

Gridley Students Share Tech Trek Experiences

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Christmas Preview Brings Shoppers to Downtown Gridley

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THE GRIDLEY HERALD

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ORATORIO SOCIETY MESSIAH IS BACK



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Turning Hardship into Holiday Giving



Biggs High School senior Ayden Owen will sell 100 Christmas trees for $50 each on Saturday, Nov. 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Jones Flying Service in Biggs. The fundraiser, inspired by his father's battle with leukemia, will benefit the Sutter BMT Unit.

Story and photos by Seti Long

BIGGS, CA (MPG) - Biggs High School senior Ayden Owen is turning his family's experience with cancer into an opportunity to help others this holiday season through a Christmas tree fundraiser benefiting patients undergoing cancer treatment.

As a requirement for graduation, Biggs High School seniors must plan and implement a senior project. For Ayden, the decision to support cancer patients was personal.

In October 2025, Ayden's father, Clint Owen, was diagnosed with a rare form of T-cell leukemia. His treatment required lengthy stays away from home, taking an emotional, financial and physical toll on the family.

Football games were missed, near-fatal infections threatened Clint's health and family holiday traditions were put on hold.

Christmas has always been a favorite holiday for Ayden and his father, particularly the tradition of cutting a fresh Christmas tree. However, Clint's compromised immune system put him at an elevated risk of infection, forcing the family to change its plans.

"It was the first holiday that my family had to celebrate on our own, not with all my extended family," Ayden said.

The family also had to suspend its holiday traditions to reduce the risk of Clint becoming sick.

Rather than dwell on the hardships, Ayden used the experience to inspire his senior project. As a tribute to his father's love of Christmas, he plans to sell 100 Douglas fir Christmas trees for $50 each, with proceeds benefiting the Sutter BMT Unit.

"I chose this project because of my dad and to help other families going through what mine went through," Ayden said.

The BMT Unit at Sutter Hospital provides specialized care for patients battling blood cancers or undergoing bone marrow transplants.

Ayden's mother, Adrienne Owen,

Continued on page 5

Sutter Shotgun Teams Claim State Titles

By MPG Staff

SUTTER, CA (MPG) - Sutter High School's shotgun teams captured two state championships Sunday, Nov. 15, with both the varsity and junior varsity teams taking first place in sporting clays at the California Youth Shooting Sports Association State Championship at Golden State Shooting Center.

The varsity team added the state title to its first-place finish in the series shoots leading up to the championship. The junior varsity team entered the state competition after finishing second in the series standings but claimed the championship on what team representatives described as a difficult course.

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Tyler Fletcher, Garrett Bartels and Manny Moulton, members of Sutter High School's first-place varsity sporting clays squad, display their trophies. Bartels also captured his second consecutive individual state championship. Photo courtesy of Dave Samson

Electric Pact Keeps Gridley Crews in Biggs

By Susan Meeker

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - When a transformer fails in Biggs, Gridley's electric crew can draw on its supply of spares to help restore power. The two cities have renewed the agreement that makes that possible, extending a partnership that began in 1994.

Gridley will continue maintaining Biggs' electric system through June 30, 2031. The Biggs City Council approved the agreement Oct. 27, and the Gridley City Council gave its unanimous approval Nov. 16.

Biggs has around-the-clock access to Gridley's electric crews, equipment and supplies. Gridley continues to manage and schedule its crews. When workers install one of Gridley's transformers in Biggs, Gridley bills the neighboring city for the equipment, officials said.

Deliveries have improved since the supply delays of two years ago, but underground transformers can still take a long time to arrive. Gridley keeps several types on hand so crews can make repairs while replacement equipment is on order, officials said.

Under the agreement, Biggs' monthly maintenance payment rose 4.5% to $43,663.24 effective Oct. 1. The payment is scheduled to increase 5.4% each July, beginning July 1, 2027, when it rises to $46,021.05. Moving the annual adjustment from October to July brings it in line with the start of the cities' budget year.

Representatives from the two cities met twice to work out the terms. Gridley finance staff based the increases on the cost of providing the service, including crew wages, employee benefits, equipment and supplies, officials said.

The scheduled payments total about $2.8 million over the 57-month agreement. Either city can ask to revisit the final year's monthly payment of $53,886.30 by giving written notice between July 1, 2029, and Jan. 1, 2030. Both councils would have to approve any change in writing. ★



Home Rule Has Limits on Housing

By Susan Meeker

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Gridley residents who hoped a city charter would give them more say over what can be built in single-family neighborhoods would face the same state housing requirements under home rule, City Attorney Landon Little said.

Little investigated home rule at the request of residents who opposed the zoning changes the City Council approved Oct. 5. Vice Mayor Bruce Johnson, who cast the lone vote against the changes, agreed the idea was worth exploring.

Little, in his report to the council Nov. 16, said he attended a League of California Cities webinar where several charter city attorneys spoke. Housing drew considerable discussion, he said, because residents elsewhere in California also want more control over what gets built in their communities.

"The formation of a charter city at this point under the existing state of the law would really not grant the city any greater freedom to exercise its own housing policy beyond what the state is dictating at this point," Little said.

While a charter serves as a city's own constitution, Little said the Legislature has declared housing a matter of statewide concern. That leaves cities little room to set their own rules on what can be built in single-family neighborhoods. Courts have upheld the state's authority to enforce housing requirements in charter cities, he said.

Gridley residents, like many across California, have objected to state laws that could put a two-story home just across their backyard fence.

Residents who spoke Oct. 5 said they bought their homes in single-family neighborhoods because they wanted them to stay that way. They raised concerns about employee housing in residential backyards, asking how many people could live in one house and where they would park. They also questioned how local schools would handle the growth.

Housing laws signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in recent years have already changed what property owners can build in California's single-family neighborhoods. Under Senate Bill 9, which Newsom signed in 2021, a homeowner can split a qualifying lot in two and build up to two homes on each parcel.

Even if a street still appears on the city's zoning map as single-family, four homes could stand where one was allowed, officials said. Residents fear that as more owners split their lots and build additional homes, the character of an entire block could change for generations. ★

Local Bookstores, Local Reads

By Lloyd Green Jr.

COLUSA, CA (MPG) - Independent bookstores are gaining popularity as shoppers seek more than books, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Many stores are attracting customers through community events, book clubs and locally made merchandise.

"Books have had an interesting ride," said Elizabeth Lafontaine, director of research at Placer.ai, a location analytics company. "They were one of the first to be disrupted by e-commerce and we thought we'd never see a revival. But now we're seeing this almost full-circle moment."

Lafontaine said customers are not only returning to bookstores but also spending more time browsing.

Independent bookstores often feature local authors and offer personalized recommendations. Many also provide gathering spaces for residents, giving customers another reason to visit.

In Massachusetts, Rachel Kanter, owner of Lovestruck Books, partnered with coffee entrepreneur George Howell to open a romance-themed bookstore and café.



Independent bookstores often feature local authors and offer personalized recommendations. Many also provide gathering spaces for residents, giving customers another reason to visit.
Image designed by Magnific

"What I hear from people over and over again is that they're just so happy to have a place to gather," Kanter told the chamber.

The bookstore hosts local book clubs and offers discounts to members.

Wonderland Books in Maryland, which opened in 2024, took a different approach to building community support. Its founding book club program allowed groups to contribute $2,000 in exchange for having their names displayed on a store wall, branded merchandise and invitations to exclusive events.

"A huge driving force of what we do is build a community behind this bookstore," co-owner Gayle Weiswasser said.

The store also partners with a dog rescue organization for adoption events and offers music lessons.

Beyond books, some independent retailers are expanding their merchandise to include locally made products.

Lovestruck Books sells candles, socks, slippers and tea from local vendors, creating additional opportunities for small businesses.

"The merch has taken on a life of itself," Kanter said. "It's almost half of our sales."

The growing interest in independent bookstores reflects their changing role as places where customers can shop, discover local authors and connect with their communities. ★

MEMORIAL

ROSALIO AVITIA • 07/28/1930 - 11/10/2026



Rosalio Avitia died peacefully in the arms of his loved ones on November 10, 2026, in Shasta Lake City, CA. Born on July 28, 1930, in the highlands of the Sierra Madre in the town of Canelas, Durango, Mexico, to Mr. Isabel Avitia and Mrs. Remedios Garcia, Rosalio was the fifth of 8 children. He also had 4 older half-sisters from his father's first marriage. Twenty years of civil war in Mexico followed by the worldwide Great Depression had left the mountain communities of Durango isolated, forgotten and impoverished. For six generations, the Avitia family homestead in Canelas had been self-sustaining, but by 1950, there was no hope except the north. North was California.

In California, Rosalio became a skilled farmworker and eventually settled in Butte County. To earn extra money, he began working part-time for the Southern Pacific Railroad. One of his railroad co-workers told him that his wife's sister was visiting from Santiago Papasquiaro, Durango, Mexico, and invited him to dinner. She was a beauty his friend said, with fiery red hair and big brown eyes. In 1958, Rosalio married his friend's sister-in-law, Francisca Chavez, in Gridley, CA, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. They had seven children, all of whom were born in Gridley and baptized at Sacred Heart.

Rosalio and Francisca became leaders of the Mexican community in Gridley. She as a member of the Guadalupana Society of the Catholic Church, and he as a board member of the Concilio Mexicano, a beneficial society that supported the local Mexican community. The Concilio had a supply store with basic goods, including a gas station, owned and operated a farm and paid the funeral costs of Mexican families in need. The fundraiser dances hosted by the Concilio at the Portuguese Hall became legendary in the north state, featuring now famous bands such as Los Tigres del Norte. Over the course of two decades, Rosalio and Francisca gave generously of their time to Gridley, their adopted new home in America.

