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# THE GRIDLEY HERALD

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## Gridley FFA Welding Team Wins State



The Gridley FFA Ag Welding Team celebrates its recent state championship with an ice cream party, eating directly from the trophy bowl. Pictured, from left: Jack Waller, Aaron Weinzinger, Gemma Donati and Ethyn Rickertson. Photo courtesy of Gemma Donati

By **Seti Long**

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Gridley High School's ag welding team took first place overall at the California FFA State Finals for Welding, held April 25 at the University of California, Merced.

Ag welding pathway instructor and FFA adviser Nick Dreesman said the team has consistently performed well over the years, but this year marked a significant milestone.

"This is the first time we've won the whole thing," Dreesman said. "We've consistently been in the top five the last 15 years, so we're pretty excited for the kids."

The team included seniors Ethyn Rickertson and Gemma Donati, and juniors Aaron Weinzinger and Jack Waller.

Weinzinger earned first-place high individual honors, while Rickertson placed fourth. Donati followed in seventh place and Waller placed 20th.

"The team has had a successful year, winning thousands of dollars in scholarships and prizes," Dreesman said.

"It took a lot of time and persistence," Rickertson said. "We put in the work to get here."

"We put in the time and effort at practice multiple days a week, and it paid

off," Weinzinger said.

Weinzinger also earned two individual first-place finishes during the competition.

"Being named first in the state was a huge victory for me," Weinzinger said. "I couldn't have done it without the support from my family and my FFA adviser, Mr. Dreesman."

Many of the students have competed in welding for several years through the ag pathway and FFA programs.

"All of these students have passed American Welding Society D1.1 qualifications for vertical and overhead welding and are a great representation

of our program," Dreesman said. "Their hard work and dedication has led them to their recent success."

Rickertson and Donati plan to continue their studies after graduation. Donati said she intends to pursue an engineering degree at Cal Poly.

"I've competed in BIG Creed, ag mechanics and ag welding throughout my four years in FFA," Donati said. "Welding has definitely been my favorite competition."

Dreesman said the program is also preparing for future growth, with plans to become an American Welding Society testing facility in fall 2026. ★

## City Cuts Administrator Salary Amid Backlash



Gridley City Administrator Elisa Artega, whose salary was set at a reduced rate April 20 after she declined a previously approved pay increase. Photo courtesy of LinkedIn

By **Susan Meeker**

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - The Gridley City Council on April 20 approved a revised employment agreement for City Administrator Elisa Artega, setting her salary at a lower amount after she declined a previously approved pay raise.

The action finalized contract terms first approved in a split March 16 vote, when the council backed a higher salary for Artega following her annual performance review and negotiations. That earlier action followed a regional salary study completed last summer aimed at aligning Gridley's management pay with comparable agencies and addressing what officials claim are recruitment and retention challenges.

Under the new agreement, Artega's base salary was set at \$190,572 annually, or \$15,881 per month, effective immediately. The new salary reflects a reduction of \$51,497 from the amount initially approved by the council on March 16.

Artega serves as an at-will employee at the discretion of the City Council and is responsible for directing, administering and coordinating the city's administrative operations. The contract also outlines standard provisions for benefits, retirement contributions and administrative leave.

Also included on the April 20 agenda were employment agreements for Public Works Director Jerry Cox and Electric Director Ryan Carlson, both of whom had been serving in interim roles prior to formal appointment.

Cox's agreement sets his base salary at \$149,520 annually, or \$12,460 per month.

Carlson's agreement establishes a base salary of \$253,872 annually, or \$21,156 per month, the highest among the three contracts approved.

As electric director, Carlson oversees the city's municipal electric

## Rise and Shine!

*Bed Races Return as Crowd Favorite in Gridley Red Suspenders Day*

By **Lloyd Green Jr.**

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - One of the most anticipated events of Red Suspenders Day returns to Virginia Street as teams race decorated beds in a fast-paced and often humorous competition that draws steady crowds each year.

The bed races, set for 9:30 a.m., feature teams pushing custom-built beds down the street while rotating runners along the course. Participants take turns sprinting short distances before switching with teammates, all while guiding the bed toward the finish line.

Each team must also complete a clothing change as part of the race, stopping to swap into a nightgown before continuing. The added step often creates close finishes and draws reactions from spectators lining the route.

Little League teams from across the community take part each year, joining service clubs and local organizations in the timed event. Multiple



A Gridley Little League team races down Virginia Street during the Red Suspenders Day bed races in Gridley. The annual event returns May 16 and draws youth teams, service groups and community organizations. Photo by Seti Long

heats are run, with two beds racing at a time, building toward a final round.

"It's fun to watch," said Gridley Area Chamber

of Commerce President Lynne Spencer. "The beds are custom built, and some even share their setups between competitions."

Spencer said

participation continues to grow, with a wide range of groups entering teams.

"We have the Rotary, Lions, the fire

*Continued on page 3*

# The New Pi-Line



By Josh F.W. Cook

From time to time, it's appropriate to go back and honor the original author of the Pi Line, Bill Bursleson, former publisher of the historic Gridley Herald, for those of you who follow ditch under-grounding, planning, and housing issues this may seem like déjà vu all over again. Below is his Pi-Line from April 2nd, 1986: *Community Housing Improvement Program of Chico is looking into*

*ways to obtain Community Development Block Grant funds to help pay for the Traynor Lateral under-crossing. That's part of the Tierra del Sol housing project drainage that is covered in the consent decree issued by the federal court. The application is late, but some are still being accepted if they can prove flood damage from this winter's storms. In any case, the Traynor Lateral is spelled out in the consent decree and CHIP has to comply, the same as the city has its responsibilities to fulfill. The open 833 drain remains though over the protests of the reclamation district and the Citizens for Responsible Growth. They have been rewarded for fighting for their belief that drains should be undergrounded in heavily populated areas...rewarded with a*

*slap in the face that is. The taxpayer financed CHIP lawyers want \$21,000 from them in legal fees. And that is in addition to what they had to pay their own lawyers to plea to have the ditches undergrounded. It amuses us to hear about the CHIP official fighting for protection of the environment in Chico, and at the same time defending open drain ditches for the CHIP Tierra del Sol project in Gridley. We don't think Chico's environment is measured any different than Gridley's, but the CHIP official lives in Chico, and doesn't have to put up with Gridley's open ditch. Near sighted? Is that the term?*

\*\*\*

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

# Yuba City Walk Raises TSC Awareness, May 16



Yuba City will host the Step Forward to Cure TSC event May 16 at Didar Bains Park. The annual fundraiser supports research and programs for those affected by tuberous sclerosis complex, a rare genetic disorder impacting thousands nationwide. Courtesy photo

By MPG Staff

**YUBA CITY, CA (MPG)** - Local families and advocates will gather May 16 at Didar Bains Park for the Step Forward to Cure TSC event, a fundraiser and awareness campaign supporting those affected by tuberous sclerosis complex.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is open to the public. Organizers said participants can register online or sign up on site the day of the event.

Step Forward to Cure TSC is part of a nationwide effort now in its 25th season. This year, 14 events will take place across the country between April 11 and June 8, along with a virtual option for those unable to attend in person.

Tuberous sclerosis complex, or TSC, is a rare genetic disorder that can cause tumors to form in multiple organs, including the brain, heart, lungs, kidneys, skin and eyes. The condition affects about 50,000 people in the United States and roughly 1 million worldwide.

Symptoms and severity vary. Some individuals live independently with mild effects, while others require lifelong care due to complications such as seizures, autism and other neurological conditions. TSC is also considered the leading genetic cause of epilepsy, with an estimated 40% to 50% of those affected also diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

Organizers said the event provides an

opportunity for families to connect while raising funds for research, education and support programs. The walk coincides with Tuberous Sclerosis Awareness Month in May and Global Awareness Day on May 15.

Last year, the national campaign raised nearly \$800,000. Since its inception, the effort has generated more than \$24 million to support research and advocacy.

Funds raised through the campaign also contribute to broader medical research, including studies related to epilepsy, autism, cancer and other conditions.

