and show Kings fans that his rookie year was no fluke.

I believe he can and he will.

Zach Lavine has received considerable criticism for his drop in 3-point shooting this year as well, but the question is can Zach return to normal next season and provide Murray with someone that carry spread the floor.

Once again, I believe that's exactly what Lavine can do, and if he does, and Domantas Sabonis can stay healthy, look out western division, because here comes the Kings.

We don't know what GM Scott Perry is thinking of, and whether he will keep this group together, but we honestly never had a real opportunity to see this group play together.

Let's not forget that DeMar DeRozan is one of the most talented mid-range shooters in the league, and like Zach Lavine, can open the floor for others.

The point guard position is once again the conundrum it has been since the departure of DeAaron Fox, and we must wait and see if the draft will provide front court help or perhaps the point guard the Kings have been looking for.

Devin Carter and Nique Clifford had moments this past season, but neither has made the statement that says the point guard for the future has arrived.

Not to be forgotten is the arrival and surprisingly so of Dylan Cardwell and Precious Achiuwa. Both players acquitted themselves admirably, and Kings fans will be watching to see if one or both can take that next step in their NBA career and become a force to be reckoned with.

A lot to chew on for the Sacramento faithful, and opinions are all over the board, but for my money I hope that Scott Perry looks hard before he leaps.

There is a lot of talent on this team right now, and the real question is whether they can gel.

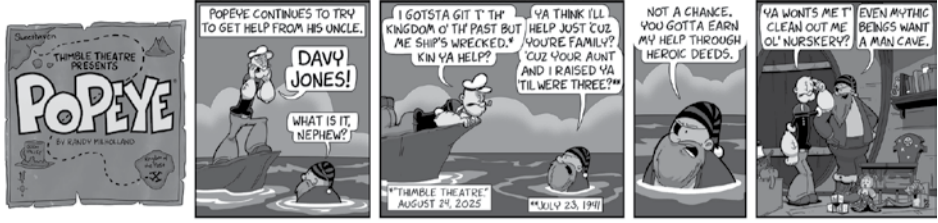
A winning franchise is much closer than last season's 22 wins would make you think, so say your prayers Kings fans and keep your fingers crossed.

We are one impact player from watching a playoff team so keep your eyes on those ping pong balls and let's all root together! ★

# COMICS & PUZZLES

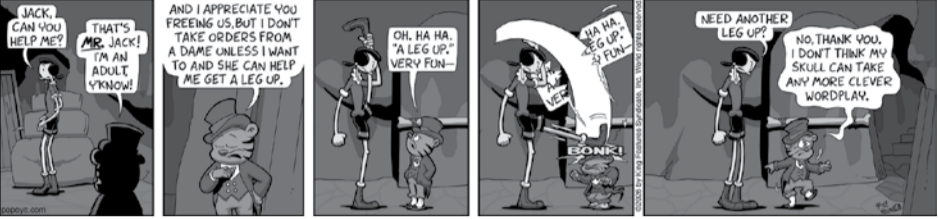
## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Purse is moved, 2. Fork is reversed, 3. Napkin is different, 6. Jacket is longer, 4. Doorway opening is not as wide, 5. Window in door is different, 6. jacket is longer.

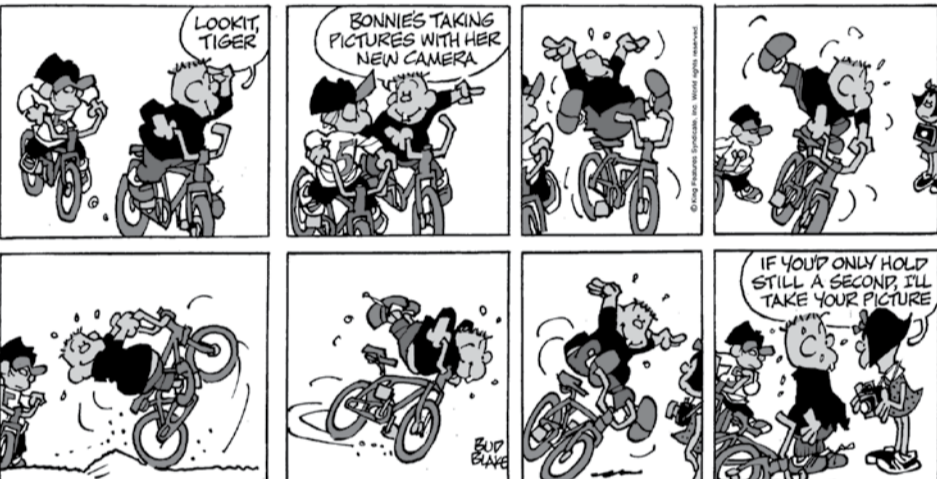
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