Like all migrants of his generation, be they immigrants from foreign countries, Dust Bowl refugees or East Coast transplants, Rosalio came to California to make a better life for himself and his family. That meant hard work and earning your keep. As his family grew, his part-time work with the railroad became full-time, and his farm work became part-time. He taught his older children how to work in the fields because he wanted them to know the value of a dollar. His children would spend weekends, holidays and summers working in the fields, harvesting, hoeing, thinning and pruning all manner of crops. The lesson was hard, but Rosalio beamed with pride as he watched his adult children find success outside of the fields.

Family was everything to Rosalio. Given his long life, he became the patriarch of the extended Avitia and Garcia families numbering in the hundreds, and they all lovingly called him Tio Chalio. He attended many of the family reunions in Yuma and Mexicali where 300 to 400 relatives would gather. He might not know the youngsters who greeted him, but he knew their parents and grandparents and could regale his young audience with tales about their ancestors that were so enthralling and mesmerizing that some might call them fantastical. He was a joyous man, a storyteller, whose smile and laughter captivated all who knew him.

The advice he would always impart was "Hay que luchar la vida adelante" (Face life's struggles and go forward). A more poetic way of saying Never Give Up. When a drunk driver killed his 5-year-old first born, he kept going. When a railroad accident cost him two fingers on his left hand, he learned to drive heavy machinery and kept going. When he was hospitalized because a railroad co-worker who did not like Mexicans shattered his face with a wrench, he did not give up. When Francisca died in 2017 after 59 years of marriage, he did not fall into depression and, instead, relished in being the center of attention for the entire family. When his son Miguel died unexpectedly in 2024, it broke his heart, but he kept going. After 96 years of facing life's struggles, Rosalio took his last breath and died on the day that would have been his son Miguel's 64th birthday.

Rosalio was preceded in death by his son Jesus Manuel (1964), his wife Francisca Chavez (2017) and his son Miguel (2024). He is survived by his children Maria Avitia (Paula Davis) Javier Avitia (Leticia), Benito Avitia (Jackie), Rosalinda Dominguez (Armando) and Rogelio Avitia (Andrea); 16 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Visitation and Rosary will be held at Gridley-Block Funeral Chapel, 679 Ohio St, Gridley, CA on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, from 1-5 pm. Funeral Mass will be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 1560 Hazel St, Gridley, CA at 11 am. Arrangements entrusted to Gridley-Block Funeral Chapel, 530-846-2138.





Sutter Shotgun Teams Claim State Titles

Continued from page 1

Varsity shooter Garrett Bartels also earned individual honors, winning the state championship in sporting clays for the second consecutive year.

Bartels joined Tyler Fletcher and Manny Moulton to capture first place in the varsity squad competition.

The junior varsity squad of Grayson Shuffield, Gavin Nunes and Justin Rhoades also took first place in its division, contributing to the team's state championship finish.

Sutter's younger competitors also earned recognition at the state competition.

The Sutter Junior Shooters finished third overall in the state championship after placing second in the series shoots leading up to the event.

Despite the team's third-place finish, the junior squad of Kailey Crabtree, Josue Mendez and Arlo Eubanks captured first place in its division.

The varsity roster included Bartels, Fletcher, Moulton, Heston Burrow, Ismael Collins, Nicolas Miller, Jonathan Mendez, Aidan Jewell, Dixie Bybee and Bailey Crabtree.

The junior varsity team included Shuffield, Rhoades, Nunes, Kimber Benzel, David McCammond and Austin Romero.

Members of the Sutter Junior Shooters included Josue Mendez, Kailey Crabtree, Isaac Collins, Arlo Eubanks, James Mundy and Colton Crabtree.

The championship results capped the team's sporting clays series, with Sutter earning first-place state honors in both high school divisions and additional individual and squad championships. ★



Members of the Sutter High School shotgun program and Sutter Junior Shooters display their awards following the California Youth Shooting Sports Association Sporting Clays State Championship on Nov. 15. Sutter's varsity and junior varsity teams each captured state championships. Photo courtesy of Dave Samson



Josue Mendez, Arlo Eubanks and Kailey Crabtree, members of the Sutter Junior Shooters' first-place sporting clays squad, display their trophies. The junior team finished third overall at the state championship. Photo courtesy of Dave Samson



Grayson Shuffield, Gavin Nunes and Justin Rhoades, members of Sutter High School's first-place junior varsity sporting clays squad, display their trophies following the state championship. Photo courtesy of Dave Samson

Chocolate Festival Returns, Dec. 6



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church volunteers Elizabeth Mohorovich and Denise Carter (standing, from left) gather near a stained-glass window as guests enjoy chocolate desserts during the 26th annual Chocolate Festival on Dec. 8, 2024. The festival returns Sunday, Dec. 6, for its 27th year. Photo by Susan Meeker

By Lloyd Green Jr.

COLUSA, CA (MPG) - Chocolate lovers will have a good excuse to indulge this holiday season as St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Fifth and Webster streets in Colusa, prepares to serve up an assortment of sweet treats for a good cause.

The 27th annual Chocolate Festival and Silent Auction returns Sunday, Dec. 6, from noon to 2 p.m., offering visitors a chance to satisfy their sweet tooth while supporting local charities.

For a $20 donation, guests can choose five samples from an assortment of chocolate desserts prepared by church members and volunteers. Whether chocolate lovers prefer cakes, brownies, fudge or other confections, the festival has traditionally offered plenty of tempting choices.

The festival began after the late Donna Critchfield attended a similar event in the Bay Area and decided Colusa deserved a chocolate celebration of its own.

What started as an idea has grown into a holiday tradition, bringing residents together for an afternoon of desserts, fellowship and community support.

Visitors can enjoy their selections at the church or take their chocolate treats home. The festival will also feature a silent auction, fresh Christmas wreaths and music played on what organizers describe as Colusa County's only working pipe organ.

While chocolate takes center stage, the purpose behind the event extends well beyond dessert.

Proceeds benefit charitable organizations throughout Colusa County, particularly those helping residents facing food insecurity.

In previous years, the church has supported the local Ministerial Association, Friends of the Library, Friends of the Colusa County Animal Shelter and Karen House.

Whether visitors come for the chocolate, the holiday atmosphere or the opportunity to support their neighbors, the festival offers a chance to enjoy a few sweets without forgetting the reason behind the celebration.

Tickets for this year's festival are available at the door or by calling 530-736-7040. ★

Gridley Students Share Tech Trek Experiences

By MPG Staff



From left, Annalee Zarate, Mackenzie Bole, Victoria Solis and Amelia Byrd attended the 2026 Tech Trek summer camp at UC Davis in July. The students recently shared their experiences with members of the Gridley Branch of the American Association of University Women, family and friends. Photo courtesy of Gridley Branch AAUW

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Four local students shared their experiences attending a weeklong science, technology, engineering and mathematics camp at UC Davis during a recent gathering of the Gridley Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Annalee Zarate, Mackenzie Bole, Victoria Solis and Amelia Byrd discussed their participation in the Tech Trek summer camp, held in July, with AAUW members, family and friends.

The program introduces middle school girls to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) through classroom instruction, hands-on projects and exposure to career opportunities.

During the camp, students attended morning classes focusing on specific STEM subjects, including robotics, engineering, coding, anatomy, biology and genetics.

Afternoon activities included rotating workshops and campus visits to facilities such as the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and Mondavi Center.

Evening programs featured presentations by women working in STEM careers, social activities and team-building exercises. Participants also experienced living in university dormitories.

During their presentation, the four students described making friends with girls from throughout Northern California, developing confidence, learning practical skills and discovering career possibilities.

They also discussed overcoming challenges, considering their educational futures and experiencing college life.

AAUW established Tech Trek in 1998 to encourage girls to pursue STEM education and careers. The program has since expanded across the United States.

The organization, which has promoted educational opportunities and equity for women and girls since 1881, provides scholarships through contributions from AAUW members, individuals, community organizations and memorial donations.

Local seventh-grade science and mathematics teachers recommend students for the program. Candidates complete an application, submit an essay and participate in a personal interview before selection.

The Gridley Branch supports the program through scholarships that allow students to attend Tech Trek camps hosted by AAUW California.

For information about Tech Trek, joining the Gridley Branch or supporting student scholarships, contact Gridley Branch AAUW President Tracy Howell at 530-755-6144 or tracy@howellitis.com.

Additional information is available at www.aauw-ca.org/tech-trek/. ★

Space Heater Safety Tips for Winter

By StatePoint Media

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As temperatures drop during the winter months, safety officials remind residents to take precautions when using portable space heaters to warm their homes.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, portable heaters, including electric space heaters, contribute to an estimated 1,700 fires nationwide each year. Those fires result in approximately 70 deaths and 160 injuries annually.

The National Fire Protection Association identifies heating equipment placed too close to combustible materials as a leading cause of home heating fire deaths.

Residents can reduce the risk of fires and injuries by following several safety precautions.

Space heaters should sit on a hard, level floor away from areas where people frequently walk. Residents should avoid placing heaters on rugs, tables or furniture.

Keep at least three feet of clearance between a space heater and anything that can burn, including curtains, bedding, furniture and clothing.

Never leave a space heater running unattended. Turn off the heater when leaving a room and unplug it when not in use.

Residents should also regularly test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they function properly on every level of the home.

