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Family friendly location hopes to leave its 'water mark' on the city of Red Bluff

Iris Neevel
Staff Writer

A splash pad at Red Bluff River Park became more of a reality when the Red Bluff city council unanimously voted to allow the funding gap of $410,000 dollars to be covered by the city on Tuesday, September 15th. Started in 2018 by Vici Miranda the splash pad project was made originally to help improve Red Bluff and make a more inclusive playground according to the splash pad's facebook page.

The project began in 2019 and they have gained around $380,700 through fundraising.

The project has been awarded a grant through Prop 68 of $3 million dollars in 2022 and has applied for many more since according to Miranda.

The recent fund gap has put a stall in the project, though the community has stepped up to help according to Miranda with a surprising $130,690 fundraised in 2 weeks a large gap is still left. This is where the city council has stepped in with support. "We're building this city together. This is our city. This isn't somebody else's town. This is our town…And we're making this happen." said Red Bluff City Mayor JR Gonzales.

A vote on September 15th was brought to the city council to decide who the construction contract was awarded to and if the city would help fund the project.

Each recommended action was approved unanimously awarding the contract for Red Bluff River Park Rehabilitation to SnL Group for $2,498,998 according to the city council meeting agenda.

"I know I am doing the right thing in moving this project forward"

"We're building this city together"

The remaining fund gap will be paid by the city through money from the development impact funds (DIF).

"I think [the splash pad] means a lot to everyone in this town to have something new and nice and a bit of change, hopefully the refreshing change we need," said Miranda.

The fund gap will be paid through DIF rather than the general fund, meaning that money would be taken from company and building taxes that go towards city improvement funds according to Miranda.

With the funds approved the park will move forward with its plan of making fitness stations, pickle ball courts, an amphitheater, a garden path, new restrooms and picnic pavilion along with the splash pad.

"I think the splash pad means a lot to everyone in this town"

So far they have invested 50,000 dollars in order to buy a new pavilion and improve some of the existing playground. Red Bluff Rotary on top of that has promised to fund the addition of water proof wheelchairs for both adults and children.

The construction of the park will begin sometime this spring with hope for construction to last 200 days.

To look at the opposition, those who don't support the splash pad have said that the focus of Red Bluff's DIF funds should be on the roads or homeless population rather than a park according to several facebook posts and comments.

The new water taxes have also come into question. Commenters have wondered whether the taxes will go into the DIF .funds and inadvertently go towards the splash pad.

"I have more people supporting me than are not supporting me. So I know I am doing the right thing in moving this project forward." said Miranda. RBHS students are also excited for a new park. "A water park would nice to have in RB so people wouldn't have to travel to Reddings," said Arrianna Hood (9).



2026 CAASPP released

Nathali Vargas-Betancourt
Staff Writer

Red Bluff High School 2025 CAASPP scores show a difference between ELA and Mathematics.

Even if there's a difference with the scores they are still important to teachers because with the ELA and mathematics scores they can help their students with areas they need help on.

More than half of the students met or exceeded standard in ELA. Meanwhile fewer students met or exceeded the standard in Math. In ELA 49 percent of students met or exceeded the standard.

This means that almost half of the students met the expected level of reading and literacy. It also means that the students at our school exceeded the California state average for ELA.

Even though the percentage of students that met or exceeded the standards were lower in mathematics. About 27 percent to 30 percent of students still met or exceeded the standard.

The California state average is 38.4 percent for mathematics so RBHS didn't quite meet the state average standards but they are almost there.

Even if the math scores were lower than the ELA scores RBHS still did pretty good this year and with the scores our teachers will help us do better by putting together lessons and work that will help us do better on the CAASPP test this year. Overall the CAASPP test scores are important to the schools and teachers because with the information from those scores it helps teachers help students do better.

The math , English and science departments have been working hard to encourage students to take the test seriously and to try their very best on it. Senior Braylon Armstrong said, "I was slightly stressed. I did over average on my math, but the way the system worked was very inconsistent, when you get something wrong it would put you in a different level but when you got it right it put you into a higher level."

Not only do students have to know the material, but they also need to understand the structure of the test and this can be difficult.

Red Bluff continues its tradition of hosting exchange students

Diana Lopez
Staff Writer

This year, Red Bluff High school welcomes two international exchange students Pia Lewandowski and Emma Tait. The exchange students will spend the entire year in Red Bluff and they will graduate with the class of 2027 in June.

It is an honor to be able to show them around our school campus while gaining insight into their distinct cultures and daily lives back at home.

Pia is from Germany and is a junior, some of her favorite activities are English horseback riding and plans to do some competitions in a pony club back in her home town.

She also explains how dynamically different both the US and Germany are in the school part of it where outdoor campuses are not a thing. Pia explains that she wanted to go to the east coast like maybe New York or Florida, although it didn't go as planned she is happy with the outcome and mentions her host family is the best and wouldn't want it any other way. So far she is enjoying her time going to her host family's lake house in Lake Almanor where they go out on the boat and spend some quality time together.

She also loves student government and says it's one of her favorite classes followed by biology and art. Emma, a senior from Italy, says that she intentionally chose California for its beautiful beaches, sunshine and vibrant outdoors. Emma highlights a difference in the school system, instead of the students moving from class to class the teachers are the ones that move.

This means students have the same classmates all day. During her time in California, Emma has explored Yosemite National Park, though she shares that her favorite fast food chain restaurant is Raising Canes.

Although Emma occasionally misses her home town she deeply appreciates the everyday experiences and the small comfort the US has to offer.

With the students creating a positive impact Emma states she would definitely come back to the US again. Both Pia and Emma are embracing their time as spartans, immersing themselves in high school traditions, making new friends, and eagerly anticipating further adventures throughout the school year.