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

# City Cuts Administrator Salary Amid Backlash

Continued from page 1

utility, including system operations, maintenance, infrastructure planning and regulatory compliance. The role includes managing power supply agreements, ensuring system reliability and safety, overseeing capital improvement projects and supervising department personnel responsible for delivering electric service to Gridley residents and businesses.

Backlash over public employee salaries remained central to the discussion, despite no public comment at the April 20 meeting. Criticism in the public square in recent weeks focused in part on what residents described as a "leapfrog effect," where increasing salaries in one jurisdiction drive increases in neighboring agencies.

Councilmember Catalina Sanchez said she could not support the contracts, pointing largely to the electric director's

salary and the negative reaction following the city's first action on the city administrator's contract.

"I do support the individuals that are subject to this role, and the individuals that are occupying these positions of leadership for the city are extremely qualified," Sanchez said. "My vote tonight is not reflective of the individual, but rather of the economic situation ... and concerns about whether this is appropriate for a town of our size to be paying this salary."

Vice Mayor Bruce Johnson aligned with those concerns.

Councilmembers James Roberts and Angel Calderon, along with Mayor Michael Farr, supported the contracts, forming the majority that approved the agreements.

The April 20 action completes the contract process for all three positions. ★

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# Gridley Freshmen Take Shakespeare Trip

# Sutter County Launches 'Yodel Pass' for Boat Access



A sign promoting Sutter County's new "Yodel Pass" system stands at a local boat launch, where visitors can scan a QR code to purchase digital parking and launch permits for river access sites throughout the county. Photo courtesy of Sutter County

By MPG Staff

## SUTTER COUNTY, CA (MPG)

Sutter County has launched a new digital system aimed at streamlining access to several popular boat launch and parking locations. The platform, called "Yodel Pass," allows visitors to purchase and manage passes for Boyd's Pump, Live Oak, Tisdale and Yuba City sites.

According to county

officials, passes can be purchased online through the Yodel Pass portal, by scanning QR codes posted at launch locations or by visiting the Sutter County website and searching "Yodel." The system is designed to improve accessibility and simplify the process for visitors using county-managed river access points.

For more information, visit <http://yodelportal.com/sutter>.

trip, accompanied by advisors, as part of a long-running field study centered on Shakespeare's works, including a performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Educator Liz Ayon said this marks the fourth year the trip has been held, offering students exposure to both the arts and higher education.

Students stayed overnight in dorms at Southern Oregon University, where they also toured the campus and dined in the university cafeteria.

"It was very educational for them, as for many of them it was the first time that they saw a play and stayed on a college campus," Ayon said. ★

By Seti Long

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - Gridley High School freshmen traveled to Ashland, Oregon, this spring for the school's annual trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, where students experienced live theater and campus life firsthand. A total of 53 freshmen made the

# Federal Cut Ended County Nutrition Program

By Susan Meeker

**OROVILLE, CA (MPG)** - A federally funded nutrition education program that provided services in rural communities across Butte County ended last month after Congress eliminated funding, forcing the county to close out the effort earlier than planned.

The Butte County Board of Supervisors on April 14 confirmed termination of the CalFresh Healthy Living program, commonly known as SNAP-Ed, following official notice from the California Department of Public Health.

The program, originally funded through a federal grant running from October 2023 through September 2026, ended April 30, 2026.

County officials said the termination stemmed from the passage of United States House Resolution 1, which eliminated mandatory funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Program after the 2025 federal fiscal year.

SNAP-Ed programs nationwide focused on promoting healthy eating, nutrition

education and obesity prevention, particularly among low-income populations, including residents in rural communities such as Gridley and surrounding areas.

In Butte County, the program was administered through the Public Health Department and included education and outreach designed to improve long-term health outcomes, often delivered through partnerships with community organizations serving outlying areas.

County staff indicated the loss of funding had already been anticipated and incorporated into the current budget cycle.

The program's closure did not result in layoffs, with one full-time employee re-assigned to other public health programs effective May 1.

As part of the shutdown process, the county is required to complete final reporting, training and invoicing requirements set by the state before formally closing out the grant.

The board's action acknowledged receipt of the termination notice and authorized completion of the required closeout steps. ★

By MPG Staff

**CHICO, CA (MPG)** - Butte Regional Transit has introduced new fare payment options, allowing riders to use a mobile app or reloadable cards as part of a broader system upgrade.

Riders can now pay fares through the Token Transit mobile app or with Smart Cards, in addition to cash. The changes are part of the agency's "Building a Better B-Line" initiative, which aims to modernize service and improve access.

Amy White, transportation analyst for the Butte County Association of Governments, said the new options are intended to give riders more flexibility.

"We're giving riders the flexibility to pay their fare in the way that works best for them," White said.

The Token Transit app allows riders to purchase fares on a smartphone and scan their device when



boarding. The system removes the need for exact change and lets users manage fares digitally.

Smart Cards, which include QR codes, are available at the Chico Transit Center, B-Line Customer Service Office and the BCAG office. Riders can reload the cards in person, by phone or online.

Cash will remain accepted on all buses, though exact change is still required.

The agency will begin installing upgraded fare equipment on buses starting in June. The new system will not support older paper passes that do not include QR codes.

Riders who hold older passes can exchange them

for Smart Cards or transfer their value to the Token Transit app at no cost. Exchanges can be completed in person or by mail through the BCAG office.

During the transition, buses may operate with different fare systems as upgrades are installed one vehicle at a time. Officials encourage riders to switch to the new payment options ahead of the rollout to avoid disruptions.

Fare prices will remain unchanged, with local fares at \$2, regional fares at \$3, discounted fares between \$1 and \$1.50 and all-day passes at \$6.

More information is available at [blinetransit.com](http://blinetransit.com) or by calling 530-809-4616. ★

# Rise and Shine!



In previous years, teams had so much fun piling onto the racing beds that one collapsed. Photo by Seti Long

Continued from page 1 departments, and even the Little League kids participate," Spencer said.

In last year's races, the girls little league team, the Gators, claimed the win after a technical call when a competitor on the opposing team did not remain lying down on the bed.

In all good fun, the races have become a centerpiece of the morning schedule, offering a mix of competition and humor that reflects the spirit of Red Suspenders Day.

Nearby in Rotary Park, firefighters will take part in the firemen's games later in the day, competing in events such as a fire brigade relay, tug of war and a barrel race. The contests test teamwork and strength while keeping the focus on community participation.

"Its all good fun," Spencer said. "The local firefighters compete in some light-hearted competition. The best part is everyone gets to have fun."

Spencer added that fire crews will also

set up a spray fountain, giving attendees a chance to cool off during the afternoon as temperatures rise.

Red Suspenders Day merchandise is also available ahead of the event. T-shirts can be purchased through the Gridley Area Chamber of Commerce, with two designs offered, including a standard fire-themed shirt and a commemorative design created with input from local fire departments. Shirts are priced at \$22 for sizes medium through XL and \$23 for 2XL.

"We also have red suspenders available for sale," Spencer said, noting the \$20 cost. "Wear your red suspenders and show your spirit."

Shirts and suspenders, and other Gridley spirit gear will also be available at the Chamber booth during the event. For event details, signups or vendor applications, visit the Gridley Area Chamber of Commerce <https://gridleyareachamber.org/events/red-suspenders-days> or call 530-846-3142 or email [info@gridley-chamber.org](mailto:info@gridley-chamber.org). ★

# Butte Supervisors Retain Friends of the Arts

By Susan Meeker

**OROVILLE, CA (MPG)** - In a split 3-2 vote, the Butte County Board of Supervisors on April 14 designated the Upstate Community Enhancement Foundation, known as Friends of the Arts, as the county's Local Arts Agency after a competing motion to select the State Theater Arts Guild failed. The designation allows Friends of the Arts to serve as the county's partner in the California Arts Council's State-Local Partnership program, making it eligible to apply for up to \$75,000 annually in funding, along with technical assistance and operational support.