When purchasing a space heater, consumers should consider models equipped with safety features such as automatic shutoff switches that activate if the heater tips over or overheats. Additional features may include child locks and exteriors designed to remain cool to the touch.

Some newer models also feature technology that monitors electrical connections and shuts off the heater when it detects conditions that could cause overheating.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission advises residents to plug space heaters directly into wall outlets rather than extension cords or power strips.

A loose plug connection or an unusually hot cord or outlet may indicate an electrical problem. Residents should stop using the heater if they notice these warning signs.

Following proper operating instructions, maintaining adequate clearance and regularly checking electrical connections can help reduce fire risks while keeping homes warm during winter.

For additional safety information, residents can consult the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. ★



Portable space heaters contribute to an estimated 1,700 fires nationwide each year. Safety officials recommend proper placement, adequate clearance and regular equipment checks to reduce fire risks during winter. Courtesy photo

Survey Finds Gaps in Carbon Monoxide Awareness

By StatePoint Media



A national survey found that nearly half of Americans failed to recognize common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, despite widespread awareness of its dangers. Safety advocates urge families to install working detectors, inspect fuel-burning appliances annually and learn the warning signs of exposure. Courtesy photo

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Nearly half of Americans surveyed failed to recognize common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, despite widespread awareness of the dangers associated with the gas, according to new research released as part of a national safety campaign.

A survey of 2,000 American adults found that 89% were familiar with carbon monoxide and its risks. However, 43% acknowledged knowing only the basics about its sources and prevention. When presented with symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, nausea and confusion, 49% failed to identify carbon monoxide as a possible cause.

Kidde, a manufacturer of home safety products, launched its annual Cause for Alarm campaign with an educational video titled "InCOgnito Illness." The campaign aims to help families recognize symptoms that can resemble the flu, food poisoning or other common illnesses.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that can come from fuel-burning appliances and equipment, including furnaces, fireplaces, generators and vehicles.

"CO poisoning symptoms are easily mistaken for the flu, a cold or just feeling run down, which is why a working CO alarm is so important," said Charon McNabb, president and founder of the National Carbon Monoxide Awareness Association.

McNabb encouraged residents to install carbon monoxide alarms in appropriate locations, schedule annual inspections of fuel-burning appliances and understand how to respond when an alarm sounds.

The campaign also shares the experiences of families affected by carbon monoxide poisoning.

Crystal Evers, Mrs. Illinois USA 2026, lost her mother after a leak from a pool heater filled her parents' new home with carbon monoxide. The family had not yet installed carbon monoxide alarms.

"My parents had just moved into their new home, and their CO alarms had not yet been installed. We lost my mother in just hours," Evers said.

The campaign also addresses carbon monoxide risks during travel.

Chuck and Jill Heathco lost their son, John, to carbon monoxide poisoning while he stayed at a hotel in Cabo San Lucas in 2023. The family subsequently established the John Wesley Heathco Legacy Foundation to promote awareness of carbon monoxide dangers, particularly among travelers.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, only 14 states require carbon monoxide alarms in hotels and motels.

Safety advocates recommend checking for carbon monoxide detectors when staying in hotels, vacation rentals and cabins. Travelers may also consider carrying a portable, battery-operated detector suitable for their accommodations.

For home protection, consumers should select carbon monoxide alarms independently tested and certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. Common certifications include UL Listed and ETL Listed marks.

Children, older adults and pets may be especially vulnerable to carbon monoxide exposure. Warning signs can include headaches, dizziness, nausea, weakness and confusion.

The campaign encourages residents to check their alarms regularly, maintain fuel-burning appliances and recognize potential symptoms before exposure becomes life-threatening.

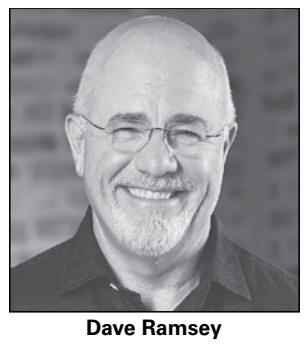
Additional information and the "InCOgnito Illness" video are available at Kidde.com. ★

Gridley Thumbs and Roots



By Barbara Ott

While raking up leaves, I noticed leaves in the street gutter. Due to our tree dropping leaves for a couple of months, my gutters are full of leaves for a while. I work at keeping minimal leaves in the gutter. When leaves are left in the gutter or blown into the street, when it rains, they go into our sewer system. This town has an aging sewer system. As responsible citizens we need to voluntarily help our community. Keeping leaves out of the gutter is not difficult. I rake but many like blowers. Either tool can collect leaves into piles. Then, especially with rakes the leaves can be put into yard waste cans. If you have a yard service, please ask them to remove the leaves instead of blowing them out into the street. Should this El Niño decide to be wet in our area it will be critically important to our quality of life to keep leaves out of our sewer system. What do I mean quality of life? I like having a functioning sewer system. I cannot imagine a town with a failed sewer system. Love summer shade? Then be willing to get leaves out of your street gutters. Our street sweeper does not sweep up large piles of leaves. The leaves look like gold while they glow on the trees and in great swarths on the streets but once that is enjoyed, we need to help keep our gutters from flooding and or from filling our aged sewer system pipe over the river with leaves. If you have a septic tank, you know the importance of keeping various things out. This is a way we can be good citizens by keeping our gutters clear. Just like protecting your eaves gutters, protect the street gutters from becoming overwhelmed with leaves. Give thanks for a service that helps us. ★



Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey Says

The Ultimate To-Do List

Dear Dave,

Do you have a list of the important, immediate things people should think about if they have to deal with being laid off from a job?

– Oscar

Dear Oscar,

It's great to know you're thinking ahead. Hopefully, you're not facing this problem at the moment, but if you are, here are just a few ideas that come to mind to help hold things together until you're back on your feet again.

First, take any severance pay — plus all the other money you have — and put it in an emergency fund. You never know how long money will be tight in a situation like this. I mean, even if you immediately find a part-time job to tide you over, you're still going to be facing a significant loss of income in the short term.

You know how much I love beating down debt, right? At this point, you need to stop paying extra on any debt you have. Pull the plug on retirement planning temporarily, too. You don't need to worry about this stuff when you're in the middle of a full-blown crisis. A detailed, bare-bones household budget is also a necessity. It's beans and rice time when something like this happens, so no eating out, buying new things or vacations for a while.

Many times, people don't want to experience the pain of a scaled-back lifestyle while they're also feeling the pain of a job loss. Some of them even turn to credit cards, and that's a really bad idea. It only makes a bad situation worse.

Be on the hunt for life insurance, as well, if you previously had it only through your employer. Everyone needs a good, inexpensive level-term life insurance policy outside of what's offered at the workplace. And when it comes to medical insurance, consider looking into a government health care plan, or health savings account (HSA), one with a high deductible and low premium.

Finally, you've got to be willing to take any honest work that comes your way. This means even part-time jobs like delivering pizza. There's no shame in honest work, and you might even be surprised by how much some people make doing this very thing.

Great question, Oscar!

– Dave

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



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Biggs Senior Turns Hardship into Holiday Giving

Continued from page 1

said the unit's doctors, nurses and staff go above and beyond to care for patients and their families during difficult circumstances. She noted that private rooms and a family lounge help accommodate visiting relatives.

Ayden has secured 100 trees for the fundraiser, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 28, at Jones Flying Service north of Biggs. The event will also feature a bake sale, a hot cocoa bar with special toppings available for purchase and photos with Santa Claus for $5.

Family members are helping prepare treats for the bake sale, but additional donations from the community are welcome.

"If anyone would like to donate more baked goods for us to sell, we would love the extra support," Ayden said.

Adrienne said the family is proud that Ayden chose to turn a difficult experience into something positive.

"It means the world to us that Ayden took a hardship that our family faced and made it into a 'positive' to honor his dad," she said.

The family hopes the fundraiser will also help other families facing similar challenges.

The Christmas tree sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, inside the hangar at Jones Flying Service, 216 W. Hamilton Road, Biggs. Trees will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Cash, checks, Venmo and Zelle will be accepted.

For more information or to donate baked goods, contact Adrienne Owen at 530-570-9005 or Adrienne_owen16@yahoo.com. ★

Take the Local-First Challenge

By Lloyd Green Jr.

A local-first shopping challenge is a great way to explore your community and get your holiday shopping list taken care of.

Make your holiday gift list, then check independent, locally owned businesses before turning to online retailers or chain stores. Here are some ways to make the local-first challenge as easy as Christmas pie.

DAY 1

On the first day of Christmas shopping, buy yourself a fancy coffee from a local coffee shop. And maybe a Christmas cookie. Remember, hydration and fuel are important for tackling holiday shopping crowds.

DAY 2

Check your holiday list and make one swap for a local business. Maybe it's holiday cards from a local bookstore or stationery shop, wrapping paper from a boutique or ornaments. Also, look to local artists who may not have a storefront but sell items such as hand-lettered gift tags.

DAY 3

Visit local restaurants for gift cards to give as holiday gifts. Look for special deals that might put a little extra money back in your wallet, too. Pick up some lunch while you're there.

DAY 4

Leave a review for one of the businesses you've visited. A five-star review can help increase visibility for local businesses in your area.

DAY 5

Bring a friend on the fifth and final day of your local challenge. Compare your lists and ideas for shopping locally. Your friend may know of shops that aren't on your radar. Encourage each other to shop locally, not just by choosing local businesses but also by selecting brands in those shops that match your values.