Red Bluff High school is proud to host these impressive students as they enrich our school community with their unique global perspectives.

Ads for Grads

- Attention seniors! Don't forget about Ads for Grads.
- Purchase online or at the student store on campus.
- Prices are listed online!

Cap & Gown Info

- Caps and Gowns fittings just happened!
- The next one is November 17th

Calendar Update

- October 12th no school!
- October 15th Hispanic Heritage LTA
- October 22nd Talent Show!

Staff Editorial

The cost of silencing the press...

As of late, the American people and press have begun a series of questions; overreaching surveillance, threats against the press, and concerns about the validity of the people's prose are matters that are now being addressed with more urgency than ever before. Will the press continue to be restricted?

Microaggressions and inflammatory threats have now shifted towards full-fledged acts of infringement. On September 18th President Donald J. Trump announced on Truth Social that he was barring media outlets CNN, MSNOW (formerly MSNBC), and Politico from accessing the White House. President Trump's reasoning for his unprecedented restriction of the press was due to the "constant 'reporting' of FAKE NEWS." This assault aimed at the free press has reached new levels of absurdity. The Trump administration has taken prior jabs at the press. During Trump's first presidential term, Trump had temporarily banned CNNs then chief White House correspondent, Jim Acosta.

Claiming that they had revoked his hard press pass due to his imprudent behavior during an interview with president Trump in late 2018. It's clear that Trump and his administration have no fear of restricting the press. Trump in a court filing submitted by the DOJ stated that "access to the White House is a privilege—not a right." While it may remain true that access to sensitive locations is indeed given as a privilege, this sudden restriction goes far beyond over-reaching correspondents in the world of journalism. Media outlets are now being discriminated against based solely on their viewpoints.

Rather than defining fake news as anything that consists of inaccuracies or fictitious assertions, President Trump and his administration have made it entirely clear that they view false media as anything that they deem to be inflammatory or offensive to the administration in any given form. This definition of false news is extremely harmful to the American people. By restricting certain cable networks from covering topics, the people are limited to cherry picked media, forcing the public to consume only "acceptable" forms of the press.

View-point discrimination destroys our ability as citizens to form our own opinions based on publicly accessible media. As a response to this sudden restriction media outlets CNN, MS NOW, and Politico joined together in a joint lawsuit against Trump and his administration claiming that Trump's ban violated their constitutional rights, pushing for a resignation of their access to guarantee coverage during the progression of this case.

On September 24th federal judge Timothy James Kelly approved a temporary block against the ban, ordering for the network's credentials to be restored. While these major news networks may have regained access to the White House, the threats that were posed against the press remain in place.Access to the free press is a necessity to a healthy and well balanced democracy, the American people have the right to openly consume uncensored media. It is not an argument about political alignment, it's a matter of principle and the perseverance of the American people's liberties. It is our obligation as citizens to protect these rights and to fight against rising corruption.

Cup craze: consumerism & trends

Teagan Hatfield
Staff Writer

I'm sure you've heard about the Starbucks bear-ista cups that were trending last year; it was crazy and all over social media. These glass cups are shaped like a bear with a cute beanie. People were camping overnight at various Starbucks locations just to score a glass cup.

The same thing is happening again, except it's with their new Snoopy x Starbucks collection. People are going crazy over these Snoopy glass cups, and honestly, it's just another example of people following a micro-trend. It's a clear example of consumerism, and it's encouraging people to spend their money on things they don't need. The cups went from a cute product to a competitive craze. Most of the people who camped out were people who were planning on reselling the cups, which took away from the actual Peanut fans. The retail price was 40$ and there are already listings of the cups on various reselling platforms for over a 100 dollars. Along with the glass Snoopy cup, there were keychains, plushies and other cups in the collection that people did not go as crazy for. It's like people went crazy for the cup just because it was the only item that was trending.

It is ridiculous how far people are willing to pay for a trend that is going to be forgotten by the time the Christmas collection drops. It's also rumored that Starbucks will be bringing the cups back a second time around, which makes sense for the company since they are profiting significantly from the cups, but it's going to be another craze trying to get the cups. There is even a video circulating on social media of a customer harassing a Starbucks employee by grabbing the cup out of her hand behind the counter, also knocking down various cups and supplies, all while using foul language. Honestly, that's so unnecessary, especially over a cup.

I understand the frustration after waiting a long time, but there is really no need to harass an employee. Working during the drop at 4 a.m. is already stressful, and it doesn't help when people are being disrespectful to the employees. Overall, the cup isn't worth any time or stress over, as it's going to be forgotten in a month.



The dark side of Warner Bros.

Alan Cedillo
Staff Writer

Warner Bros. a company well known for the Looney Tunes, The Lego Movie, and The Lord of the Rings trilogy. They have recently gone through some controversies which really shows how much of a corrupt and disrespectful company they are. I have never even believed that Warner Bros. Was a good company and I always had something against them, recently they released a movie called Coyote vs Acme which is about the 'corrupt' company Acme getting their way however they want due to them being corrupt which is ironic coming from Warner Bros. due to them being corrupt as they portrayed Acme. There was a big controversy surrounding this movie, at first Warner Bros. didn't want to release it even though it scored a high rating at early showings, they put it on the shelf for over 4 years and they were close to getting rid of the movie overall until they finally sold it after fans and employees wanting this movie to be released, I just believe its ironic how they didn't want to release a movie that shows what they are doing and secretly how they work within. One of the most recent and known controversies is the Warner Bros. and Paramount merger, this deal is an $110~ billion merger which states that Paramount Skydance will own Warner Bros. but this has lead to criticism from inside and outside such as people saying it will increase movie costs, lose jobs and how few companies will have control over the entertainment produced. Warner Bros. backing out and having antitrust controversies has only led to Paramount recently reaching a behavioral settlement in September of this year.