Supervisors considered two qualified applicants after establishing a formal process earlier this year. Both organizations met eligibility requirements, including nonprofit status, a California-based office and demonstrated countywide arts programming. Friends of the Arts has held the designation since 2004, serving as the county's liaison to the California Arts Council. Supervisor Tami Ritter, who supported continuing the designation, pointed to the organization's track record in securing funding.

"For me, this is an easy decision because I can look at the dollars that are going to come into Butte County, and we're all going to benefit if we have Friends of the Arts at the helm applying for those funds," Ritter said.

That argument was echoed during public comment by supporters.

"In 2024, we brought \$334,500 into Butte County with nine grants," said Debra Lucero, arts administrator for the Upstate program. "That was a full-time job just doing that." Board Chair Bill Connelly,



who was in the minority, supported selecting the State Theater Arts Guild, signaling interest in shifting the county's approach toward an organization centered on programming and venue-based expansion.

Public comment also reflected that divide, with supporters of the State Theater Arts Guild highlighting its regional events, youth programming and ability to host large-scale cultural activities, while supporters of Friends of the Arts emphasized its role as a countywide arts council providing grant-writing support and assistance to smaller organizations.

Supervisor Tod Kimmelshue did not support the motion to designate the State Theater as the county's partner but emphasized the importance of collaboration, suggesting the two organizations could work together to strengthen arts services across the county.

The board ultimately voted to retain Friends of the Arts as the Local Arts Agency. The designation positions the organization to apply for state funding ahead of the California Arts Council's May 12 deadline. ★

# Yuba-Sutter Plans New Special Investigations Unit

By MPG Staff

**YUBA CITY, CA (MPG)** - Law enforcement agencies in Yuba-Sutter will shift to a new investigative model this summer with the formation of a joint Special Investigations Unit aimed at serious and repeat criminal activity.

The Yuba City Police Department and Sutter County Sheriff's Office announced April 21 that they plan to establish the unit through a memorandum of understanding, with operations set to begin July 1 pending approval from the Sutter County Board of Supervisors and the Yuba City Council.

The move follows the planned closure of the Yuba-Sutter Narcotics and Gang Enforcement Task Force, known as NET-5, at the end of the current fiscal year. Officials said the transition reflects changes in funding, evolving public safety demands and the need for a more flexible approach.

The Special Investigations Unit will focus on narcotics trafficking, violent crime, firearms offenses, organized criminal activity and repeat offenders across Yuba City and Sutter County.

Investigators from both agencies will staff the unit, with support from the Sutter

County District Attorney's Office and the Sutter County Probation Department. Officials said the collaborative model is intended to strengthen investigations, improve coordination and increase successful prosecutions.

The unit will operate under a joint command structure, with cases prioritized based on public safety impact and regional crime trends.

Yuba City Police Chief Jim Runyen said the new unit will help agencies remain proactive in addressing crime.

"The formation of the SIU ensures that our agencies remain proactive and adaptable

in addressing serious criminal activity," Runyen said.

Sutter County Sheriff Brandon Barnes said the effort will direct resources where they are most needed.

"Our priority is the safety of our community," Barnes said. "The Special Investigations Unit allows us to focus our resources where they are needed most and continue to work closely with our partners to address crime in Sutter County."

Officials said the SIU will continue the core mission of targeting criminal organizations while allowing agencies to respond more quickly to emerging crime trends. Additional details will be released as the unit is implemented. ★

# Sutter County Approves \$8.3M Road Plan

By Susan Meeker

**YUBA CITY, CA (MPG)** - The Sutter County Board of Supervisors has approved an \$8.3 million road work plan for fiscal year 2026-27, advancing a list of projects focused on road repairs, bridge upgrades and long-term infrastructure needs.

Neal Hay, director of Development Services, presented the plan, outlining projects funded through a mix of local, state and federal sources, including nearly \$4.9 million in Senate Bill 1 revenue.

Hay said the SB 1 funding will support ongoing maintenance, safety improvements and efforts to improve overall road conditions across the county.

The plan includes pavement rehabilitation on nearly 10 miles of county roads, along with ongoing maintenance such as striping, crack sealing and sign replacement.

Hay said project priorities are based on pavement condition data, traffic volumes and bridge inspections to target the most critical needs. The funding package also includes contributions from the county road fund, federal highway bridge program and state sources, reflecting a multi-source approach to maintaining infrastructure.

Among the larger efforts is work on Howsley Road, where heavy use has taken a toll on the roadway.

"It's a road that sees significant truck volume traffic and consequently the asphalt has deteriorated significantly," Hay said.

Rather than a standard overlay, the project will require full reconstruction of the road base before repaving.

The county's road improvement plan also includes the replacement of the Sanders Road Bridge over the Live Oak Canal, one of the county's more significant capital projects. Hay said the timeline will depend on seasonal conditions and construction sequencing.

"We expect to have it complete by June 30, 2027... ideally, we would like to be done with the in-ground work by Nov. 1," he said.

Additional projects include improvements to the Keys Road railroad crossing, continued coordination on Riego Road traffic signals, and rehabilitation of the Trowbridge Road yard to support service needs in the southern part of the county.

Supervisors approved the plan following a public hearing.

Officials said the annual road work plan is required to maintain eligibility for SB 1 funding and serves as the county's framework for addressing infrastructure needs across all districts. ★

# FEMA Silence Raises Concerns in Butte County

By Susan Meeker

**OROVILLE, CA (MPG)** - Butte County officials are facing new uncertainty in federal disaster recovery efforts after learning that key FEMA-funded projects were denied without notice during a recent federal shutdown.

Chief Administrative Officer Andy Pickett told the Butte County Board of Supervisors on April 14 that the county uncovered the denials weeks after they were issued, cutting into the already limited window to appeal.

"They denied a couple of our projects in mid-March and didn't tell us," Pickett said,

noting the county received no letters, emails or calls.

Pickett said the county only became aware of the decisions after another agency flagged the issue, prompting staff to search FEMA systems and confirm the determinations.

That delay carries consequences because FEMA appeals are subject to strict deadlines. By the time the county identified the issue, much of the appeal period had already passed.

"We've lost about half of the time available," Pickett said.

The lapse occurred during a federal shutdown that halted routine operations within the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees

FEMA. While communication with local agencies stopped, Pickett said FEMA staff continued working behind the scenes.

Supervisors pressed for answers on how decisions could be issued without direct notification, with Pickett acknowledging the county is still trying to determine what happened.

"You're asking the same questions that we're asking," he said.

The projects denied were not identified during the discussion, but Pickett said staff are reviewing the details and will report back as more information becomes available.

Butte County relies heavily on FEMA funding across a

range of efforts, including wildfire recovery from the Camp Fire, infrastructure repairs, housing redevelopment, hazard mitigation planning and evacuation route improvements in high-risk areas, officials said. The situation adds another layer of uncertainty to those long-running recovery efforts, which depend on FEMA reimbursement and approval for projects already underway.

Pickett said the county typically maintains consistent communication with FEMA, but the recent breakdown highlights vulnerabilities when federal operations are disrupted.

County staff are now working to determine whether appeals can still be filed in time and what options may exist to preserve funding tied to the affected projects. ★

# Butte College Officer Convicted in Child Pornography Case

By MPG Staff

**OROVILLE, CA (MPG)** - A Butte College police officer was found guilty by a Butte County jury on April 24 of one count of possession and three counts of distribution of child pornography following a five-day trial.

The defendant, Allen Lamont Charles, 49, was convicted after jurors reviewed evidence that included photos and a video he possessed and shared with romantic partners, according to the Butte County District Attorney's Office.

District Attorney Mike

Ramsey said the case began with a cyber tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children through the Internet Crimes Against Children data system. The Butte County Sheriff's Office received the tip and its detectives led the investigation.

Investigators found that Charles not only possessed illicit images and videos but also distributed them to two romantic partners. Evidence showed he used more than seven online aliases while engaging in explicit role-play conversations.

Authorities traced the accounts to Charles through digital forensic analysis. Records showed the accounts were accessed from multiple locations, including his home and a computer address tied to the Butte College campus where he worked.

Detectives arrested Charles on Aug. 28, 2024, as he left his home for work. Investigators seized additional electronic devices during the arrest, which later revealed more illegal images.