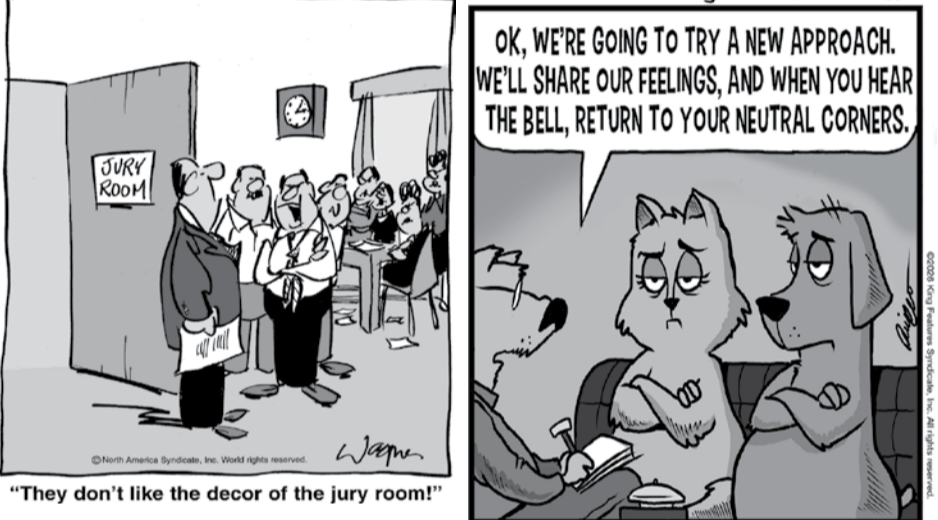
## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



## GRIN AND BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • THE 1970s

### CLUES

- ACROSS
- Verbal abuse
  - \*Failed constitutional amendment, acr.
  - Google \_\_\_\_, navigation aid
  - Strip of roadway
  - Dripping faucet sound
  - Chef's headgear
  - Tel \_\_\_\_, Israel
  - Prima donnas' problems
  - Occupied (2 words)
  - \*1974 scandal
  - Flight-related announcements, acr.
  - Attempt again
  - Male aristocrat's honorific
  - Town, in Spanish
  - Recitation of wedding vows, again
  - Santa \_\_\_\_, winds
  - Apnea, in U.K.
  - Operatic solo
  - \_\_\_\_ or do nothing
  - Finish line
  - \*1976 Woody Guthrie biopic: "Bound for \_\_\_\_"
  - Field worker
  - Avian rest stop
  - What lintel and mantel have in common
  - Ring-shaped
  - \*1979 Nobel Prize-winning nun
  - \*Alfa Romeo Giulietta, e.g.
  - Italian bowling
  - Type of tournament
  - \*#33 Down Oscar winner
  - Lie in wait
  - Place one's stake
  - Skin woe
  - \*"Roots" by Alex
  - House of Lords member
  - Chalupa alternative
  - Hoopla
  - "Right" coast time
  - \*"The Barbara \_\_\_\_ Show"
- DOWN
- Deli side
  - \* \_\_\_\_ lamp, 1960s invention popular in 1970s
  - Newton, e.g.
  - Echo
  - "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
  - \* \_\_\_\_ Tooty Fresh 'n Fruity
  - Cathedral part
  - \*1976 Summer Olympics location
  - Caribbean color
  - Boot-wearing cat
  - \*Johnny Nash's "I Can \_\_\_\_ Clearly Now"
  - Spinning toy (2 words)
  - Make a logical connection (2 words)
  - 4 x 4 race
  - Dead one or Black one, e.g.
  - Ottoman Empire bigwig
  - Teamsters, e.g.
  - Consumed
  - \*"Sanford and Son" star
  - "That's all she \_\_\_\_"
  - Buenos follower
  - \*Eric Clapton's 1970 hit
  - Not ever, contraction
  - \*1975 movie " \_\_\_\_ Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"
  - \*Kung Fu movie star (2 words)
  - Domenikos Theotokopoulos, a.k.a. El \_\_\_\_
  - Away's partner
  - Old master print maker
  - Scrawny
  - Feel sympathy
  - Common hops
  - Eight performers
  - No problem
  - Cheap reads
  - Back of neck
  - a.k.a. horse mackerel
  - \*Jacqueline Susann's best-seller " \_\_\_\_ Is Not Enough"
  - Noble gas
  - "Zip it!"