This deal doesn't only affect the media but many political figures within have a say and are saying that this deal should be stopped due to political and economic worries. Governor Gavin Newsom has expressed positions in the case and has spoken through it, supporting the merger meanwhile California Attorney General Rob Bonta is trying to get this merger to be stopped.

Warner Bros. is a corrupt company and they shouldn't go through with it due to it costing people their jobs, making the entertainment and subscriptions cost more, and even it relies on rules that will go out in a few years.

As of September 30th the judge that was on this case approved the merger and the deal will continue to go further and will ultimately lead to whether the merger actually happens which is causing major discourse and making hollywood actors and civilians mad at the companies for willing to actually continue to go through with this deal.

When activism becomes self-interest

Ivy Anaya
Staff Writer

Ultra-wealthy celebrities claiming to be selflessly charitable and advocating against problems such as ICE, climate change, and more, are being falsely idolized by the media when in reality, they are just as selfish as their criticized counterparts.

This fake activism is in their own self-interest, by protecting their image and capitalizing on the popular opinions of their fans. For example, renowned singer-songwriter Billie Eilish has spoken out numerous times, lecturing billionaires for not donating their wealth. Fans have glazed her for being so outspoken, namely during her acceptance speech at the 2026 Grammy's, where she wore an "ICE OUT" pin and even exclaimed, "F— ICE."

This alone isn't a problem, however, she's never made any out-of-pocket donation towards any of the causes she is fighting against. This hypocrisy can also be seen in the situation regarding Katy Perry's trip to space. In 2025, she boarded an aircraft funded by Jeff Bezos, where her flight lasted 11 minutes, which emitted more CO_2 than an average person does in their lifetime. Perry, known for promoting environmental protection, received backlash, yet she's shown no remorse. This raises concerns about whether the government should control which news organizations receive access. Limiting the press can also limit the public's access to diverse perspectives.

If these celebrities were truly so concerned with these issues, they'd donate some of their personal wealth and be more environmentally conscious instead of striving to be like the groups they claim to 'hate.'



Nestlé's global controversies raise concerns

Nahyelli Rogers
Staff Writer

The multinational corporation and world's largest food and beverage company, Nestle, remains a public threat nationally. I'm sure many of you reading this buy their products on a daily basis, unaware of how truly evil this company is. It's hard not to buy them when their items are around every corner. Nestle has been doing awful things for decades, but only now people are starting to shine light on the severity of their actions. Nobody is safe. Children, Pets, and struggling nations all fall victim to this company. For years, Nestle would aggressively market their infant formula in countries where water was scarce and unsanitary, leading to mothers buying this formula and using that sickening water to feed their children. The mothers didn't know better and were pushed to buy products that they shouldn't even have been using, which ultimately led to severe infant mutations and illnesses spreading throughout developing countries. Not only that, but they would exploit the clean and safe water that was left in drought-stricken places, such as Pakistan, by continuously bottling and selling the local groundwater for their own selfish profit. If you think that's bad, wait till you hear that this isn't their only offense against children. Currently, they are facing legal charges and public backlash due to the use of child labor in their cocoa farms in West Africa. At this rate, one would assume that they hate kids, which probably isn't far from the truth. Pets aren't safe either. Their animal products, specifically the food, have led to reported illnesses among users due to including extra unnecessary ingredients and dangerous chemicals. Nestle truly has no sympathy for any living creature. Nestle shouldn't be allowed to get away with cruelties like this, and it is important that we all know what horrible things are going into ours and our loved one's bodies. If possible, stay far away from this corporation. Not only for your safety, but for the safety of others too.

Keeping 504 plans fair for everyone

Karely Villalobos
Staff Writer

504 plans are meant to help students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to succeed in school. They can provide extra accommodations such as extra time on tests, preferential seating, or even breaks. These supports are important for students who genuinely need them. However, like many systems, 504 plans can sometimes be taken advantage of when accommodations are used for reasons beyond their intended purpose.

One way this can happen is when a student uses an accommodation as an excuse to avoid completing work or following normal classroom expectations. For example, extra time is supposed to give a student an equal opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, not avoid end periods of work completely. If accommodations are used to go in a way beyond the plan allows, the system can become unfair to other students. Another concern is that teachers sometimes may have difficulty determining whether an accommodation is being used appropriately, because every student's needs are different, teachers must provide necessary work with maintaining consistent expectations. If an accommodation is not carefully overlooked, it could give a student an advantage rather than simply removing a barrier. However, this does not mean all 504 plans are unfair, most students with 504 plans use the accommodations accordingly, but there's always just one bunch that use to their advantage. The goal should be to make sure accommodations are followed as written and reviewed when necessary.

Ultimately, 504 plans work best when used fairly, accommodations should provide equal access, not an unfair advantage. By using them responsibly, schools can protect student rights and academic fairness.

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Spartan Sound off

What are you looking forward to for HOCO?



Maci Bond (9)

"Being with friends and dressing up"



Brody Martinez (10)

"The dress up days and the football game"



Natalie Luevano (11)

"Getting photos before the dance"



Tate Colgate (12)

"The rally "



Mr. Hein (teacher)

"My favorite is definitely the big game"



Mrs. Magaña (teacher)

"The dress up days and the rally"

Red Bluff High students look forward to this year's HOCO

Daisy Bentley
Staff Writer

Homecoming is a tradition in high schools all around the nation and it brings people and students together. This celebration will be bright and vibrant with the theme surrounding Rio, a bold pallet of colors and feathers with a tropical hue and a carnival style.

The Student Government and other students encourage others to socialize and come together for this Homecoming, "Opportunity of a lifetime, take all opportunities you can." Stated by Shelbie Rossini during the interview. There will be games and activities, song requests, and even the Kick Off Rally and the parade right before this dance.