During the trial, Charles and one of his partners

testified and blamed another individual. Prosecutors argued the statements conflicted with forensic evidence linking the activity to Charles.

Ramsey said the case raised concerns because Charles served as a police officer but added that no one is above the law.

Charles' officer certification has been suspended. He remains out of custody on \$150,000 bail and is scheduled for sentencing June 24, when he faces up to six years and eight months in state prison. ★



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# Food & Farm NEWS

## Big Cats Complicate Ranchers' Livelihoods

Mountain lions in California have faced challenges as their environments are developed. Blocked in by roads and other human-made structures, their ability to roam has been limited. In February, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife listed the species' populations in parts of Southern California and the Central Coast as threatened, broadening protections for mountain lions spanning from the San Francisco Bay Area to the southern border. Ranchers and rural residents say the protections given to the predator leave them with inadequate options to protect their livestock and livelihoods when the lions become a problem. "It's a very frustrating situation for anybody in the rural communities, pet owners and the ranchers," said Vince Fontana, a San Mateo County rancher. "We're the ones that are living and working and basically co-existing with these animals."

## California Weighs 'Truth in Labeling' Wine Industry Law

California lawmakers are set to consider new legislation that would close a loophole that for decades has allowed winemakers to label wines as "American" even when they are made partly from imported bulk wine. Under current federal law, wines can be labeled American when at least 75% of the liquid came from U.S.-grown grapes or agricultural products. Assembly Bill 1585 would change that threshold to 100% for wines sold in

California. The bill's authors and sponsors said their intent is to promote trust among consumers by improving the accuracy and transparency of wine labels. "We want to make sure that there is truth in advertising when it comes to wine coming from the U.S.," said Assemblymember Rhoades Ransom, D-Tracy, who co-authored the bill. "This is another way of us ensuring that consumers know what they're purchasing."

## National Survey Shows Most Farmers Can't Afford Fertilizer

An overwhelming majority of U.S. farmers who responded to a nationwide survey say they cannot afford to purchase enough fertilizer to get them through the year. The percentage of farmers who pre-purchased fertilizer varies significantly by region. Conducted by the American Farm Bureau Federation April 3-11, the survey shows 70% of respondents say fertilizer is so expensive that they will not be able to buy all of what they need. The survey was conducted as the conflict in the Middle East sent fertilizer and fuel prices soaring. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has kept critical fertilizer supplies and crude oil from reaching global markets, putting a squeeze on supplies around the world. "Spring planting decisions depend heavily on access to fertilizer and diesel fuel, both of which have been impacted by geopolitical risks that have disrupted global markets," AFBF economist Faith Parum said in her analysis of the survey results. ★

## California's Candidates for Governor Must Prioritize Schools' Education Deficits



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

For years, polls about California voter attitudes have found public schools a consistent concern.

In a very recent Public Policy Institute of California poll, responses were mixed about whether the public school system is moving in the right direction, but 89% said it needs to change.

That concern is well founded, given that California's students don't do very well in national tests of academic skills, vis-à-vis those in other states. It's one of California's most vexing — and most important — issues and should be commanding attention from those who hold public office.

Nevertheless, when the six leading candidates for governor responded to questions during a 90-minute televised debate Wednesday night, education came up only once in a question from a viewer, not the debate moderators, and was directed at Republican Steve Hilton.

Asked how he would improve schools, Hilton responded with "learn from what works in other states." It was actually a valid response, because California officials have generally resisted learning about learning from other states that have succeeded in raising test scores — Mississippi on reading, for instance.

Candidates' intentions

about the single largest item in the state's budget — \$81.3 billion this year — are particularly important because outgoing Gov. Gavin Newsom has proposed to downgrade the state school superintendent's position to that of an advisory role, while vesting primary responsibility for education in whoever succeeds him next January.

Moderators of future debates should make at least an effort to explore the candidates' approaches to education, particularly how they would raise academic achievement that now is mediocre at best.

On the positive side of the public school situation, California has finally embraced phonics as the most effective way of teaching elementary students to read, although it's not yet mandatory. And on Wednesday, a few hours before the televised debate snubbed education, the Senate Education Committee advanced legislation to do something about California's even lower ranking in math skills.

Just 37% of California students perform at grade level in math, and the state ranks 43rd nationally in fourth-grade math proficiency. Moreover, there are distinct gaps between kids from families that struggle to afford living in California and their more privileged classmates.

Senate Bill 1067 would establish a statewide math screening system for kids in kindergarten and 1st and 2nd grades, to identify those who struggle with numbers and need extra help. It's modeled after a similar system to gauge reading skills.

The bill is backed by

EdVoice, an education reform advocate, and carried by Sen. Akilah Weber Pierson, a San Diego Democrat and daughter of Secretary of State Shirley Weber, who tirelessly championed educational reform while a state legislator.

"California has already taken an important step forward by identifying and addressing reading challenges early with K-2 universal screening for reading difficulties. SB 1067 applies that same common-sense approach to math," Marshall Tuck, CEO of EdVoice, said in a statement. "Students who struggle with foundational math skills in the early grades continue to fall further behind without timely, targeted intervention. This bill helps prepare students for future success in school, career, and life."

Mastering basic reading and math skills in the early years of school are not only important unto themselves, but they're vital for students to climb the educational ladder as high as their innate intelligences allow and to segue into productive and satisfying careers that support the larger economy.

While California has no shortage of existential issues, none is more vital than doing something about its education deficit. The Legislature at long last seems to be getting the message, but the next governor must get it too.

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.

## Chico Man Sentenced in Burglary, Animal Cruelty Case

By MPG Staff

**CHICO, CA (MPG)** - A Chico man was sentenced April 22 in Butte County Superior Court to four years and eight months in state prison after pleading to felony charges tied to a residential burglary and the killing of a family pet, according to the Butte County District Attorney's Office.

Matthew Thomas Boyle-Dahl, 39, admitted to breaking into his father's home and killing his father's cat, authorities said.

The incident occurred Feb. 2 when a neighbor who was housesitting noticed Boyle-Dahl inside the residence without permission while the homeowner was hospitalized, District Attorney Mike Ramsey said. The neighbor contacted Chico police, but Boyle-Dahl had left before officers arrived.

Officers found the cat, identified as Squirrel, dead inside the home. Police later located Boyle-Dahl walking away from the residence and detained him.

According to prosecutors, Boyle-Dahl admitted to killing the cat and told officers he did so as part of a ritual. He also told police he had been entering the home over several days, stealing items and selling drugs while using the residence as a place to stay.

Prosecutors and the probation department sought the maximum sentence of six years and eight months. Judge Michael Deems instead imposed a midterm sentence, noting Boyle-Dahl had not sustained a felony conviction in more than 15 years.

Boyle-Dahl remains in custody and awaits transfer to state prison. ★

## Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

May Day makes me sentimental. When growing up in North Oakland, I was in a daycare in my school. This was relatively soon after WWII so there were funds to help families out and federal daycare was provided in the schools. We walked several blocks to school at 6:30 to have breakfast and to allow my mom time to ride the bus

to her job downtown. I passed many houses every day. There were a variety of gardens. Some were cement. Others had wonderful arrays of flowers and bushes. Every May Day the teachers in the daycare would have us weave paper baskets and we would put flowers into them to hang on the door-knobs of neighbors. I was the child who hung the flowers. I loved it.

While teaching, I was a Waldorf teacher in a public charter Waldorf school in Chico. Waldorf education has a lot of seasonal connections. May Day and the giving of flowers was a big deal as was May pole weaving with dance. Needless to say, this inspired me with the

wonderful joy of my young self. There was an assisted living home around the corner from the school and my class would go there and give out our May baskets.

When I first moved to Gridley I put flowers on the porches of my neighbors on May Day. It gave me great pleasure. I haven't done it for a while, but it might be time to do it again.