BONUS ROUND

Here are more ways to support local businesses this holiday season: Give gift certificates for services such as salon treatments, lawn care, automotive service and more. These thoughtful gifts support local businesses and give recipients the precious gift of time. Visit a local nursery and pick up some holiday greenery for your home or to give as gifts. Visit local artists and craft markets to find unique gifts that will perfectly fit everyone on your list. Look for shops and restaurants offering tasty treats to complement your holiday table. ★

Gridley Seeks Grant for Community Gym



Along with basketball, the gym could accommodate volleyball, wrestling and fitness programs for adults and seniors. Image designed by Magnific

By Susan Meeker

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Residents put basketball at the top of their list when Gridley asked what they wanted in a new recreation facility. The city is now pursuing a state grant to build a gym on land it owns in the industrial park.

The Gridley City Council voted unanimously Nov. 16 to authorize an application to the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program. Grants range from $200,000 to $8.5 million, with no local match required. The city is still determining how much to request.

About 80 people responded at the fair, and about 80 more filled out an online survey. The city's recreation manager also took a display to the soccer fields on game days so families could see the options and weigh in. Staff have been meeting weekly to prepare the application, which requires the city to show how residents helped shape the proposal.

Along with basketball, the gym could accommodate volleyball, wrestling and fitness programs for adults and seniors. City staff are also considering a kitchen so the building could be rented for quinceañeras, craft shows and other community events, officials said.

City Administrator Elisa Arteaga said fire and police personnel helped explore how the gym could serve residents during extreme weather. When temperatures climb above 100 degrees, the city uses its recreation building as a cooling center and offers rides there to residents, including seniors and people with disabilities.

"It's not a very big building," Arteaga said.

The proposed gym would give residents more room to gather during a heat wave and could open as a warming center in cold weather. Arteaga said its location would also give evacuees a place to go on the opposite side of the railroad tracks from the Butte County Fairgrounds. The industrial park area has sheltered people displaced by disaster before. The Federal Emergency Management Agency once placed 305 trailers there.

About $188.5 million is available statewide in this round of grants for communities with limited access to parks and recreation. City staff still need estimates for design, construction, parking, utilities and equipment, along with the cost of maintaining the gym. Grant applications are due Dec. 17. ★

Local History Finds a Growing Audience

By Susan Meeker

YUBA CITY, CA (MPG) - A bus ride can stand between a classroom of children and a chance to explore the history of their hometown. At the Sutter County Museum, helping schools cover that expense is bringing more young visitors through the doors.

More than 470 students, teachers and chaperones from Yuba and Sutter counties visited with transportation assistance last spring. Youth field trip participation increased 34% over the previous year, Museum Director-Curator Molly Bloom said.

For Bloom, those visits serve a purpose beyond a day away from school.

"We share local stories to strengthen community bonds, to inspire the celebration of our diverse cultural heritage, and to demonstrate how understanding the past prepares us for the future," Bloom said.

The bus grants are part of an educational program that also puts hands-on lessons into classrooms. The kits, guided field trips and transportation assistance are available at no cost to participating schools, Bloom said.

Bloom shared the museum's accomplishments with the Sutter County Board of Supervisors on Nov. 10, reporting more than 9,000 visitors in fiscal year 2025-26. That was a 21% increase and the highest attendance in roughly 15 years of records available to her.

Families also helped fill the museum during its busiest summer children's exhibit. "Hello from Japan!" brought more than 4,500 children and adults through the doors, offering an indoor activity during the region's hot summer months. The exhibit was presented with support from the Sutter County Children and Families Commission and the Marysville Japanese American Citizens League.

After three summers of traveling exhibits from the Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, Bloom said the museum is seeking new options to continue the popular children's programming.

School outreach has a path forward, even after the grant that launched it ended.

A California Cultural and Historical Endowment grant of more than $380,000 supported new exhibits about the Nisenan, local floods, the Gold Rush and westward expansion. It also funded the classroom kits and bus program.

The nonprofit Sutter County Museum Association established a children's program fund and raised about $17,000 to help sustain those opportunities, Bloom said.

That partnership supports much of what visitors experience. The county pays for employees, utilities, building maintenance and basic operations, while the association supports exhibits, educational activities, the community garden and other programs.

About 50 volunteers contributed approximately 5,000 hours over the year, helping a museum with just two full-time employees care for a collection of more than 20,000 objects and 8,000 photographs, Bloom said. The museum also received a 2026 Award of Excellence from the American Association for State and Local History for its permanent Black history exhibit.

Other improvements are making visits more welcoming. A communication board in the garden, sensory support supplies at the front desk and programs with Family SOUP help children with special needs and their families enjoy the museum, Bloom said.

The next effort will extend access beyond the building. Bloom said the museum is preparing its photograph records for a searchable online collection, allowing more people to explore the faces and places that shaped the Yuba-Sutter region. ★

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Community Calendar

Does your group or organization have an upcoming community event? Email lloyd.green@mpg8.com.

Events are typically published within two weeks of their scheduled date, as space allows.

Friday, Nov. 27 through Sunday, Dec. 20

"10 Ways to Survive the Holidays"

Chico Theater Company presents a holiday comedy at 166 E. Eaton Road, Suite F, Chico. The production takes a humorous look at holiday chaos, awkward family gatherings and unexpected surprises. For tickets, showtimes and information, visit www.chicotheatrecompany.com.

Saturday, Nov. 28 and Sunday, Nov. 29

"The Nutcracker" Ballet

1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Historic Oroville State Theatre, 1489 Myers St., Oroville. Sierra Pointe Ballet presents the holiday classic featuring the Sugar Plum Fairy, Mouse King and Land of Sweets. Tickets and information at www.orovillestatetheater.com.

Saturday, Nov. 28

Small Business Saturday

10 a.m.-5 p.m. in downtown Chico. Shoppers are encouraged to support local businesses during the holiday season. Downtown boutiques, gift shops, restaurants and specialty businesses will participate in the nationwide shopping event, which promotes shopping locally and supporting the community's economy.

Monday, Nov. 30

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.

Tuesday, Dec. 1

Gridley Senior Group Breakfast

Every Tuesday and Thursday includes breakfast from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and Bingo from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Gridley Recreation Center, 194 Washington St. For more information, call 530-846-3264.

Tree Lighting Ceremony

5:15-6:15 p.m. at Enloe Health Park, 1536 Arcadian Ave., Chico. The free community celebration features a Christmas tree lighting, caroling, holiday treats and a visit with Santa Claus. Attendees are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped gift for the Chico Firefighters Association's Adopt-a-Family Toy Drive.

Wednesday, Dec. 02

2026 Grower Day

7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Chico Elks Lodge, 1705 Manzanita Place, Chico. The event features agricultural regulatory updates, current research presentations, continuing education credits and an agricultural trade show. Complimentary breakfast, lunch and refreshments will be provided. For registration and information, visit www.buttefarmbureau.com/events.

General Loss Grief Support Group

6-7 p.m., Be Xtra Community Event Center, 1251 E. Onstott Road, Yuba City. Grief with Hope hosts a weekly support group for people experiencing loss. The group provides a space to share, connect and receive support from others experiencing grief.

Gridley Unified School District (GUSD) Board Meeting

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

ESL Conversation Group

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

Winter Wonderland Festival

5-8:30 p.m. in downtown Gridley. The annual holiday celebration features shopping, food vendors, a Christmas tree lighting at 5:30 p.m. at Daddow Park on Hazel Street and a Parade of Lights beginning at 6:30 p.m. along Virginia and Hazel streets. Following the parade, families can meet Santa, Olaf and Disney princesses at the Gridley Museum.

Live Oak City Council Meeting

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.

Thursday, Dec. 3

Gridley Senior Group Breakfast

Every Tuesday and Thursday includes breakfast from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and Bingo from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Gridley Recreation Center, 194 Washington St. For more information, call 530-846-3264.

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.

American Legion Bingo

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

Friday, Dec. 4, through Friday, Dec. 18

Gingerbread House Contest

11 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays at the Museum of Northern California Art (monca), 900 Esplanade, Chico. Visitors can view gingerbread house creations submitted by local participants as part of Chico's holiday decorating contest. The exhibit features designs from first-time bakers and experienced gingerbread house builders.

Friday, Dec. 04

Live Oak Holiday Stroll

5-9 p.m. at the Community Building, 10200 O St., Live Oak. The Live Oak Parks and Recreation Department will host a holiday celebration featuring a Christmas tree lighting, pictures with Santa, family activities and local vendors. For vendor information, contact Live Oak City Hall.

Community Tree Lighting

6-8 p.m. at Chico City Plaza in downtown Chico. The annual community celebration, a tradition since 1978, features a Christmas tree lighting, live holiday music, hot cocoa, seasonal treats, shopping booths and a letter-writing station for children.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Chico Parade of Lights

6 p.m. in downtown Chico, 338 Broadway. The annual Christmas parade features illuminated floats, holiday decorations and Santa Claus serving as grand marshal. Community donations help support the event. For information or to contribute, visit www\.chicoparadeoflights.com.

Brunch with Santa

8 a.m.-3 p.m. each day at the CARD Community Center, 545 Vallombrosa Ave., Chico. Families are invited to enjoy a buffet brunch, photos with Santa, holiday crafts, activities and a scavenger hunt in the rose garden. For tickets and information, visit www.chicorec.gov.

Patrick Ranch Annual Artisan's Faire

10 a.m.-4 p.m. each day at Patrick Ranch, 10381 Midway, Durham. The annual event features a selection of handmade crafts and treats from local artisans.