The Homecoming will happen in the Pavilion at 8:00PM through 11:00PM. As for The Three Princesses for this Homecoming are: Brielle Morehouse (Freshman), Karely Villalobos (Sophomore), Gizell Godinez (Junior). The Senior Nominees are: Trystan Burris, Nevaeh Flores, Kayla Troberg, Reagan Olivarez, Unadel Bitt-Bevill and McKenzie Osbury. The Three Princesses were surprised and shocked for being chosen as Nominee, but they expressed they're grateful towards their peers for nominating them. "Well I was really excited! Cause it feels like one in a lifetime to be a Sophomore princess and I'm glad my classmates chose me." Stated Karely Villalobos during the interview. They mentioned how excited they were for the dress ups next week, which are: Class Color Clash, Tropical Tuesday, Rep Your Flock (Pick your team and represent it), Birds of a Feather (Twin Day), and WILD IN RIO the day of the dance! The Three Princesses claimed they look forward to the Wild In Rio, finding it exciting to participate. On October 5th, the kick off rally is on! The kick off rally is where each grade will be pulled off class by each period and go to the P.A.C. past the Pavilion to see who is the elected student in their grade, they will express themselves with fabulous style and spirited performance. Freshmen will go in first period, Sophomore in second period, Juniors in fourth and Seniors in fifth. You could volunteer for the games on stage along with other volunteered students! "The best part of the Rally is how people are hyped for it," stated Luke Bliss during the interview. The kick off rally will explain what will be happening next week and show examples of what the dress up week would look like, and the styles of the week.



Photo/ Kamryn Crow

Lastly the parade, the parade is for recognition for classes and clubs, even might be your club. The purpose of the parade is to bring the Red Bluff Community together and acknowledge Red Bluff High School. You can watch the parade on the streets of Johnson, Walnut, Main, Oak, and up to Jackson Street. It will go in a big circle and back to where it starts, which is at the soccer field. Everyone can participate to help our parade and be involved with our fellowship.

Spartan Student Feature: Senior Addieson Ceja

Kayden Lyon
Staff Writer

Red Bluff High School consists of so many stellar involved students, Addieson Ceja is most definitely one of them. She is a very engaged student who spends lots of her time helping and participating with the Red Bluff community events. Addieson Ceja is a Senior here at Red Bluff high and is not only extremely athletic but also immensely focused on her education. Her accomplishments complete that very statement.

For example, Addie has been working towards being an A-G graduate ever since her freshman year. As a friend of hers I have seen her grades and I must say they truly are spectacular. During my interview with Addie she informed me that her favorite subject is English and why, here's what she said "honestly I enjoy putting my thoughts on paper no matter the topic". Although Addie is known to be a splendid student she is also an enormous help with her family and friends. She is constantly helping out her parents by driving her siblings around so they have more time. I've known Addie since elementary school and she's always been genuine, honest, kind, outgoing, creative, as well as independent.

A way that Addie shows her creativity is by doing nail art, from my personal experience I think she does a wonderful job at completing her clients wishes and requests. During my interview with her she said "I think I enjoy doing nail art because not only am I able to do what I love but, I can make a profit as well." Not only does she do activities that benefit her but, she is one hundred percent selfless during her spare time she is always participating in community service. Such as, assisting in teachers' classrooms, and donating to the less fortunate. Not only does she do all of this but, she's also involved in Red Bluff FFA where she helps in even more services.

Addie's been an active member of FFA and has been showing hogs for the last three years. This will be her very last year showing at the Tehama county fair. As you can see Addie is a very busy person. But, even though she is constantly occupied with planning her future and being a good cause in today's world. She is always finding ways



Bluffer Photo

NHS chooses new leaders

Daniella Lopez
Staff Writer

Running for a leadership position can be both intimidating and exciting, especially when the position comes with responsibilities. For Clair Stringer, the election for vice president was a nerve wracking experience, but it became an opportunity to step outside of her comfort zone and take on a larger role in her club, the national honors society.

Stringer was running for vice president against one other candidate, having never competed for a position this high before she was unsure of what the election process would bring. Despite the nerves, Stringer remained committed to the opportunity and was elected for the position she wanted. Now she is looking forward to serving as a leader within her club.

However leadership means more than having a title, she believes that a leader should be a role model for the people around her and it means setting a good example and supporting others. This spring semester the National Honors Society welcomed new student officers Addison Mahoney as President, Claire Stringer as Vice President, Brenden McNulty as secretary and Charles Rice as Treasurer.

Brenden McNulty the newly elected secretary had an exciting experience when he initially received his letter he said he was excited because the word honors sounded fancy and impressive. McNulty ran unopposed and gave an amazing speech before securing his secretary position, Since joining the club McNulty has had so much fun being a part of the club.

The new officers bring different experiences and responsibilities to the organization, Claire Stringer believes she is a good fit for vice president because she is responsible,organized and willing to put in the effort that is required, Alongside McNulty and the other officers, they all have the opportunity to help make this year a meaningful one for the NHS, as the school year continues all the new officers will have the chance to put their skills into action and their experiences show that leadership can begin with stepping forward and accepting new challenges. Make sure to stop by and meet our new officers!

Spartan Teacher Feature: Ms. Delgardo

Chance Geiger
Staff Writer

This school year, we are introducing a new math and computer science teacher, Ms. Delgardo.

She says that the opportunity to teach computer science here came at the perfect time.

She is passionate about software development, computer programming, and technological sciences, which is why her being one of the two new computer science hires is a perfect fit for the Red Bluff High School teacher staff and CS students. She teaches 3 periods of Geometry, 1 period of Exploring Computer Science, and 1 period of Advanced Placement Computer Science.

She teaches both an Intro Computer Science class and an Advanced Placement Computer Science class.

She is the newest addition to the RBHS math department. She can program in several coding languages, including Python, Java, and many more.