May should be warmer. Everything is primed to burst. My Peonie is looking a bit beat up by the wind but still bright and big. The geraniums have been showing off and are getting ready to go some more. The tree lilies are getting tall and stay that way with support trellis'. Enjoy the warming. Pick flowers, light a fire. ★



Publisher,  
Paul V. Scholl

The Gridley Herald is a member of Messenger Publishing Group

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## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

**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  
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 Chatfield Avenue, Biggs, CA 95917  
Cheryl B Jackson, 291 Chatfield 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  
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 com-

menced 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 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. 2026-0000439**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Oroville Air Corps Inc., 312 Rose Lane, Paradise, CA 95969  
Oroville Air Corps Inc, 312 Rose Lane, Paradise, CA 95969  
Date filed in Butte County: April 21, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 1978  
This Business is conducted by: 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: May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026  
**OROVILLE** 5-22-26

**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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000373**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: US Ecology, 1111 Marauder Street, Chico, CA 95973  
US Ecology Transportation Solutions Incorporated, 5353 E City North Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85054  
Date filed in Butte County: April 6, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: April 6, 2021  
This Business is conducted by: 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: May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026  
**US** 5-22-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000366**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Lucky Strike Chico, 2397 Esplanade, Chico, CA 95926  
AMF Bowling Centers Inc, 7313 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111  
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: 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: May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026  
**LUCKY** 5-22-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000373**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: US Ecology, 1111 Marauder Street, Chico, CA 95973  
US Ecology Transportation Solutions Incorporated, 5353 E City North Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85054  
Date filed in Butte County: April 6, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: April 6, 2021  
This Business is conducted by: 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: May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026  
**US** 5-22-26

**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, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928  
Filed on April 9, 2026  
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court  
Publish: April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2026  
**GILPIN** 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 #26CV01240  
Petitioner Gregorio Garcia Guzman Jr filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Gregorio Garcia Guzman Jr to Gregorio Garcia Jr.  
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 June 3, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Department 6, Room TBD, Superior Court of California, County of Butte, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928  
Filed on April 20, 2026  
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court  
Publish: May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026  
**GUZMAN** 5-22-26

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME**  
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF BUTTE  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME  
CASE #26CV01240  
Petitioner Gregorio Garcia Guzman Jr filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Gregorio Garcia Guzman Jr to Gregorio Garcia Jr.  
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 June 3, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Department 6, Room TBD, Superior Court of California, County of Butte, North County Courthouse 1775 Concord Avenue Chico, CA 95928  
Filed on April 20, 2026  
Stephen E. Benson, Judge of the Superior Court  
Publish: May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026  
**GUZMAN** 5-22-26

## 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 want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
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

**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.  
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**SLEEZER** 5-1-26



## NOTICE OF HEARING AND AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT 2025 AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Notice is hereby given that the Biggs-West Gridley Water District's (BWGWD) draft Agricultural Water Management Plan (AWMP), prepared pursuant to Water Code §10820 and following, is now available for public inspection at BWGWD's office at 1713 West Biggs Gridley Road, Gridley, CA 95948, and on its website at [bwgwater.com](http://bwgwater.com). In a hearing to be held at a public meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m., May 20, 2026, the BWGWD Board of Directors will receive oral and written comments on the AWMP and then will adopt the plan as drafted or modified during the meeting. Written public comments on the draft AWMP also may be submitted for consideration by the BWGWD Board of Directors until May 19, 2026, at the District office or via email to [drobinson@bwgwater.com](mailto:drobinson@bwgwater.com). The May 20, 2026, meeting will be held at BWGWD's office at the address noted above and by telephone as described on the agenda for the meeting.

The Gridley Herald 5-1, 5-8-2026

## NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CALLING FOR BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Gridley Unified School District of Gridley, California at 2:00PM on May 19, 2026 at the District Office located at 429 Magnolia Street, Gridley, CA 95948 All inquiries concerning this bid shall be directed to Zane Schreder at (530-228-9733) email [zane@zaneschreder.com](mailto:zane@zaneschreder.com)

Bidders may obtain a set of plans and specifications, and contract documents from:  
**zane@zaneschreder.com**

Each bid must conform to the requirements of the Drawings and Project Manual and other documents comprising the Contract Documents, all of which may be examined at the Architect's Office, or at local Builders Exchanges, Separate Bids for the following:

- Bid 1 Relocation Modular Classroom at Wilson Elementary School.  
Work shall include the relocation of 7 each 24' x 40' classrooms and one each 12' x 40' restroom.
- Bid 2 Site work at Wilson Elementary School for building pads for 7 each 24' x 40' classrooms and one each 12' x 40' restroom.

Work shall include New Base Rock Pads for building, sewer line, water and new concrete landings at ramps to tie into existing sidewalks.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by a cashier's check or a bid bond in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total bid price, payable to the Gridley Unified School District.

The District requires that the bidder possess one or more of the following State of California Contractor Licenses: A suitable license as deemed acceptable for the scope of work by the State of California – Contractor's licensing board. The bidder's license(s) must remain active and in good standing at all times from submission of a bid throughout the term of any awarded contract.

This project is subject to monitoring and enforcement of prevailing wage requirements by the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement as set forth in Chapter 1 of Part 7 of Division 2 of the California Labor Code (commencing at section 1720). The District, the successful bidder, and each subcontractor performing any portion of the work for this project shall comply with the prevailing wage laws and requirements.

**DIR Registration.** This project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. Labor Code section 1725.5 requires that all contractors and subcontractors bidding on Public Works Construction Projects be registered with the Director of Industrial Relations (DIR) prior to submitting a bid and pay an annual fee to the DIR. Additional information is available on the DIR's website at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html>. An awarding body may not accept a bid or enter into a contract for public work with an unregistered contractor, and the District may not accept a bid or award a contract without proof of registration of the bidder and its subcontractors.

**Pre-Bid Conference:** One non-mandatory pre-bid conference/site visit will be held: May 11, 2026 at 3:30 pm at Wilson Elementary School 409 Magnolia Street, Gridley, CA 95948

**Bonds.** Pursuant to the Contract Documents, the successful bidder will be required to furnish a Payment (Labor and Material) Bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Sum, and a Faithful Performance Bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Sum.

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

The successful bidder will be allowed to substitute securities or establish an escrow in lieu of retainage, pursuant to Public Contract Code Section 22300, and as described in the Contract Documents.

No bidder may withdraw any bid for a period of Ninety (90) days after the date set for the opening of bids.

The Gridley Herald 5-1, 5-8-2026

## BUTTE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### COUNTY INTITATED AMENDMENTS TO BUTTE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 24 (ZONING ORDINANCE), ARTICLE IV, DIVISION 1

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Butte County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **May 28, 2026**, at 9:00 am, in the Butte County Board of Supervisors' chambers, County Administration Center, 25 County Center Drive, Oroville. Public comments will be accepted in person at the meeting or may be submitted prior to the meeting. Use the following information to view or listen to the meeting remotely.

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

Event (Meeting) Number: 2551 241 4691

or

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

#### Project Information

**Project:** County-initiated project (**PROJ-26-0035**)

A Zoning Ordinance Amendment Establishing Mobile Food Court Use.

**Location:** County-wide, applicable in the Commercial and Industrial Zones.

**Project Description:** This is a County-initiated amendment to the Butte County Zoning Ordinance (Butte County Code Chapter 24, Article IV, Division 1). This project seeks to: 1) establish Mobile Food Courts as a land use; 2) provide objective standards that ensure land use compatibility; and 3) develop an administrative permit process to ministerially review and approve proposed mobile food court uses in the Commercial and Industrial Zones.

As mobile food courts become more prevalent this amendment shall establish mobile food courts as a land use in applicable zones, provide objective standards that ensure land use compatibility, and create an administrative permitting process for mobile food courts in the County.

Butte County recommends the Planning Commission find the Zoning Ordinance Amendment and any such subsequent administrative permits for mobile food courts exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the ministerial project exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15268(a). For information or to submit comments, please contact Assistant Planner Alyssa Mendoza, Butte County Department of Development Services, 7 County Center Drive, Oroville, CA 95965. Phone: 530.552.3633 or email: [amendoza@buttecounty.ca.gov](mailto:amendoza@buttecounty.ca.gov).