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

# Biggs PAWS Plans Snow Cone Fundraiser

By Seti Long

**BIGGS, CA (MPG)** - Biggs Parents Association Working for Students, or PAWS, is partnering with Kona Ice of Yuba City to help raise funds for students in the district.

On April 29 from 1 to 4 p.m., Kona Ice will be at Biggs Elementary School selling four sizes of snow cones. A collectible cup will also be available for purchase, offering discounted refills.

Biggs PAWS will receive

20% of proceeds from each purchase.

Brandy Mower of PAWS said, "PAWS is providing snow cones to the Biggs Middle School students as a treat, and then any other sales will go to our fundraiser."

"This is the first time we have done snow cones as a fundraiser," Mower said. "We are hoping it will go well."

Kona Ice will remain in the area after 4 p.m. and continue sales at the Biggs Little League Park. ★



Biggs Elementary students invite the community to the PAWS fundraiser featuring Kona Ice snow cones. Photo courtesy of Brandy Mower



Volunteers and organizers gather at the Durham Grange Farmers Market during its opening day on the Midway in Durham. The weekly market runs Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Oct. 25. Photo courtesy of Durham Grange Farmers Market

# Durham Farmers Market Runs Sundays Through October

By Lloyd Green Jr.

**DURHAM, CA (MPG)** - The Durham Grange Farmers Market will continue every Sunday through Oct. 25 following a strong opening day that drew families, vendors and community groups to the Midway.

Organizers said the first market featured a steady turnout, with children taking part in a scavenger hunt while residents gathered to shop and connect. Local musician Shane Myers provided live music, and the Exchange Club of Durham handed out flags and water to attendees.

The weekly market runs from 9 a.m. to

1 p.m. behind Dollar General in Durham. Vendors offer fresh produce, prepared foods and handmade goods, with organizers encouraging residents to support local businesses while spending time in the community.

Organizers described the opening day as a positive start and said the market aims to build a regular Sunday tradition in Durham through the fall season.

Vendor applications are available online at <https://forms.gle/GLBM8X2BjvkTurs5>

The market will operate weekly through late October, offering a consistent space for local agriculture, small businesses and community gatherings. ★

# CDFW Releases Chinook Salmon into Oroville



California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff release fall-run inland Chinook salmon into Lake Oroville as part of ongoing efforts to support recreational fishing opportunities. Photo courtesy of California Department of Fish and Wildlife

By MPG Staff

**OROVILLE, CA (MPG)** - As part of ongoing efforts to provide diverse fishing opportunities in Lake Oroville, California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff from

the Feather River Fish Hatchery, in partnership with the Department of Water Resources, released 129,000 fall-run inland Chinook salmon as fingerlings into Lake Oroville earlier this week.

A significant amount of effort, time and care is required to raise these salmon, which range from 4 to 6 inches in length. For more information on CDFW hatcheries, visit <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Hatcheries> ★

# Gonzales to Lead Freebirds in 2026

By MPG Staff

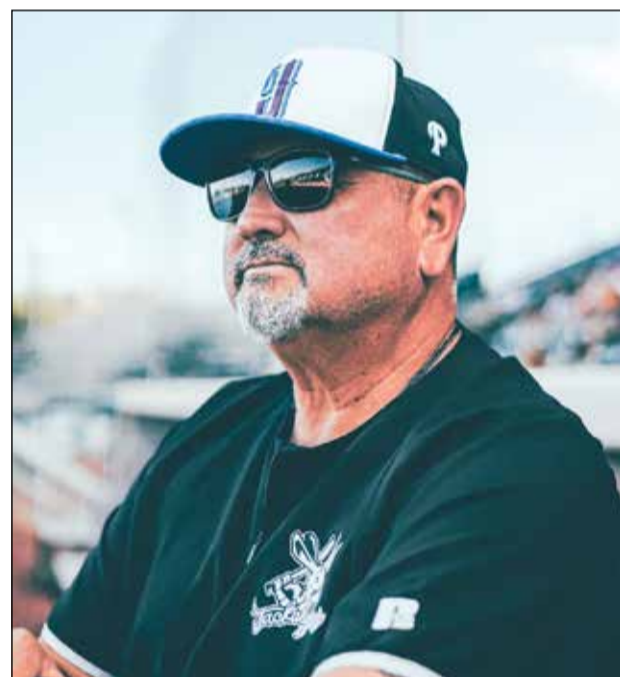
**MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG)** - The Yuba-Sutter Freebirds have named longtime baseball veteran Frank Gonzales as the team's manager for the 2026 season, the organization announced.