She stated "I'm enjoying getting to know the kids and building relationships, learning more about their interests."

She says that her original career plan was not to teach, and that she spent several long years working for a private company, employed as a software engineer.

She stated that, "I worked in a private industry for a number of years, and it was very soul-sucking to have my only goal be to make someone's profits go up.

So, I decided to transition away from that." Before that career path, she went to the very prestigious Berkeley for 5 years to get a degree in classics and Latin.

She stated in her interview, "I've previously student taught at Durham, and then I did teach my nephews, and that was sort of my first full-time teaching job."

She went back to school to get her second Computer Science degree not long after her Classics and Latin degrees.

Once she finally realized and decided she wanted to teach computer science and math, she spent a year and a half in a credential teaching program, and now she's using those hard earned degrees to teach math and computer science here at Red Bluff High School.

She enjoys spending her time with her small, quirky dog Perdita, whom she rescued with her brother. Perdita is Latin for "Lost little girl".

She also enjoys doing delicate origami and solving the New York Times daily crossword puzzles.

She also enjoys playing online video games. Sometimes she will stream her online video game gameplay.

A fun fact about Ms. Delgardo is that she has 21 piercings! Come by and welcome her!



Bluffer Photo

Jhené Aiko releases forth studio R&B album 'Westside Whimsy'

Savannah Osborn
Staff Writer

Jhené Aiko has been a longtime curator of introspective R&B, crafting enchanting and meditative melodies that invite listeners to find comfort through her music.

Six years after her last album Chilombo, Jhené Aiko has finally released her highly anticipated fourth studio album, Westside Whimsy under Def Jam Recordings and ArtClub International, further solidifying her reputation as a master of soulful introspection and celestial vocals. Since its release on September 11, Westside Whimsy has debuted at number one on the Billboard 200, making it not only the first R&B album by a woman to reach number one in 2026, but also Aiko's first ever number one album in her 24 year career.

Following the massive success of her previous record Chilombo, this ambitious new project allows for fans to have a peek into an era of profound transition in Aiko's personal life and career.

The entire album moves intentionally away from pure, minimalist ambient R&B into a much richer, driven sound. It features gorgeous live instrumentation, including muted jazz trumpets, complex double bass grooves, and Aiko's signature therapeutic crystal singing bowls tuned to precise healing frequencies. Westside Whimsy beautifully blends her familiar ethereal soundscapes with experimental West Coast jazz elements, painting a cohesive, healing auditory journey that easily stands out as her most mature, conceptually complete project to date. The sonic environment curated by Jhené Aiko feels like a sunny, nostalgic afternoon drive through coastal Los Angeles.



Through this project, Aiko effortlessly balances breezy, uplifting rhythms with deeply grounded spiritual undertones and incredibly thoughtful musical arrangement. The transitions between tracks feels remarkably seamless, showing a meticulous attention to narrative pacing that perfectly mimics the natural, calming flow of a deep meditative state that Jhené Aiko never fails to deliver. The core themes of this album include emotional maturity, maternal love, radical self-acceptance, navigating the intense pressures of global fame, and finding quiet peace despite challenges.

There's a copious amount of lyrical growth in comparison to Aiko's other projects, as she's swapped her older, angst-ridden heartbreak tropes for introspective poetry centered around boundaries, healing, and letting go.

Westside Whimsy's lead single, "Break", was released on November 18, 2025, where Aiko navigates deep emotions, extreme grief, and struggles to make sense of everything on her mind. "So Good" played a major role in the anticipation for the project, as it features Kendrick Lamar, whom Aiko hadn't worked with for 13 years prior.

"He Belongs" and "Ceilings" have caused major fan speculation as to whether they're about Big Sean or not, to which Aiko dismissed. However, with the project containing 20 tracks, there's much more than relationships that Jhené Aiko explores.

Seahawks and Patriots kick off NFL season

Alberto Garcia
Staff Writer

Football season has started, and after a long 213 days, the NFL has everyone cheering for their teams with the season opening being last year's Super Bowl contenders.

The Seattle Seahawks vs The New England Patriots which ended with the Seahawks winning 13-10 and the Superbowl's score being 29-13.

This year's Super Bowl favorites being The Los Angeles Rams. Their standing being 0-1 due to their loss against the San Francisco 49'ers 27-7.

Bummer to those who bet on Rams to win, but big pay for those who bet on 49'ers.

Even though the Rams lost their first game, one loss does not decide an entire season. This year is a new year and a new experience for the teams, many trades and signings have been done and many people are ready to see how their team will perform this year.

After the Superbowl, People are wondering if one of the teams for the previous championship such as the Seahawks or the Patriots, could possibly go back to back Superbowls.

Fans speculate that the Rams will go against the Seahawks in the superbowl but if we go with the NFL Superbowl color theory, it is thought that either the Miami Dolphins or Jacksonville Jaguars with their yellowish orange colors will go against the Chicago Bears, or Philadelphia Eagles due to their greenish blue color schemes.

As football season begins so does Fantasy football. The thrill of having to rely on players from different teams is extremely fun. Every touchdown, catches or pretty much any play can get you points and affect your fantasy match up.

You can go against family or friends for any bets or punishments, and this makes fans want to watch their players from different teams they would normally watch.

With new teams, players, expectations, and another fantasy season, there are many things fans are looking forward to.

Nobody knows who this year's superbowl contenders will be or what the standing will be, overall nobody knows how this year is going to play out, which is what makes a new NFL season feel so exciting and fun.



Dutch Bros adds brand new food items to menu

Anais Estrella
Staff Writer

Dutch Bros is a common place for people here at the high school to go grab a quick refreshing drink or coffee in the mornings, during lunch, and in the afternoon. It's a fan favorite for many students, including me.