#### Project Information

**Project:** County-initiated project (**ZCA25-0005**)

A Zoning Ordinance Amendment to the Short-Term Rental Ordinance (BCC Section 24-172.1)

**Location:** County-wide

**Project Description:** This is a County-initiated amendment to the Butte County Zoning Ordinance (Butte County Code Chapter 24, Article IV, Division 1). This project seeks to amend the existing ordinance. The ordinance was originally adopted in 2019, with minor amendments since the original adoption. The ordinance has been in effect for over 6 years and the amendment of the ordinance is based on community outreach and the changes over the last 6 years.

It is determined the Zoning Ordinance Amendment is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the Common Exempt Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). For information or to submit comments, please contact Principal Planner Mark Michelena, Butte County Department of Development Services, 7 County Center Drive, Oroville, CA 95965. Phone: 530.552.3683 or email: [mmichelena@buttecounty.ca.gov](mailto:mmichelena@buttecounty.ca.gov).

PAULA M. DANELUK, AICP, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Gridley Herald - 5-1-2026

# 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.

## Friday, May 1

### Annual Hearing Fair

You are invited to the annual Hearing Fair hosted by the CSUC 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).

### Quota of Gridley

#### Annual Salad Luncheon

11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Hall, 249 Sycamore St. Break out the red, white, and blue! Join us for an amazing lunch, raffles and shopping with local vendors. \$20 tickets can be purchased online, from any Quota member, or at the door.

### 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.

### Collectibles Sale Fundraiser

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ehmann Home, 1480 Lincoln, Oroville. Join us for this fundraiser for the Butte County Historical Society. Large selection of antique quilts, fabric and sewing machines, books, art, glass, and more.

### 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.

## Thursday, May 7

### 4th Annual Butte College Big Time

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Butte College main campus, 3536 Butte Campus Dr., Oroville. This social gathering, which celebrates Native American people and cultures, will feature feather dancers, craft and jewelry vendors, food and more. Organized by Student Belonging & Empowerment.

## Saturday, May 9

### 27th Annual Gold Rush Car Show

7 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Downtown Oroville, 1489 Myers St. Join us for a spectacular display of classic, vintage, and modern automobiles at this unique festival and fair that celebrates Oroville's rich history and culture. Whether you're a car enthusiast or just looking for a fun day out, this show will offer a memorable experience. Enjoy the vibrant atmosphere of Feather Fiesta Day, complete with music, food, and entertainment.

### Chico Color Family Fun Run & 5k

9 a.m. at Bidwell Park, 300 South Park Dr., Chico. Starting line is near Caper Acres, just off Woodland Ave. Option of an untimed 5k or color trot, both with six color stations to run through. All proceeds help support children's programs at the Chico Salvation Army Community Center. T-shirts will be available only on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. Register at [www.chicocolorun.com](http://www.chicocolorun.com).

### Sports Cards & Pokemon TCG Expo

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Chico, 685 Manzanita Court, Chico. Meet fellow fans, buy-sell-trade and dive into the fun. Buy tickets online before they're gone at [www.Eventbrite.com](http://www.Eventbrite.com).

### Durham Parade and Picnic

10 a.m. in downtown Durham. This year's theme, "A Creek Flows Through It," celebrates the beauty, history, and life that water brings to our community. Expect vibrant floats, amazing performances, and a day full of community spirit you won't want to miss. Then join us for the picnic to follow!

### Kids Free Fishing Day

6:30 to 11:30 a.m., Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, 3207 Rutherford Ave., Gridley. The 25th annual event includes free bait, loaner fishing poles, BBQ lunch, raffle prizes and a biggest fish contest. A shuttle will run from parking lot 14. For information, contact the Gridley Recreation Department at 530-822-6033.

## Saturday, May 16

### Gridley Red Suspenders Day

#### Car and Truck Show

8 a.m. to 1 p.m., downtown Gridley. Part of the Red Suspenders Day street fair and parade, the show features classic cars and trucks across multiple eras, with judging from 8 to 10 a.m., plus cash prizes and trophies. For information, contact the Gridley Area Chamber of Commerce at 530-846-3142.

## Library Happenings

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

### Butte County Libraries

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

**Friday, 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)

**Monday, May 4:** Gridley book club for adults, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (G) Gridley Friends of the Library meeting, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (G)

**Tuesday, May 5:** Creative writing

group for adults, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (G) LEGO Tuesdays, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B)

**Wednesday, May 6:** 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, May 7:** Chess club, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (B) Kid quest, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (G)

**Friday, May 8:** Sure Start family play time, 9 a.m. to noon. (G)

**Saturday, May 9:** Ugly art club for adults, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Materials provided, absolutely no skills required. (G)

### 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, 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.

**Tuesday, May 5:** Stay and play, 11 a.m. to noon.

**Wednesday, May 6:** Story time and craft, 11 a.m. to noon. LEGO club, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Friday, May 8:** 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 9:** 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 May 12 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 May 12 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 May 24. 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

## A Top Five Pick?

While it's true that the interest in basketball has dropped a notch with the end of the 2025/2026 season there remains a vibrant group of Sacramento Kings fans that are still very much engaged.

That is perhaps the singular prevailing reason the Kings fought through the potential move of the team to Seattle Washington just a dozen years ago and not only remained in Sacramento but built a state-of-the-art arena to boot.

But exactly where are we today? Are the Kings going through another tepid off season waiting for the inevitable uninspiring beginning of a new season or is something of real substance in the air.

In less than 2 weeks, ping pong balls will once again determine the fate of organizations all over this country, and in truth the Kings stand a better than average chance of grasping one of the top prospects from the college ranks.

From my perspective, with the draft being as deep as has been prognosticated, I believe the Kings will garner one of the top five picks, and if that is the case, there will be players available that can make an immediate impact on this franchise.

At the very least the new arrival will put butts in the seats and provide renewed enthusiasm for what the upcoming season might become.

What the Kings want and what will be actually available are two different things, so be prepared to get a game changer but not necessarily a future all-star.

Assuming A.J. Dybantsa, Cameron Boozer, and Caleb Wilson are already gone, it's quite likely the Kings may have to take a player of smaller stature, and that could be one Darius Acuff Jr.

All that Darius did for the Arkansas Razorback's last season was put up 23.5 points per game, 3.1 rebounds and 6.4 assists with a field goal percentage of 48%.

Unlike experiments of the past, the Kings would be getting what experts and pundits believe is a legitimate blue chipper, a player that by himself can make the needle move in a positive direction.

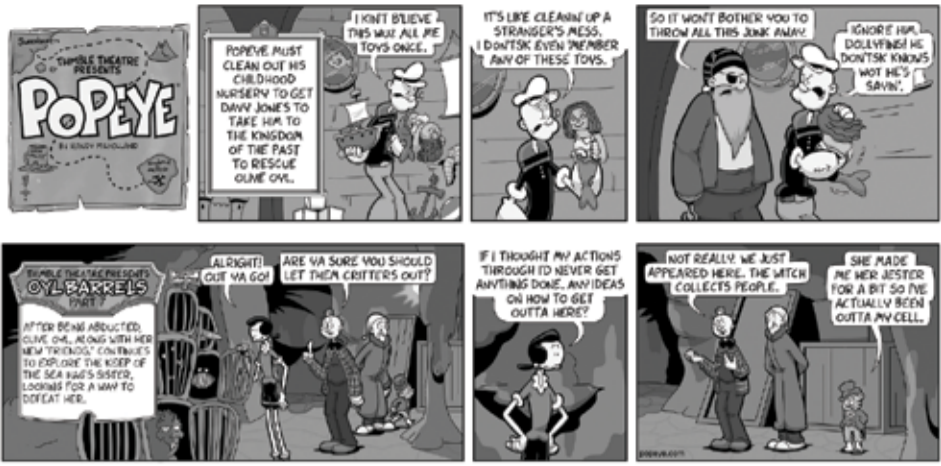
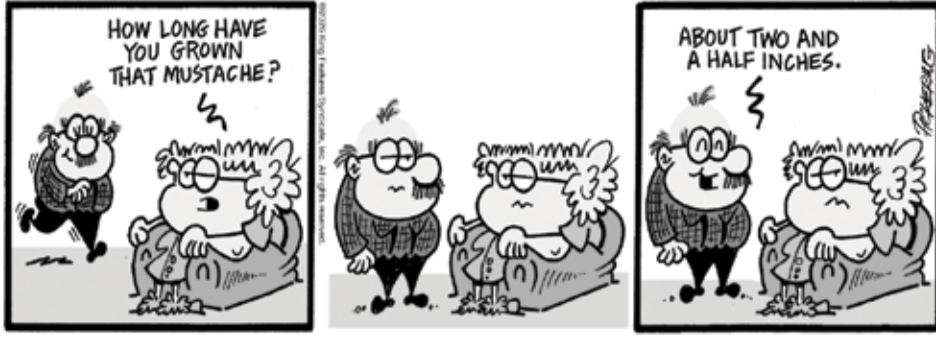
Playoff teams rarely operate effectively without a true point guard, and since the departure of DeAaron Fox, the Kings have found themselves floundering in that category.