Gonzales brings more than 25 years of professional baseball experience, including recent leadership roles in the Pioneer League. He managed the Grand Junction Jackalopes in 2025 after leading the Northern Colorado Owlz from 2023 to 2024. Prior to that, he spent 10 years managing within the Colorado Rockies organization.

"I have a lot to be grateful for, and the opportunity to manage another year in the Pioneer League is incredible," Gonzales said. "I'm looking forward to helping build a team in Yuba-Sutter and becoming part of the community."

Freebirds General Manager Harrison Shapiro said Gonzales' background in player development and leadership made him a strong fit for the franchise. "Frank Gonzales is exactly the kind of leader I wanted for this ball club," Shapiro said. "He's not just a great baseball mind, he's a builder of culture."

A native of La Junta, Colorado, Gonzales was a standout pitcher at Colorado State University before being selected in the 16th round of the 1989 MLB Draft by the Detroit Tigers. He played in the



Frank Gonzales, newly named manager of the Yuba-Sutter Freebirds for the 2026 season, brings more than 25 years of professional baseball experience, including recent stops in the Pioneer League. Photo courtesy of Yuba-Sutter Freebirds

Tigers, Pittsburgh Pirates and Boston Red Sox organizations before beginning his coaching career in 1997.

Gonzales later returned to Colorado State, leading the program from 1999 to 2005 and guiding the team to back-to-back NCBA national championships in his final two seasons.

He is also the father of major league pitcher Marco Gonzales, who has played for the St. Louis Cardinals, Seattle Mariners and Pittsburgh Pirates during a 10-year MLB career.

The Freebirds will retain bench coach Gary Davenport for the 2026 season, marking his third year with the organization. Davenport previously spent

more than 15 years coaching in the San Francisco Giants organization.

"I'm really grateful to be coaching again in Yuba-Sutter this coming season," Davenport said. "I've known Frank for years and I'm excited to work beside him."

Rounding out the coaching staff, Gonzales will bring in Robbie Bales, who served as hitting coach for Grand Junction last season and has been head coach at the Colorado School of Mines since 2018.

The Freebirds open their second season in Marysville on May 19 against the Long Beach Coast. For tickets, schedules or more information, visit [freebirdsbaseball.com](http://freebirdsbaseball.com). ★

# Upstate Artists Can Apply for State Fellowships

By MPG Staff

**NEVADA CITY, CA (MPG)** - Individual artists across Northern California can apply for a new round of state-funded fellowships offering awards from \$5,000 to \$50,000, with applications due May 6.

Nevada County Arts & Culture will administer the California Arts Council's Upstate Individual Artists Fellowship Program, which will distribute \$240,000 to artists and culture bearers in 19 counties, including Butte, Colusa, Sutter and Yuba.

The program provides unrestricted funding and recognition to artists at various stages of their careers. Awards are based on creative vision, artistic quality and community impact. Eligible disciplines include performing, visual, literary and media arts, as well as traditional, Indigenous and community-based practices. The program also includes culture bearers, defined as individuals who preserve and pass on traditional knowledge, rituals and community practices.

"Artists and culture bearers, please attend our informational session," said Sofia Vivanco Airaghi, grants manager at Nevada County Arts & Culture. "This is an opportunity to apply for unrestricted

funding designed specifically for our rural communities."

Applicants must be at least 18 years old and based in the Upstate region. The fellowship period runs from Aug. 1 through July 30, 2027.

Grants are divided into three tiers: emerging, established and legacy artists. Funding levels vary within each tier, with a maximum award of \$50,000 available to qualifying applicants in Region 1. Funds may be used for expenses such as materials, studio space, living costs or community-based projects.

Selected fellows will also participate in a cohort that provides professional development and networking opportunities with artists across the region and statewide.

In addition to applicants, the program is seeking panelists to review submissions. Selected panelists will receive a \$400 stipend and review approximately 30 to 40 applications over a four- to six-week period. Applicants are not eligible to serve as panelists.

Applications must be submitted through the online portal by 11:59 p.m. May 6. Incomplete or late submissions will not be accepted.

More information and application details are available at [upstateIAF.org](http://upstateIAF.org). ★

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# Gridley Boys Tennis Finishes Strong Season, Advances to Sections

By MPG Staff

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - The Gridley High School boy's tennis team finished second in league play this season with a 7-3 record, matching Oroville High School but securing the higher standing through a stronger head-to-head result.

Gridley split matches with Oroville, falling 4-5 in one meeting and winning 6-3 in the other to claim the tiebreaker. The team also posted a strong performance at the West Side League individual finals held last week at Las Plumas High School.

In team competition, matches consist of six singles and three doubles contests, with lineup positions determined through challenge matches in practice.