Normally, for years, Dutch Bros has been a mainly drink place, with very few food items, like muffin tops and scones, with other locations holding a couple more food items. But recently, they've released a new food item menu, featuring foods like a crumble cake, a cake pop, and banana bread slice, as well as a chocolate chip cookie and a blueberry muffin.

The cake pop flavor is a Cookie Dough Cake Pop, and the crumble cake is a Coffee Crumble Cake. I personally have tried the banana bread slice, and honestly I would say it's good, but not the best. When I tried it, I noticed that it did taste a little stale, and very sweet. It was also a little bit dry as well, but honestly it did have a banana taste to it, and I only say that because there are times when bakery items don't taste as they're advertised. Overall, I would rate the banana bread slice a 6.5 out of 10. It was not the worst, but definitely could have been better.



Another new item that I tried from the menu was the Cookie Dough Cake Pop. When I tried it, I noticed that I enjoyed it a lot more than the Banana Bread Slice. It has a chocolate outer hard shell, and the inside is where the cookie dough is. For me, I thought that the chocolate shell was pretty good when paired with the cookie dough filling. The cookie dough filling was also pretty good too, although that too was a little bit too sweet for me. Despite it being a regular sized cake pop, It was very filling, and I felt the same way with the Banana Bread Slice. For the Cookie Dough Cake Pop, I would give it a rating of 7.5 out of 10. These new items were good, but there's definitely better bakery food options out there.

New season of RuPaul's Drag Race is a total flop

Carson White
Staff Writer

RuPaul's Drag Race is a long-running reality TV series where 10-15 queens compete for the title of 'America's Next Drag Superstar'.

Seasons 1-10 (9 is questionable) are iconic pop culture, entertaining, and just perfect. Imagine how upset I was when I started the first episode of season 11 and was immediately met with pure, brain-melting queerslop. The queens are all either NPC versions of Aquaria or low-rent adaptations of Roxxy Andrews. They spit out the same 5 lines, wear the same 5 gowns/catsuits, and they're all insufferable.



The most memorable queen is from LAST SEASON. Miss Vanjie needs to be saved from the slop caricatures of drag queens. What happened to the talent? Unbelievable lip-syncs? Gorgeous runways? Now we just have Yvie Oddly. On that note, how did she win? She only won two challenges; three other queens won more than her. Brooke Lynn Hytes won more. She's not even avant-garde or editorial…she's just bald and weird. Somebody get this anorexic horse off my screen before I turn into J.K. Rowling. If I have to hear her singing like that ever again, I might jump off the diversion dam.

Shuga Cain is the most nauseating of them all. That microwaved, Dancing with the Stars-looking, cross-dressing demon needs to be crucified. She looks like she got an illegal chemical peel done right before the show. How are both of your faces ugly? She's also just annoying and took way too long to get eliminated. I almost shed tears of joy when I watched her write on the mirror with her mono-infected lipstick. I was devastated when I remembered that I'd have to see that radiation-poisoned skink again when I watched the season finale.

This season truly was the beginning of the end, every season after just got sequentially worse and more annoying. I genuinely felt anger when I realized it would never be the same. Seasons 4-6 were the absolute peak of the show, and now at season 18? It's unwatchable.

'The Last Unicorn' deemed outstanding for its time

Ancksunamun Soto
Staff Writer

The Last Unicorn is a 1982 movie. The directors are Jules Bass, Arthur Rankin Jr, and the writer is Peter S. Beagle.

The budget was $3.5 million and the box office was $6.5 million. The movie starts with a female unicorn. In the beginning, she doesn't have a name, but they later will call her Lady Amalthea.

Lady Amalthea learns from two hunters and a butterfly that she is the last of her kind after a malevolent entity called the Red Bull heard nearly all of the unicorns. She then sets off on a journey to find them.

When sleeping, Lady Amalthea got captured by mommy Fortuna, who is a witch that has a midnight Carnival. The midnight carnival is just regular animals enchanted with illusions to appear as mythical beats. But because Lady Amalthea horn cannot be seen by people that do not have a pure heart. Mommy Fortuna casted a spell on her to create a horn people could see. Which I think is such a great little detail for the movie.

I personally think the movie was outstanding for its time Lady Amalthea escapes with help from Schmendrick, and they are pursued by bandits led by Captain Cully. Captain Cully ties them to a tree, but by using magic he makes the tree come to life. They keep going then when they are nearing the castle of King Haggard they encounter the red bull, a monstrous fire element.

Then Schmendrick transforms her into a human to save her from the Red Bull. The transformation brings about a bittersweet existential crisis. While the magic successfully hides her from the terrifying Red Bull, it traps her in a human body, causing her to have overwhelming feelings of fear, sorrow, also including regret.

Lady Amalthea continues to live; she begins to forget her identity, this causes her to experience mortality, regret, and love. She gets transformed back, then lives her life as a unicorn again in the end.



Spartan Spotlight

Describe your sports experience in three words



Wyatt Jourdan (9)

"Fun, encouraging, enjoyable."



Emma Yost (10)

"Exciting, motivating, entertaining."



Gabe Twiford(11)

"Long, difficult, fun."



Autumn Eakin (12)

"Friendships, Motivating, Determination."



Mrs. Darnall (Athletic Director)

"The golf course"



Al Skaggs (Supervisor)

"Lessons, worthwhile, irreplaceable."

One team, One season: RBHS football team chasing wins

Myah Wiedel
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again for the Red Bluff High School Homecoming football game. This year's Red Bluff High School football teams will be playing tonight with the Junior Varsity team playing at 5:00 pm and the Varsity playing at 7:00.