*All the best Kings fans!* ★

# COMICS & PUZZLES

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



## GRIN & BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • TV MOMS

### CLUES

- CROSSWORD**
- ACROSS
- Ionic and Corinthian predecessor
  - Good times
  - AI fodder
  - Offer two cents
  - Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
  - Interior designer's concern
  - Not fiction, pl.
  - Big head
  - Fear-inspiring
  - \*\*"Good Times" mom
  - \*\*"The Sopranos" mom
  - Possessive pronoun
  - Gumbo pod
  - Protrude
  - Catcher's catcher
  - \*\*Marvelous Midge Maisel's first name
  - \*\*"Metamorphoses" poet
  - Chows down
  - Millionaire maker
  - Time for eggnog
  - Sure sign of fire
  - "Frasier" actress Gilpin
  - TSA PreCheck alternative
  - Mosque V.I.P.
  - Arabian bigwig
  - Received salary
  - At the apex
  - Masseuse's office
  - "Where the Red Grows"
  - Likewise
  - \*\*"Arrested Development" mom
  - \*\*"Fresh off the Boat" mom
  - Circumvent
  - French vineyard
  - Open disrespect
  - Dewey Decimal System, e.g.
  - 252-gallon cask
  - Cause anxiety (2 words)
  - Back talk
  - Extra point
  - Vanish without this
- DOWN**
- Take of a hat, e.g.
  - Traditional October birthstom
  - Puerto follower
  - Opening, colloquially
  - #55 on periodic table
  - Part of an eye
  - \*\*"Married with Children" mom
  - Investor's asset
  - Hold as a conviction
  - Unit of land often featuring a home
  - Load sixteen tons, e.g.
  - Geometry calculation
  - Divert from course
  - Between washes and styles
  - Casino's pull
  - Foot rest
  - \*\*"Stranger Things" mom
  - Throat dangler
  - Mosaic artist
  - \*\*"Friday Night Lights" mom
  - Tug-of-War gear
  - List entries
  - Like anchor aweigh
  - \*\*"Schitt's Creek" mom
  - Martin of Rat Pack
  - 3-handed card game

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# Untz Festival Returns to Yuba County with Three-Day Event

By Shamaya Sutton

**BROWNS VALLEY, CA (MPG)** - A three-day electronic music gathering known for its immersive atmosphere and late-night performances is set to return to Yuba County next month.

Running May 8 to 10 at Sycamore Ranch, the Untz Festival is expected to draw thousands of underground bass and electronic music fans from across California and beyond. Now several years into its run at the Browns Valley venue, the festival has grown into a staple event in the region, known for its immersive atmosphere, late-night sets and community-driven feel.

"I had gone to a lot of music festivals growing up and they really changed my life in a positive way," executive producer Avi Gallant said in a previous interview. "I wanted to create something similar where the community could come together each year and celebrate their specific type of music."

Originally launched in 2016 in Mariposa County, the festival was created as an extension of the fan base behind The Untz, a website dedicated to electronic dance music culture. After several years in Mariposa, organizers relocated the event to Yuba County, citing the natural landscape and camping-friendly layout of Sycamore Ranch as a major draw.



Festivalgoers relax beneath colorful canopy installations during a live set at the Untz Festival at Sycamore Ranch in 2023. The three-day event blends music, art and camping in the Yuba County foothills. Photo by Shamaya Sutton

"We were really going for a more Northern California outdoor vibe," Gallant said. "Having the river right there and the greenery and the trees and camping, it just seemed meant to be."

Set along the Yuba River, the venue offers open fields, shaded camping areas and access to water, helping shape what many attendees describe as a festival

experience that blends music with nature. While music remains the central focus, the event also features live art installations, workshops and wellness activities such as yoga, along with food and craft vendors throughout the weekend.

Organizers have historically emphasized emerging and lesser-known artists, building a

lineup that reflects the evolving underground bass scene while also bringing back returning performers whose careers have grown alongside the festival.

Over the years, festival organizers have worked closely with local agencies, including Cal Fire and the Yuba County Sheriff's Office, to address safety concerns ranging from fire prevention

to emergency access and sanitation. County officials have previously noted that organizers implemented detailed mitigation plans and coordinated staffing, including security and medical personnel, to help ensure attendee safety.

The festival has also maintained ties to the local community through nonprofit partnerships. In past years, alcohol sales have been staffed by volunteers from the Dobbins-Oregon House Improvement Foundation, with proceeds benefiting the organization's efforts to support community services, emergency preparedness and local development in the foothill region. Organizers said continuing those partnerships remains an important part of the event's mission.

Beyond entertainment, the festival has also contributed to the local economy. In 2021, Yuba County estimated an economic impact of approximately \$81,000 tied to the event, with organizers expressing interest in continuing to grow its regional footprint. With hundreds of attendees expected to return this year, the festival continues to bring increased activity to local businesses and greater visibility to Yuba County foothill communities.

Tickets and additional event information are available at [theuntzfestival.com](http://theuntzfestival.com). ★

## Gridley Boys Tennis Ends Season in NSCIF Playoffs



Beck Stewart returns a shot during NSCIF playoff action at Gridley High School, where he earned a straight-sets victory at No. 1 singles and advanced to the NSCIF individual finals on May 8 at Foothill High School. Photo courtesy of Gridley High School

By MPG Staff

**GRIDLEY, CA (MPG)** - The Gridley High School boy's tennis team advanced to the NSCIF team playoffs and hosted Central Valley in the first round. Gridley entered as the No. 3 seed while Central Valley was seeded No. 6. Despite the seeding, Central Valley was not an easy opponent, having tied for first place in the Northern Athletic League.

All matches were played as best of three sets, setting up a long afternoon of competition.

Play began at 2 p.m. Beck Stewart, playing at No. 1 singles, defeated Solomon Ford 7-5, 6-2 with consistent speed and strong play. At No. 2, Alvaro Montoro recovered from a slow start and improved his first serve but fell 1-6, 5-7.

At No. 3, Byron McLellan faced Layton Easley, a 6-foot-7 junior. McLellan dropped the first set 4-6, then responded with a dominant 6-0 second set using aggressive net play before losing the third set 4-6 after a match lasting nearly 1 hour, 40 minutes. James Woolery, at No. 4, secured a 6-3, 6-4 win over

Dorian Perkins. Eric Espinosa, at No. 5, lost to Camden Travis 5-7, 4-6 in a match featuring similar playing styles. Alex Sims closed out singles play with the quickest match of the day, winning 6-3, 6-0.

The teams entered doubles play tied 3-3.

The No. 2 doubles team of Montoro and Woolery lost 2-6, 4-6. The No. 1 doubles team of Stewart and McLellan battled through a competitive match, losing the first set in a tiebreaker 6-7 (8-10), winning the second set 6-4, then falling 1-6 in the final set.

At No. 3 doubles, Espinosa and Sims split sets 4-6, 6-3 before losing a super tiebreaker 10-12.

Gridley fell 3-6 overall in what was described as its strongest performance of the season.

Coach Linda McDowell said, "Looking at our stats, we either won big or lost big. This was the closest contest we have played, and they played better than I have ever seen them play."