Sunday, Dec. 6

Brunch with Santa

8 a.m.-3 p.m. each day at the CARD Community Center, 545 Vallombrosa Ave., Chico. Families are invited to enjoy a buffet brunch, photos with Santa, holiday crafts, activities and a scavenger hunt in the rose garden. For tickets and information, visit www.chicorec.gov.

Patrick Ranch Annual Artisan's Faire

10 a.m.-4 p.m. each day at Patrick Ranch, 10381 Midway, Durham. The annual event features a selection of handmade crafts and treats from local artisans.

Christmas Craft Fair

Noon to 5 p.m. at the Family Life Center at The Father's House, 10720 Live Oak Blvd., Live Oak. The holiday market will feature local craft vendors, handmade gifts, Christmas decorations, food, coffee and treats. Vendor spaces are available for $25 plus a new toy valued at $15 or more for the Christmas toy drive.

Biggs Christmas Tree Lighting and Street Market

3-7 p.m. in downtown Biggs. Holiday celebration featuring shopping, food trucks, live music and Santa. The street market opens at 3 p.m., followed by selfies with Santa at 4 p.m., an ugly sweater contest at 5 p.m. and the Christmas tree lighting at 6 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Breakfast

7-11 a.m. at 1561 Hazel St., south of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Gridley. The Knights of Columbus hosts its monthly breakfast with plates available for $10. Children younger than 12 eat for $5.

Marysville Mini Market & Show

Noon to 5 p.m. at the Marysville Art Club, 420 10th St., Marysville. The free event will feature miniatures of all scales, from Barbie scale to railroad scale, for display and sale. Vendors are welcome. For information, call 530-442-1134.

Pet Photos with Santa Paws

10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Thrive Real Estate, 2459 Beacon St., Chico. Families are invited to bring their pets and children for holiday photos with Santa. Digital photos cost $15 each and will be delivered by email within 14 days. All proceeds benefit Butte Humane Society. Tickets are available in advance or at the event. For information, visit www\.buttehuman.org/events.

Tuesday, Dec. 8

Girls on the Run Spring Registration

Registration opens at 6 a.m. for the Girls on the Run of the North State spring 2027 program. The program runs from the week of Feb. 1 through the week of May 3. Registration is first-come, first-served, with fees varying by location and scholarships available. To find a team or register, visit www.gotrnorthstate.org. For information, call 530-636-0786 or email info@gotrnorthstate.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 9

General Loss Grief Support Group

6-7 p.m., Be Xtra Community Event Center, 1251 E. Onstott Road, Yuba City. Grief with Hope hosts a weekly support group for people experiencing loss. The group provides a space to share, connect and receive support from others experiencing grief.

Saturday, Dec. 12

Jeopardy! Christmas Concert

7 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 400 Spruce St., Gridley. The Sutter Buttes Family Orchestra will present a free, family-friendly Christmas concert featuring a "Jeopardy!" theme. A piano prelude by Bayard Myers begins at 6:30 p.m.

Community Resources – Find Food

Christian Life Assembly Compassion Plus Food Pantry, 10 a.m. to noon, 1526 Humble Ave Gridley every Wednesday. Please park in the back lot.

First 5 Family Center at Esperanza House, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.Wednesdays 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. 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, Dec. 8. 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, Dec. 8. 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.

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Gridley Library Happenings

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 11 a.m. - noon, Color Your World, adults ages 18 and older can enjoy a relaxing hour of coloring with others. 2:30 - 4 p.m., Afternoon Kids Club: Lego Day, children ages 6 to 11 can use their creativity to build with Legos.

Thursday, Dec. 3, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Kid Quest: Holiday Paper Chains, children ages 6 to 11 can create festive paper chains to count down the days until their favorite holiday.

Friday, Dec. 4, 10 - 11 a.m., Sure Start Family Storytime, children ages 0 to 5 and their families can enjoy stories, music and crafts while connecting with other families.

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 11 a.m. - noon, Color Your World, adults ages 18 and older can enjoy a relaxing hour of coloring with others. 2:30 - 4 p.m., Afternoon Kids Club: Holiday Tree Ornaments, children ages 6 to 11 can create festive ornaments to decorate their holiday trees.

Friday, Dec. 11, 9 a.m. - noon, Sure Start Family Playtime, families with children ages 0 to 5 can learn through play and meet other families in an educational setting.

Saturday, Dec. 12, 2 - 3:30 p.m., Ugly Art Club: Winter Paint by Numbers, adults ages 18 and older can create winter-themed artwork in a casual setting. Materials are provided and no experience is necessary. ★

The Gridley Library is located at 299 Spruce St. For information, call 530-552-5652. The library is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m. Thursdays, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. A complete calendar of events is available at https://buttecounty.librarycalendar.com/events/month.

www.GridleyHerald.com

Gridley Man Convicted of Child Molestation

By MPG Staff

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - A Gridley man faces more than 135 years to life in state prison after a Butte County Superior Court jury convicted him Nov. 17 of multiple counts of child molestation involving two girls.

Larry Lynn James Jr., 37, was charged with nine counts of child molestation involving his stepdaughter and a foster daughter. One victim was younger than 14 and the other was younger than 10 when the abuse occurred.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the abuse occurred between 2012 and 2015 while James lived with the children in Gridley.

During that period, James threatened the girls to prevent them from reporting the abuse. Both victims testified that they remained silent out of fear, even after James was removed from the home following a domestic violence arrest and conviction.

The allegations first surfaced in late 2019 when one victim, still a teenager at the time, disclosed the abuse to a parent after learning she might encounter James at an upcoming family gathering.

Investigators subsequently interviewed the second victim, who also reported being sexually abused by James.

The case proceeded to a five-day trial in Butte County Superior Court, where both victims, now adults, testified about the abuse and threats they experienced.

James' ex-wife also testified, describing a history of domestic violence against her that the children had witnessed.

During closing arguments, Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Roose described how James groomed the girls over an extended period and took advantage of opportunities when his wife was away at work or school to abuse the children.

An expert witness testified about the lasting effects of child sexual abuse and explained that victims frequently delay reporting abuse because of fear, shame or concerns about the consequences for family members.

Following the trial, a jury of eight women and four men found James guilty of multiple counts of child molestation.

Ramsey praised the victims for coming forward and testifying, acknowledging that many victims are reluctant to report sexual abuse or participate in criminal proceedings because of the potential for further trauma.

Based on the verdict, James faces more than 135 years to life in state prison. He remains in custody at the Butte County Jail without bail.



Larry Lynn James Jr faces more than 135 years to life in state prison. Photo courtesy of Butte County District Attorney

James' next court date is scheduled for Jan. 6, 2027. ★

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The following person(s) are doing business as: Rogers Upholstery, 5225 Miners Ranch Road, Oroville, CA 95966
Roger A Rudell, 5225 Miners Ranch, Oroville, CA 95966
Date filed in Butte County: September 29, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: September 9, 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.
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ROGERS 11-27-26

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The following person(s) are doing business as: True Within, 19 Bentwater Loop, Chico, CA 95973
Avril M Lantican, 19 Bentwater Loop, Chico, CA 95973.
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Publish: Nov 13, 20, 27, Dec 4, 2026
TRUE 12-4-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0001124
The following person(s) are doing business as: Mobile Bites AI, 10110 Palermo Honcut Highway, Oroville, CA 95966
David E Cranfill, 5960 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento, CA 95822.
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MOBILE 12-4-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0001146
The following person(s) are doing business as: Heritage Roots Real Estate Team, 168 East 3rd Avenue, Chico, CA 95926
Julie M Loeb and Monica A Grinstead, 168 East 3rd Avenue, Chico, CA 95926.
Date filed in Butte County: November 2, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: November 2, 2026
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.
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HERITAGE 12-4-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0000971
The following person(s) are doing business as: Marchuks Equipment Repair, 1206 Losser Avenue, Gridley, CA 95948
Cort W Marchuk, 1206 Losser Avenue, Gridley, CA 95948.
Date filed in Butte County: September 15, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: March 23, 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: Nov 13, 20, 27, Dec 4, 2026
MARCHUKS 12-4-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0001138
The following person(s) are doing business as: Blue Whale Soul, 393 Little Avenue, Gridley, CA 95948
Elizabeth L Nunes-Mabray, PO Box 1012, Gridley, CA 95948.
Date filed in Butte County: October 29, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: June 3, 2020
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code.
Publish: Nov 13, 20, 27, Dec 4, 2026
BLUE 12-4-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0001156
The following person(s) are doing business as: Chico Orthodontics, 250 Vallombrosa Avenue Suite 300, Chico, CA 95926
Galen M Fillmore, DDS, MS, Inc., 558 Prather Road, Gridley, CA 95948.
Date filed in Butte County: November 4, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: November 4, 2026
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: Nov 13, 20, 27, Dec 4, 2026
CHICO 12-4-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0001162
The following person(s) are doing business as: Dusty Babe Co, 166 Breeze Hollow Lane, Oroville, CA 95966
Katie A Graham, 166 Breeze Hollow Lane, Oroville, CA 95966
Date filed in Butte County: November 6, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: October 2, 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: Nov 20, 27, Dec 4, 11, 2026
DUSTY 12-11-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0001169
The following person(s) are doing business as: No.1 Church of God in Christ, 3291 Burlington Avenue, Oroville, CA 95966
Kevin Thompson, 79 Rolling Hills Court, Oroville, CA 95966
Date filed in Butte County: November 9, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: November 10, 1997
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: Nov 20, 27, Dec 4, 11, 2026
CHURCH 12-11-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0001168
The following person(s) are doing business as: All Things Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning, 79 Rolling Hills Court, Oroville, CA 95966
Kevin Thompson, 79 Rolling Hills Court, Oroville, CA 95966
Date filed in Butte County: November 9, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: June 6, 2016
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: Nov 20, 27, Dec 4, 11, 2026
ALL 12-11-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0001132
The following person(s) are doing business as: Manly Maid Services, 2581 California Park Drive Apt 108, Chico, CA 95928
Greg Dragos Bujor, 2581 California Park Drive Apt 108, Chico, CA 95928
Date filed in Butte County: October 27, 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: Nov 20, 27, Dec 4, 11, 2026
MANLY 12-11-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0001135
The following person(s) are doing business as: Earth Glow Studios, Strand & Spark, 103 Magnolia Parkway, Oroville, CA 95966
Ghimenti, Gene Michael and Ghimenti, Donna Ann, 103 Magnolia Parkway, Oroville, CA 95966
Date filed in Butte County: October 28, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: A Married Couple. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code.
Publish: Nov 20, 27, Dec 4, 11, 2026
EARTH 12-11-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0001152
The following person(s) are doing business as: Rowdy & Rooted Wellness, 15 Casa Loma Way, Oroville, CA 95966
Rowdy & Rooted Wellness LLC, 15 Casa Loma Way, Oroville, CA 95966
Date filed in Butte County: November 3, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400, ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code.
Publish: Nov 20, 27, Dec 4, 11, 2026
ROWDY 12-11-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0001171
The following person(s) are doing business as: At Home Services, 848 Kern Street, Chico, CA 95928
See Ryan, 848 Kern Street, Chico, CA 95928
Date filed in Butte County: November 10, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January, 1, 2021
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: Nov 27, Dec 4, 11, 18, 2026
AT 12-18-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-0001161
The following person(s) are doing business as: Vibrant Cookie Co., 1715 Sunset Avenue, Chico, CA 95926
Baume Laura Ann, 1715 Sunset Avenue, Chico, CA 95926
Date filed in Butte County: November 6, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: November 5, 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: Nov 27, Dec 4, 11, 18, 2026
VIBRANT 12-18-26