During the Homecoming football game, the following queen nominees will go out onto the field in hopes of achieving the Homecoming queen title: Unadel Bitt-Bevill, Trystan Burris, Nevaeh Flores, Mckenzie Osbury, Regan Olivarez, and Kayla Troberg. The frosh have Brielle Morehouse, sophomores have Karely Villalobos, and juniors have Gizell Godinez for this year's princesses. The seniors, who are playing their last year of Red Bluff High football, are Alexander Bilton (12), Tristan Bonham (12), Ezequiel Castro (12), Jacob Lindauer (12), Nikolas Mejia (12), Tristin Middleton (12), Aiden Nail (12), Adan Rodriguez (12), Bracken Ruth (12), Jaret Schneeberger (12), and Beau SIlva (12). This year's players have shown teamwork, discipline, and determination with their aim pointing towards success. They're staying on track and focused with the goal of having satisfactory, winning games.



Photo/Joe Brent

Nikolas Mejia (12) making a catch

Beau SIlva (12), who has been playing on the varsity team for two years, helps prove this by thinking about, "why I play the sport and who I do it for," while also reminding himself why he plays which is "to be with my friends and close to my community."

Many players lean on each other for the purpose of support, but Brody Middleton, a sophomore on varsity team, plays because "I love it and it's entertaining."

Getting motivated is an important part of the game because without the proper mindset, the ability of the players to make great plays can be affected. Corbin Eggleston, a freshman on the frosh team, wants the team to "have a great game," and he is actually motivated by "thinking about what is best for the team and myself."

They're looking forward to playing football and can't wait to show the school how much their hard work will pay off.

With a new season started, comes new challenges and ways for the players to overcome them. Corbin Eggleston wants to work on "to not miss my blocks" and Brody Middleton's goal is "I want to get a few touchdowns." Different teammates struggle with different things, so the team will need to remind themselves to stay prepared and show their individual, as well as group, perseverance. As of Sept 24 the varsity team had a record of 2-1 and played Orland on Sept 25. The Varsity is also flying to Texas to play in Midland, TX on Oct 2.

Red Bluff volleyball team battles through a competitive season

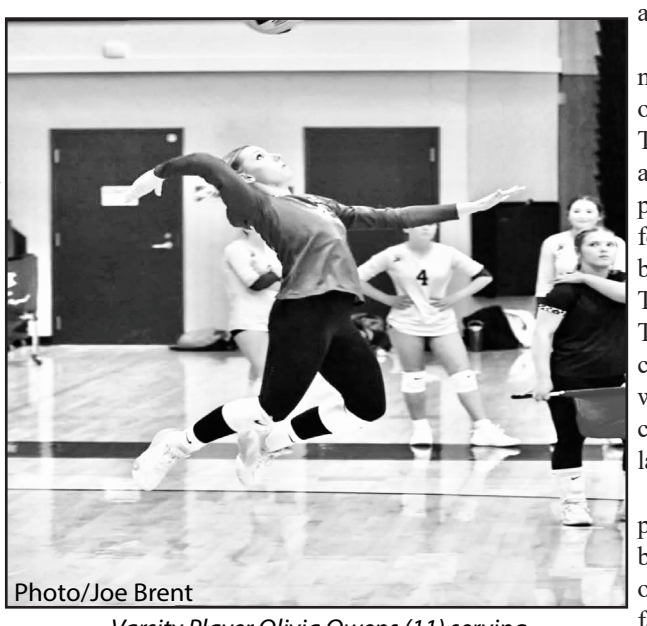
Mariah Craig
Staff Writer

Brielle Morehouse, a freshman at Red Bluff, is on the freshman volleyball team. Brielle's position is the defensive specialist, mostly passing back row and occasionally serving.

Before a game Brielle always does her hair in a slick back bun, hanging out with friends and eating. She plays volleyball because she loves the sport, it is always fun and being able to make more memories with friends. Brielle stays motivated by her friends and family, specifically her mom because she played volleyball in high school.

Her goal for the season is to get better, and hype up the team more. As well as looking forward to all the tournaments and team bonding experiences.

Regan Troberg, a sophomore at Red Bluff is playing on the jv volleyball team. She is the captain of the team, picked by her teammates along with Finley Dominick. Regan is one of the Libaro's for the team, one of the main passers. To get ready for a game Regan likes to take naps while the freshmen game is going on. Playing volleyball all started from Regan watching her older sister Kayla, sparking her interest in the sport and she has loved it ever since. A goal for the season is to keep the team hyped, good energy, and helping set an expectation for the team. Being a captain so far has been good, this not being her first time. To better help her team, Reagen feels that she could cheer more. For the season she is looking forward to playing with friends, having a good time, making memories and more van rides.



Photo/Joe Brent

Varsity Player Olivia Owens (11) serving

Taylor Cox, a junior at Red Bluff is on the varsity team. Taylor's position is a DS, which is to pass the ball, defense, and second ball. Before a game Taylor likes to go to Taco Bell, getting a cheese quesadilla, with a side of nacho cheese and a large baja blast.

Taylor started playing volleyball because most of the girls in her family played, so it made her want to and has truly loved the sport since. Staying motivated to play from her teammates and just how rewarding the feeling is when we win a game, after all the work they had all put on the court.

Goals she has are to have a good successful year, bond with the team more and all play well together.

RBHS girls hit the green with confidence

Lilyanna Meza
Staff Writer

With the season underway, the girls golf team is continuing to grow and improve with each match. The team has practices from 3:15 (right after school) to 5:15, they practice for 2 hours and then are also welcome to stay after the practice is over to get additional help or play additional holes if they choose to.



Photo/Courtesy

Macie Peterson (9) swinging

They also have Fridays optional and open up for rounds of golf on the weekends, there are two tee times open on Saturday. The time commitment is up to the girls on the team and how much practice they would like to do for playing in matches.

For practice they practice chipping, putting, half swings, full swings (irons and woods), bunker play, and then try to get out on the course and play a few holes. To decide who plays in matches since there is only allowed to take 6 girls.