Stewart will advance to the NSCIF individual finals on May 8 at Foothill High School. ★

## Wolverines Snap Losing Streak by Pounding the Panthers



Biggs senior Emma Bermudez (51) connects for a base hit on April 23 during the Wolverines' 14-0 victory over Maxwell. Photo by Steven Bryla

By YSBC Sports

**BIGGS, CA (YSBC)** - The Biggs Wolverines softball team snapped their three-game losing streak as they beat the Maxwell Panthers 14-0 on April 23.

Biggs had over a week to reflect on the losing streak as two of their three losses came off the bats of the Quincy Trojans in a doubleheader on April 16.

Quincy is the lone team in the Mid-Valley League without a loss currently. The Wolverines made an early statement against Maxwell and put the game out of reach early.

Biggs had their first seven hitters reach a base safely in the bottom of the first and quickly led 5-0 after the first.

Wolverines senior pitcher Gracie Sheppard dominated the Panthers lineup for the complete game shutout as she allowed two



Biggs senior Gracie Sheppard (28) tosses a pitch on April 23 during the Wolverines' win against Maxwell. Photo by Steven Bryla



Biggs junior Daisy Seipert (1) scores a run against Maxwell on April 23 during the Biggs' victory. Photo by Steven Bryla

hits and sent nine hitters back to the dugout empty on strikes.

Sheppard led Biggs during the game with three hits at the plate and two runs-batted-in (RBIs).

The Wolverines blasted the scoreboard again as they scored nine runs in the second inning, including eight of their 15 hits in the game.

Biggs head coach Zonah Headley told Yuba Sutter Butte Colusa Sports that the three-game losing streak was a wake up call for the Wolverines,

Headley expressed that the defending NorCal Division V champions have a target on their back and get everyone's best effort on a game-by-game basis.

The Wolverines have a stout-lineup offensively that has seven players who are hitting more than .375 and four people with

20 or more RBIs.

Headley told YSBC that the main goal moving towards the remaining two weeks of the season are health and playing clean defensively.

Biggs has a grueling schedule as they are scheduled to play Hamilton this week in MVL play and still have Portola in league before they end the season with senior day by hosting East Nicolaus.

The Wolverines will have an advantage in their final six contests as they host five of them. Biggs has yet to yield a game at home this season.

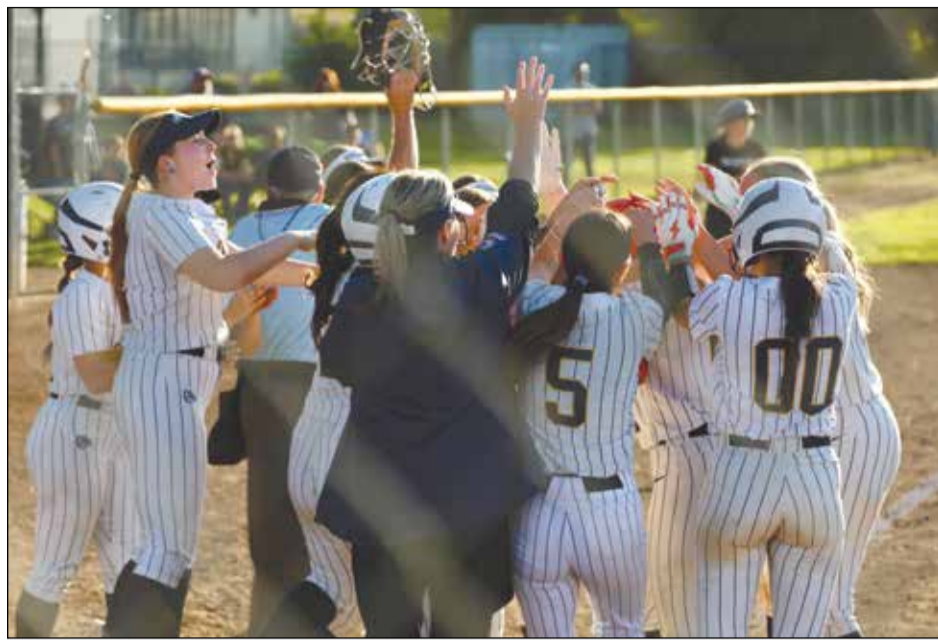
Biggs was scheduled to host Hamilton on Tuesday and travel to play the Braves today with first pitch scheduled for 4 p.m.

For more local sports, visit [ysbcsports.com](http://ysbcsports.com). ★

# Cloyd Walks-off Bulldogs in Win Over Lions



Gridley sophomore infielder Delanie Cloyd (6) hits a walk-off home run on April 23 in the Bulldogs' 12-10 win over Gridley. Photo by Steven Bryla



The Gridley Bulldogs softball team mob sophomore Delanie Cloyd after she delivered a two-run home run for a 12-10 victory over Live Oak on April 23. Photo by Steven Bryla

**By YSBC Sports**

**GRIDLEY, CA (YSBC)** - The Gridley Bulldogs softball team walked off another instant classic between the rivalry with the Live Oak Lions in a 12-10 victory on April 23.

The rivalry between the two programs over the past couple years of seasons have had a couple of games decided by one-run. Gridley junior pitcher

Kaydenze Pruitt was locked in early as she moved through the top of the Live Oak hitting lineup as she retired the first-six hitters she saw in the circle. Pruitt only gave up three hits throughout the game as the Bulldogs committed six errors in the victory.

Pruitt was also one of six Gridley hitters that had a multi-hit game in the victory over the Lions. She had two singles that

were bullets off of the bar towards the middle of the infield.

The Live Oak hitting lineup displayed a new definition of patience at the plate as they drew six walks in the third as they took a 6-3 lead.

The Bulldogs quickly responded in the bottom half of the third as they tied the game from senior infielder Avery Mendenhall with a two-run double.

Lions junior pitcher Sarah Jupina tossed the first-four innings in the defeat as she experienced shoulder discomfort during the fourth inning.

Gridley took the lead in the fourth after senior outfielder Alexis Alcantar smoked a two-run double to right for an 8-6 lead.

The Bulldogs had a 10-7 lead after the fifth, but Live Oak battled back and tied the game at 10 in the top of the sixth as junior outfielder Olivia Duran hit a sacrifice fly to center.

Pruitt and Lions sophomore pitcher Melina Jurado locked down both

of their opponents in crucial situations in the final inning.

The game went into extra innings, and Pruitt quickly retired the Live Oak lineup.

Pruitt led the bottom half of the eighth on base safely as she was hit by a pitch and Gridley sophomore infielder Delanie Cloyd blasted a soaring shot to center that ended the game with a walk-off home run.

Cloyd had five total runs-batted-in (RBIs) in the win and extended her team lead in multiple hitting categories as she extended her team-leading RBI total to 26.

Gridley head coach Tammy Carr called the victory a win that the Bulldogs needed as each team in the Westside League is beating up on one another.

The Bulldogs followed up the win over the Lions with a 10-2 defeat to Corning. Gridley ended last week in a three-way tie for second place in league play with a 2-2 league record.

Live Oak head coach

Kevin Medeiros expressed to Yuba Sutter Butte Colusa Sports that he is happy with their approach at the plate and the way they continuously fight during a game.

He added that if they were able to clean up a few defensive plays against Gridley, he believed the outcome of the game would have been different.

The Lions followed the defeat to the Bulldogs with

a 9-0 win over Orland, but kept them at .500 in league play.

Live Oak was scheduled to play Corning and Las Plumas earlier in the week before they are supposed to host Orland on Friday, May 1 at 4 p.m.

The Bulldogs are scheduled to host Las Plumas on May 1 with first pitch at 4 p.m.

For more local sports, visit [ysbcsports.com](http://ysbcsports.com) ★



Live Oak sophomore pitcher Melina Jurado (22) tosses a pitch on April 23 during the Lions' 12-10 loss to Gridley. Photo by Steven Bryla



Gridley junior pitcher Kaydenze Pruitt (00) tosses a pitch on April 23 during the Bulldogs' victory over Live Oak. Photo by Steven Bryla



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