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF TROY D. HENDERSON AKA TROY DANIEL HENDERSON
CASE NO. 26PR00481
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate of Troy D. Henderson aka Troy Daniel Henderson.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Danielle LeClerc Klein, in the Superior Court of California, County of Butte, requesting Danielle LeClerc Klein be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

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: December 15, 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: Raoul J. LeClerc, P.O. Drawer 111, Oroville, CA 95965; 530-533-5661
Publish: Nov 20, 27, Dec 4, 2026
HENDERSON 12-4-26

GRIDLEY CITY COUNCIL - ORDINANCE 853-2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRIDLEY AMENDING SECTION 15.04.910(E) OF THE GRIDLEY MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF FIREWORKS

First read by title only at November 16h, 2026 City Council meeting.

Second reading and adoption anticipated on December 7th, 2026 City Council Meeting.

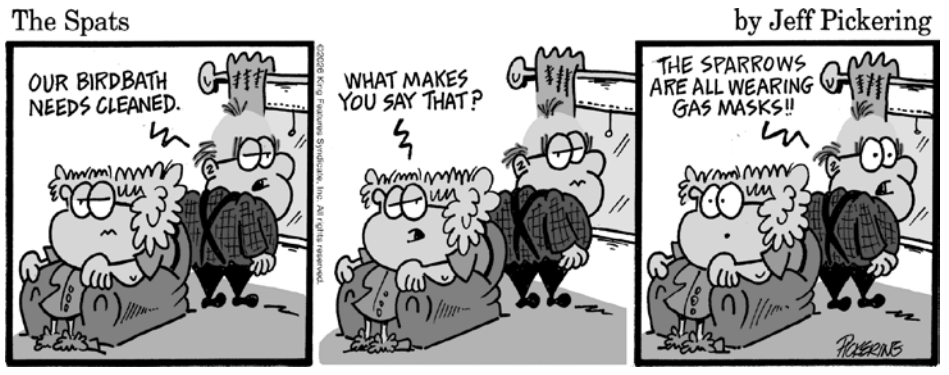
A complete copy of this ordinance is available for viewing at City Hall, 685 Kentucky Street, Gridley.

The Gridley Herald 11-27-2026

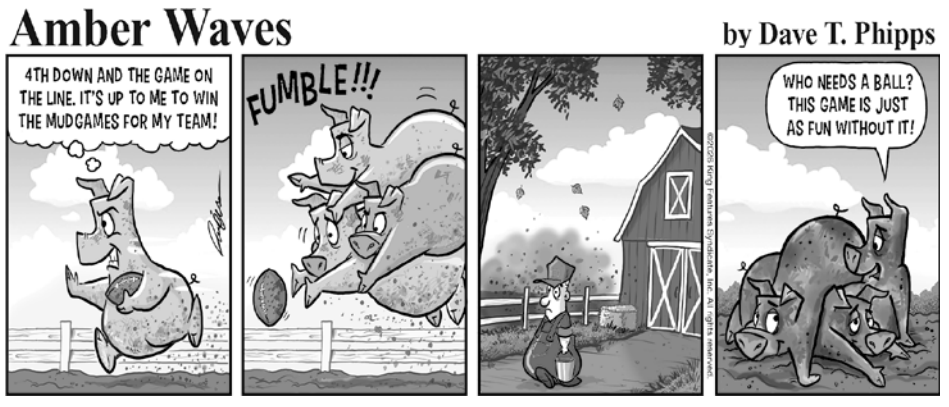
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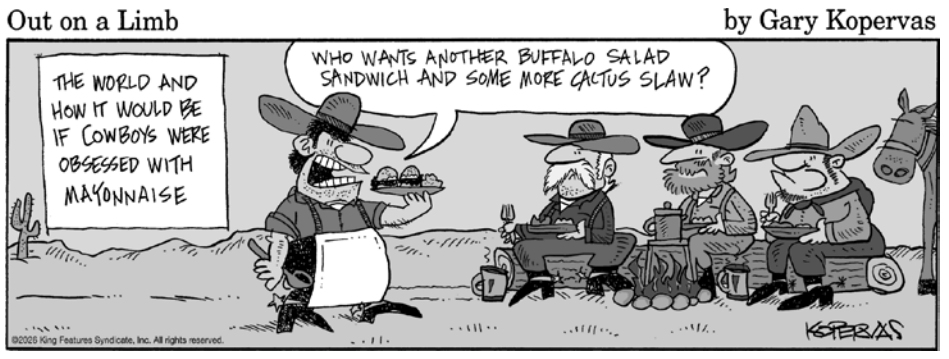
The Spats by Jeff Pickering



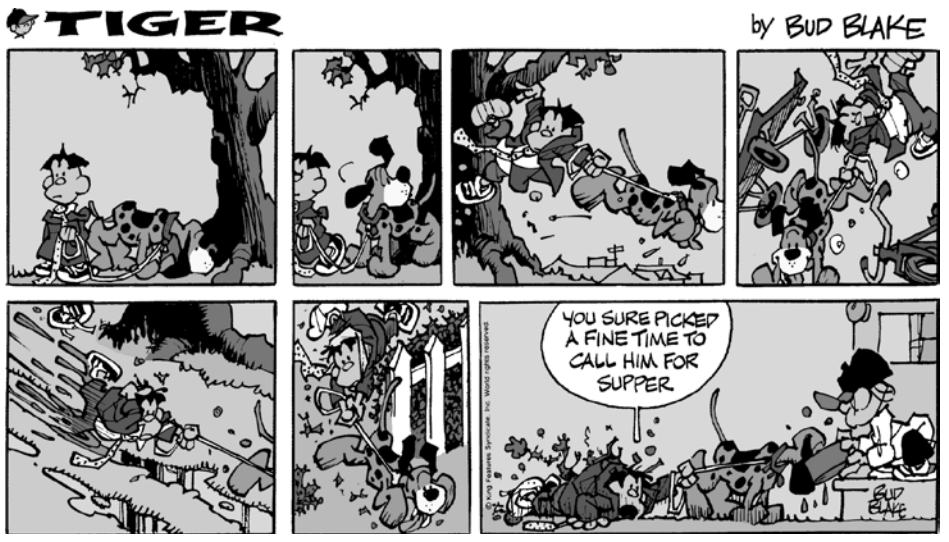
Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