The way that they decide which girls to take to a match is to take the top 3 girls from the previous week and play a qualifying match at one practice weekly to determine who the other 3 players will be. This is coach Sanders first year coaching girls golf and he says that he enjoys coaching the girls and that the girls are funny, hard working and keeps him on his toes.

Sanders also says the team gets along really well, they joke around a lot and seem to enjoy teasing him as well.

His favorite part about coaching the team is "Interacting with the girls and trying to promote a lifelong love for golf with each of them." He is happy as long as each girl is showing improvement

Every stroke counts on the way to the finish line

Destiny Drum
Staff Writer

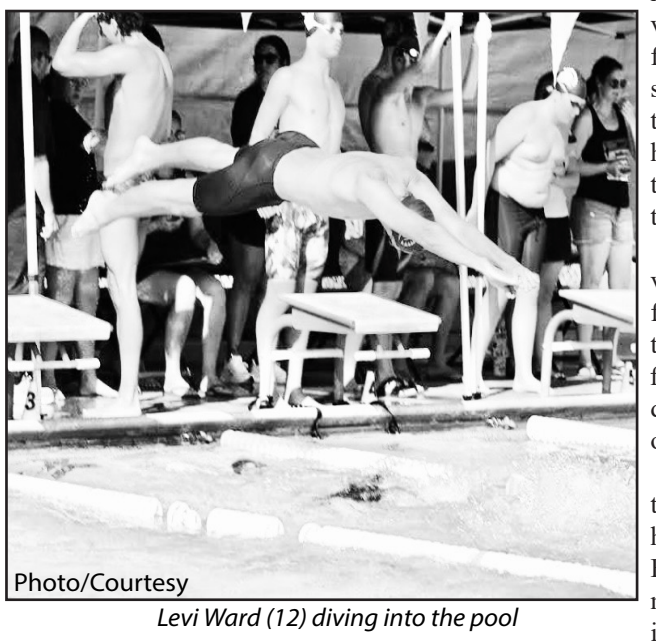
Behind every race, the Red Bluff High School swim team balances practices, school, and competition.

With swimmers ranging from freshmen to seniors, every athlete has their own experiences and reasons for joining the team.

For some, swimming is about competition and winning, while for others, it is a way to meet new people, have fun, and become more involved.

This season includes 22 student athletes participating in swim across all four grade levels. The freshmen are Dani Browand (9), Micah Chamberlin (9), Aaliyah Fish (9), Gabriel Pulido (9), Deklin Snyder (9), and Wyatt Ward (9).

The sophomore swimmers are Estevan Bravo (10), Elmer Fries (10), Emma Kordzikowski(10) , Aiden Phen (10) , Liam Smith(10) , and Hannah Sundquist(10) . The juniors are Luke Bliss (11), Elijah Cole Thomas (11), Santana Fish(11), Ariana Garrison(11), and Elvis Herr (11). Lastly, seniors are Alyssa Dausse (12), Ethan Lindauer (12), Abi Murrietta (12), Emery Plemons (12), and Levi Ward (12).Senior Levi Ward has been swimming for about four years after joining the team his freshman year of high school.



Photo/Courtesy

Levi Ward (12) diving into the pool

Levi decided to swim because he wanted to participate in a sport.

One of Levi's favorite memories is the first time he went to Masters, where he was surprised by how large the team was, with around 60 people. Throughout his time on the team, swimming has also influenced Levi outside the pool.

One lesson he has learned is to "treat everyone with the same respect you want to be treated with."

Sophomore Estavan Bravo is in his second year of swimming. His favorite memories from this season so far have been the conversations he has had with teammates in the locker room.

Estavan's favorite events are freestyle and butterfly because he finds them less difficult than the other strokes.

Being part of the swim team has also helped Estavan become more socially involved. The swimmers are making the most of their time in the pool while building friendships and memories along the way.

Together, they continue to work hard and enjoy the experience of being part of the team. Come to one of our home Meets and watch our swimmers shine!

A new season for RBHS girls flag football

Tyson O'Reiley Walters
Staff Writer

The Red Bluff Varsity flag football team is coming towards the end of their season with only 3 games left. Their record is 2-4 for their first-ever season is a great start.

One of the biggest moments of the season with them winning 2 games, one 31-0 and one 44-6. They play Gridley on Monday, and they're hoping to come away with another win after losing to Gridley in the past.



Photo/Courtesy

Kayla Troberg (12) with the ball

They also play Foothill (Sacramento) on October 2nd, with Foothill being one of the top teams with a record of 10-3, which will be a tough game the Spartans are excited for.

Then they will end the season by playing Williams, who are standing at 0-5, so the Spartans hope to get another win there. The season has been great for the Spartans, starting a new program and building with most of the players being underclassmen, with juniors too they hope to continue to build. The Red Bluff varsity flag football team is nearing the conclusion of their inaugural season with only three games remaining on their schedule. Currently, their record stands at 2-4, which is an impressive start for a first year program. Notable players contributing to their success this season include Emersyn LoPiccolo, who leads the team in average receiving yards per game. In addition, Aubriana Bravo has made significant contributions as the team's rushing yard leader.

One of the standout moments for the Spartans this season has been their ability to secure two solid victories. The team is gearing up to face Gridley, who beat them a couple of weeks ago, so the Spartans are hoping to use that loss as a way to get a win against Gridley. SO GO SPARTANS!

Homecoming Royalty 2026

Queen Nominees:



Kayla Troberg



Trystan Burris



Unadel Bitt-Bevill



McKenzie Ogsbury



Nevaeh Flores



Regan Olivarez



Freshman Princess
Brielle Morehouse



Sophomore Princess
Karely Villalobos



Junior Princess
Gizell Godinez