Junior Beck Stewart led Gridley at the No. 1 singles position throughout the season, finishing with an 8-2 record. Stewart entered the league tournament as the No. 2 seed and earned All-League honors after wins over Corning and Oroville opponents.



Gridley High School boys tennis players line up during their final match of the season. From left are Alex Sims, Will Bevan, Lawson Rivas, Eric Espinosa, Beck Stewart, Byron McLellen, Alvaro Montoro and James Woolery. Photo courtesy of Gridley High School

At the No. 2 and No. 3 spots, juniors Alvaro Montoro and Byron McLellen shared duties. Montoro, an exchange student from Spain, posted a 6-4 record. McLellen finished 8-2 and used an aggressive net presence to secure key points.

Sophomore James Woolery, playing at No. 4, also finished 8-2. Freshman Eric Espinosa competed at No. 5, while freshman Alex Sims played No. 6 and showed steady improvement, ending the season 4-6.

Additional contributors

included freshman Will Bevan and sophomore Lawson Rivas, who competed in exhibition matches.

At the WSL individual tournament, McLellen opened with an 8-4 win before falling to Orland's top player. Espinosa

faced Oroville's top seed and lost 4-8. Montoro advanced with an 8-1 win before dropping his next match.

Woolery recorded one of the tournament's notable results, defeating Corning's top player in a tiebreaker before exiting in the following round.

Stewart advanced through early rounds with two wins before competing in both singles and doubles play. He and McLellen combined for a doubles victory before later falling in windy conditions.

In doubles, Montoro and Woolery secured an 8-3 win in the opening round before being eliminated in the second round.

Gridley will continue postseason play with Stewart advancing to the Northern Section individual tournament on May 9. The team is also set to compete in the Northern Section team playoffs beginning April 28.

The roster featured several underclassmen, positioning the program for continued success in future seasons. ★

# Lions Are Different Team with New Additions

By YSBC Sports

**LIVE OAK, CA (YSBC)** - The Live Oak Lions baseball team finished off the sweep of the Oroville



Live Oak senior Bradley Perigo (8) fields a ground ball on April 17 during the Lions' win over Oroville. Photo by Steven Bryla

Tigers on April 17 as they won 9-2.

Live Oak is in its second year under the helm of head coach Corby Punian and the Lions have already matched the same amount of league wins (3) as they did last year.

Live Oak split with Las Plumas in the opening week of Westside League play before they completed the sweep over Oroville.

Lions senior Bradley Perigo controlled the Tigers as he was getting ahead early in the count by throwing multiple first-pitch strikes.

Perigo tossed 3 2/3 innings in the win as he gave up two runs off five hits and struck out five.

Perigo was also one of four Live Oak hitters with a multi-hit

game in the victory.

Lions junior Chase Ehrke gave Live Oak an early 1-0 lead in the first as he hit a run-batted-in (RBI) single to left.

The Lions extended the lead to 3-0 in the second after a couple of ground balls were hit by senior Kaden and sophomore Karson Lee.

The Tigers cut the deficit to one in the fourth as they pieced together a couple of hits and forced Perigo to get the ball over the plate.

Perigo was relieved by senior Landon Epperson where he tossed and controlled Oroville the rest of the game.

Epperson finished the final 3 1/2 innings on the mound as he only surrendered two hits, one walk

and struck out seven.

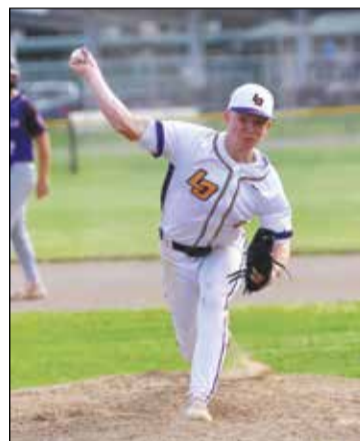
Punian said that they are a different team after some recent transfers became eligible and the chemistry on the team is the highest it's ever been.

He added that his goal for the program was to get better on a daily basis and there is an opportunity to compete for a league title.

Live Oak tacked on five runs in the fourth where they batted though the whole lineup, which included four base hits and forced a couple of walks.

Epperson and Ehrke each had an RBI in the inning. Epperson added his second RBI in the fifth as he hit a sacrifice fly.

The Lions have a big matchup this week with Gridley, who is



Live Oak senior Landon Epperson (2) tosses a pitch on April 17 during the Lions' victory against Oroville. Photo by Steven Bryla

also 3-1 in Westside League play.

The series against the Bulldogs was scheduled to start on Tuesday.

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