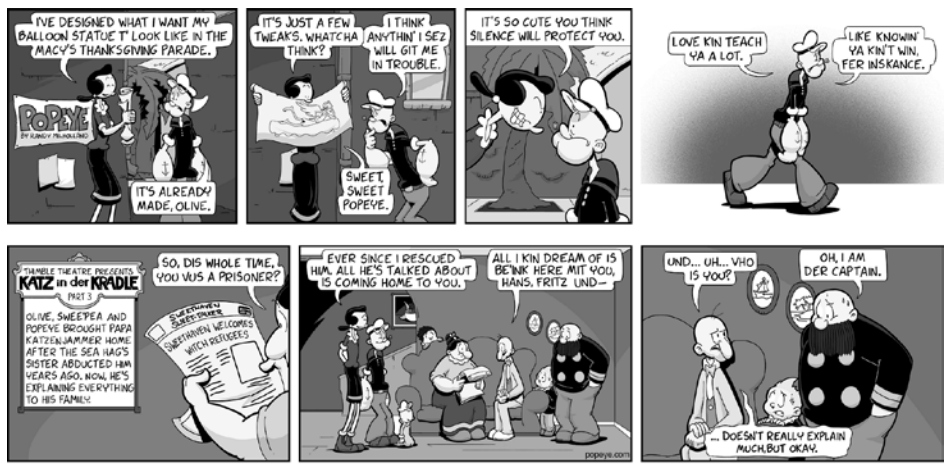


Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas



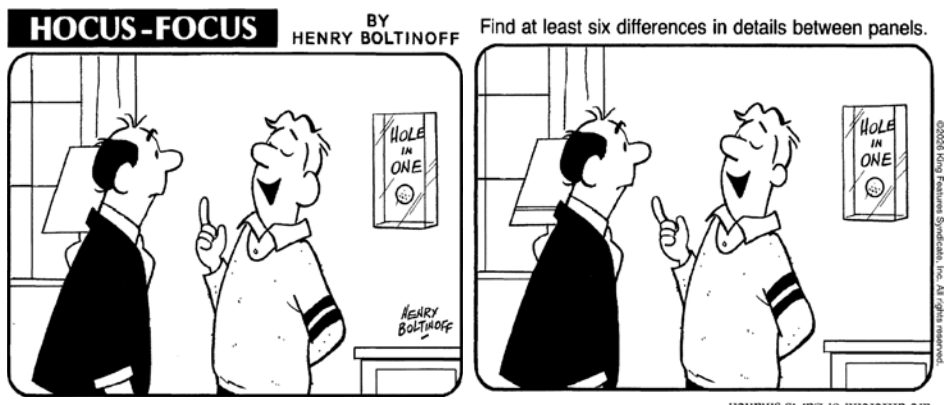
TIGER by BUD BLAKE





HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Stripe on sleeve is moved. 3. Sleeve is longer. 4. Lampshade is different. 5. Windowpanes are different. 6. Ear is smaller.

Grin and Bear It by Wagner



"OK, I need to pick one of you for my vice president."

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



A	B	A	C	A	■	A	M	P
C	A	R	O	L	■	C	I	A
A	R	E	N	T	■	H	A	S
I	M	A	G	E	R	Y	■	T
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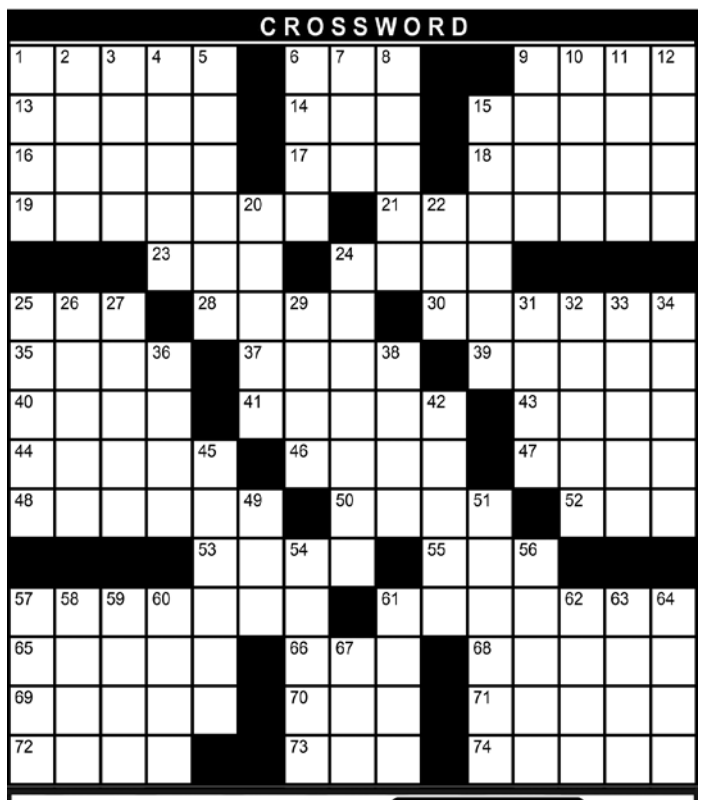
STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • THE 2000s

CLUES

ACROSS
1. a.k.a. Manila hemp
6. Unit of electric current
9. Army dining hall
13. Channing of "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"
14. Spy org.
15. A in AV
16. Are not
17. ____-been
18. Beech tree pulp fabric
19. *I in CGI
21. *2004 Indian Ocean disaster
23. Am is to I a ____ is to we
24. Chutzpah
25. *Ann Patchett's "____ Canto"
28. Zohran Mamdani's branch of Islam
30. Like some breads
35. Sun beams
37. Cathedral recess
39. Fungal skin infection
40. *Shrek or Fiona
41. *Sasha Baron Cohen's role
43. *Mr. Incredible's son
44. What scribes do
46. Awful
47. Silage holder
48. Bee's favorite drink
50. ALCS counterpart
52. ____ Tsu
53. Hoodlum
55. Not hers
57. *Peter ____ of "The Lord of the Rings" fame
61. *Social network
65. Saudi neighbor
66. Not a sweet wine
68. Sign of cancer
69. Subway coin
70. Long time
71. Mideast V.I.P.
72. Place at angle
73. Genetic info carrier, acr.
74. Pulls apart

DOWN
1. Antioxidants-rich smoothie berry
2. Yeasty foam
3. ____ 51
4. "Come on, shake your body, baby, do the ____"
5. Modifies
6. Hurting
7. *Jukebox musical "Mamma ____!"
8. Fusilli, e.g.
9. Unstable particle
10. Tropical tuberous root
11. Thailand, once
12. Solo, pl.
15. Protective necklace
20. Substance abuse treatment inst.
22. *"Rocky Balboa" writer and director
24. Stove burner (2 words)
25. *"The Da Vinci Code" author
26. High wave
27. Chicago opera house
29. *Revolutionary music-playing device
31. Helps
32. Type of mail
33. *All-electric Roadster manufacturer
34. *Popular search engine, with !
36. Badger's den
38. *"My Name Is ____"
42. Related to technology
45. Dines at home
49. Greek R
51. *Train's "Hey, Soul ____"
54. Six feet where?
56. Sea foam
57. Scribbles down
58. In a frenzy
59. *"Short Skirt/Long Jacket" band
60. "I ____ it!"
61. Mimicking bird
62. End of prayer
63. College girl, old-fashioned
64. Mistakes
67. *Anchorman a.k.a. ____ Burgundy

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							2	
	8	9	5				1	
3			4		1			5
	1				8	7	9	
	6							
	9	3		1				
					9	8	3	2

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8	6	2	7	4	3	1	5	9
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1	4	7	6	5	9	8	3	2



Gridley Softball Scores Upgrade



Gridley High School's varsity softball field features a new LED scorveboard, made possible through donations from local businesses and community organizations. Photo courtesy of Tammy Carr

By MPG Staff

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - After two years of fundraising and community support, the Gridley High School varsity softball program has installed a new scoreboard on its home field.

The upgrade follows a successful period for the Lady Bulldogs, who have posted winning records for five consecutive seasons and captured a section championship in 2025.

The new scoreboard features the Gridley High School logo, LED lighting and wireless capabilities, according to former head coach Tammy Carr, who stepped down after the 2026 season.

Coaching staff members say the new scoreboard will improve the game-day experience for the varsity team.

The program also plans to extend the improvements to its junior varsity team.

Gridley High School softball plans to relocate tvhe previous varsity scoreboard to the junior varsity field, giving the JV team a scoreboard of its own for the first time.

The project was made possible through contributions from local businesses and community organizations. Scoreboard sponsors include Big Valley Ag, the Gridley Education Foundation, Les Schwab, the Gridley Parents' Club and G.I.B.T.

"Without the support of these sponsors, this new scoreboard would not have been possible," Carr said.

Although she has stepped down as head coach, Carr expressed excitement that the scoreboard is installed and ready for future Bulldogs teams to enjoy.

Looking ahead, Carr expressed confidence in her successor, head coach Jessica Paiva, saying Paiva will "no doubt continue creating a winning atmosphere and will do great things with GHS softball."

With upgraded facilities on both fields and a record of recent success, Gridley softball looks to continue its winning tradition when players return to the diamond next season. ★

In the Kitchen

A Little Sweet, a Little Savory, a Lot of Holiday Flavor

By Lloyd Green Jr.

When it comes to holiday meals, turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and stuffing usually get most of the attention. But sometimes, a simple salad can bring something different to the table.

Here's one of my favorite holiday recipe finds, a chickpea cranberry salad from The Plant Based School, https://theplantbasedschool.com. It combines a little sweetness, a little crunch and a creamy feta dressing that brings everything together.

With crisp apples, juicy grapes, dried cranberries and toasted nuts, this salad offers a change from the traditional green salad. Chickpeas add substance, while feta cheese, honey, Dijon mustard and apple cider vinegar create a dressing that balances sweet and tangy flavors.

And here's something every holiday cook can appreciate: There's no need to turn on the oven or spend an hour standing over the stove.

The recipe takes about 20 minutes to prepare, making it an easy addition to Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas gatherings or a family potluck.

It also works as a make-ahead dish, giving cooks one less thing to worry about when the kitchen gets busy.

The best part? The recipe is flexible. Don't care for walnuts? Try pecans. Prefer pears over apples? Make the switch. Dried cherries or pomegranate seeds can take the place of cranberries.

Whether served alongside the holiday turkey or enjoyed as a light lunch the following day, this salad brings a little something different to the menu.

Chickpea Cranberry Salad with Creamy Feta Dressing

Preparation time: 20 minutes, Serves eight as a side dish or four as a main course

Ingredients

- 1 (15-ounce) can chickpeas, drained and rinsed, or 1½ cups cooked chickpeas
- ½ cup dried cranberries
- 2 celery ribs, chopped
- 1 Honeycrisp or Pink Lady apple, chopped
- 1 heaping cup seedless red grapes, halved
- ½ small red onion, chopped
- ¼ cup fresh parsley, chopped
- ½ cup toasted walnuts or pecans, chopped

For the Creamy Feta Dressing

- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 3 tablespoons apple cider vinegar



The recipe takes about 20 minutes to prepare, making it an easy addition to Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas gatherings or a family potluck. Photo courtesy of The Plant Based School

- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon honey
- ¼ teaspoon salt, or to taste
- Black pepper, to taste
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese

Directions

1. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the olive oil, apple cider vinegar, Dijon mustard, honey, salt and pepper. Add the crumbled feta cheese and stir until combined.

2. Drain and rinse the chickpeas, then add them to the dressing. Toss until coated and allow them to marinate for about 10 minutes while preparing the remaining ingredients.

3. Chop the celery, apple, red onion, parsley and toasted nuts. Halve the grapes.

4. Add the prepared ingredients and dried cranberries to the chickpea mixture. Toss everything together until evenly coated with dressing.

5. Taste and adjust the vinegar, honey or salt as desired.

6. Serve immediately or refrigerate until ready to enjoy. If preparing ahead, remove the salad from the refrigerator about 30 minutes before serving.

A Few Kitchen Tips

For an extra crunch, toast the walnuts or pecans in a dry skillet for three to four minutes before adding them to the salad.

Want to make the salad a little heartier? Toss in some fresh spinach, arugula or kale.

If the apples and grapes are especially sweet, a little extra vinegar can balance the dressing. If the salad tastes too tart, add a touch more honey.

Leftovers can be stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to three days.

And if there's any left after the holiday meal, it makes a convenient lunch the next day. ★

Yuba-Sutter Oratorio Society Continues Messiah Tradition

By MPG Staff

YUBA CITY, CA (MPG) - The Yuba-Sutter Oratorio Society will continue an 88-year holiday tradition with two performances of George Frideric Handel's "Messiah" on Dec. 5 and 6 at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Yuba City.

The society's Yuba-Sutter Symphony and Chorus will present the 88th annual performance of "Messiah" at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6. The 14th annual "Messiah for Kids and Their Families" will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5.

Both performances will take place at the church, 1390 Franklin Road. Admission is free, although organizers will accept donations.

Maestro Corey Kersting will conduct the Yuba-Sutter Symphony, accompanied by a chorus of 60 singers under the direction of Linda Robinson.

"It is always a thrill to hear the music of Handel's Messiah and its message of hope," Kersting said. "Presented by a chorus of 60 singers plus the Yuba Sutter Symphony the music fills the room as it lifts our spirits."

This year's soloists include sopranos Sally Spatafore, Carolyn Steele and Beth O'Roak; altos Natalie Nelson, Cathryn Adams and Beckie Kersting; tenor Roger Davies; and bass Taber Dullea.



The Yuba-Sutter Symphony and Chorus gather for their 2025 performance of Handel's "Messiah" at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Yuba City. The Yuba-Sutter Oratorio Society will return for its 88th annual presentation Dec. 6, with a special "Messiah for Kids and Their Families" performance Dec. 5. Photo courtesy of Yuba-Sutter Oratorio Society

The Saturday performance will also feature Christmas music by the Sutter Buttes Brass.

Saturday's "Messiah for Kids and Their Families" offers a shortened version of Handel's work, with introductions explaining the music and lyrics to younger audiences.

The program typically includes an appearance by a performer portraying Handel, who helps explain the music. A children's choir directed by Alisan Hastey will join the chorus for an opening carol and the "Hallelujah Chorus."

"While this performance is aimed at children and their families, we have found that many, many adults also come because they also want to learn more about Messiah," Kersting said.

The community's annual presentation dates to 1938, when Ralph B. van Courtright, a music instructor at Yuba College, organized a performance featuring local church choirs, the college's A Cappella Choir, the Business Men's Glee Club and an orchestra.

The first performance took place at the former Marysville High School Auditorium, with Ruth van Courtright serving as accompanist.

Ralph van Courtright later joined LaVerne Grell and Jane Sarah Roberts to establish the Yuba-Sutter Oratorio Society, which has continued the annual tradition through its symphony and chorus.

"For many of us, hearing or presenting Handel's Messiah is the personal beginning of the Christmas season," Kersting said. "It is remarkable that this has been presented in our community for 88 years."

Both performances are open to the public. ★

State Testing Finds Most Produce Meets Pesticide Limits

By Lloyd Green Jr.

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Nearly 97% of fresh fruits and vegetables tested in California in 2024 contained no detectable pesticide residues or had levels within federal limits, according to an annual report from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

The department collected 3,032 produce samples from 550 California businesses and tested them for more than 500 pesticides and their breakdown products.

Of those samples, 1,195, or 39.4%, contained no detectable pesticide residues. Another 1,740, or 57.4%, contained residues within legal limits established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The remaining 97 samples, or 3.2%, contained illegal pesticide residues.

The department tested 115 types of fresh fruits and vegetables grown in California, elsewhere in the United States and in other countries.

Among the 920 California-grown samples, 2% contained illegal residues. Those samples originated in Fresno, Kern, Madera, Monterey, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, Tulare and Ventura counties.

The department referred those cases to county agricultural commissioners for investigation and possible civil penalties.

"Californians should feel confident in eating the fruits and vegetables both grown and sold in the state," said DPR Director Karen Morrison. "Our rigorous requirements, statewide monitoring program, and follow-up enforcement on violators keep the food families eat safe."

Imported produce accounted for most violations, with 77 of the 97 samples containing illegal residues originating outside the United States.

The department identified China, Peru, Ecuador and Mexico among the countries associated with illegal residues. China accounted for 32% of the violations, followed by Peru at 8% and Ecuador and Mexico at 7% each.

The department also conducts additional assessments when it detects illegal pesticide residues to determine whether the produce poses a potential acute health risk.

In 2024, 15 samples met that threshold. The affected produce originated in Costa Rica, China and Mexico.

In those cases, the department quarantines the produce and immediately removes it from sale.

The department reported that the results remain consistent with trends over the past decade, with most produce samples meeting federal pesticide residue limits.

For more information, visit http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/residue-monitoring/. ★

Christmas Preview Brings Shoppers to Downtown Gridley

By Seti Long

GRIDLEY, CA (MPG) - Small businesses along Gridley's historic downtown corridor welcomed shoppers Nov. 19 for the second annual Christmas Preview, offering holiday sales, promotions and an opportunity for residents to discover local businesses.

The event brought together downtown boutiques, studios and emerging businesses, giving participating merchants an opportunity to attract new customers and encourage residents to shop locally during the holiday season.

Natalie Ratliff, owner of Eight Six-0 and co-organizer of the event with Molly McClarrinon of The Mercantile, has helped organize downtown networking events since the inaugural Harvest Moon Festival in 2025.

"I think these events are extremely important to our downtown businesses because we still have people that come in and say, 'I didn't know there were shops in Gridley,'" Ratliff said.

The same sentiment was echoed by Janessa Taber, who operates a private photography studio in downtown Gridley, specializing in maternity and newborn photography. Her work has received worldwide acclaim.

"I think one of the greatest benefits of an event like this is that businesses can actually create traffic and opportunities for one another. That ripple effect is so valuable," Taber said.



Hilary Bastiani of Bastiani Ristorante & Pasticceria stands behind the counter at her pop-up location during Gridley's Christmas Preview on Nov. 19. Bastiani reported selling out of her products during the event, which brought shoppers to businesses throughout downtown Gridley. Courtesy photo

Taber said she has encountered Gridley residents who were unaware of the businesses operating downtown.

Her studio participated in this year's Christmas Preview, offering mini holiday photo sessions for families. Taber said damage from a building fire had previously forced her to take a hiatus from community events.

"I'd love to see more events like this throughout the year. The more we bring people downtown, introduce them to local business and give them a reason to come back, the stronger our entire business community becomes," Taber said.

Participating businesses included The Pilates Room, Eight Six-0 Boutique and Salon, Bastiani Ristorante & Pasticceria, The Clayground, The Mercantile and Janessa Taber Portrait Studio.

Businesses offered exclusive sales, discounts and giveaways. Taber held a drawing for a $100 credit toward a future portrait session, while Eight Six-0 offered 25% off women's clothing.

The Pilates Room featured membership specials and discounts on Beyond Yoga activewear, along with skincare and makeup demonstrations from Skin & Glow Bar.

"This is our second downtown event," said Hilary Bastiani of Bastiani Ristorante & Pasticceria, a permitted cottage food business operating a pop-up location in downtown Gridley.

"Our hope for this event is to encourage shopping local and to support downtown business regrowth," Bastiani said.

Bastiani reported selling out of her products during the event, while other participating businesses, including Ratliff's boutique, reported increased sales.

"Eight Six-0 sees a great impact to sales when we hold these events. While I wish I could have a long running sale, it just isn't feasible with the cost of goods. Holding a special sale or promo for a one-day event like the Christmas preview really helps," Ratliff said.

The Christmas Preview also served as an opportunity for merchants to encourage continued support of downtown businesses beyond the event.

With Small Business Saturday approaching Nov. 28, participating merchants hope the increased awareness will encourage residents to continue shopping at locally owned businesses throughout Gridley and neighboring communities. ★