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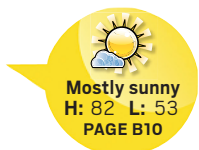


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# ENTERPRISE-RECORD



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## PREVENTION

# FIRE COUNCIL WORKS TO REDUCE FUELS



NATALIE HANSON — ENTERPRISE-RECORD

Mark Rivas of Bobcat Chico explains the power of using mastication for fire prevention and the properties of the mulch which results, Friday in Cohasset.

**By Natalie Hanson**  
[nhanson@chicoer.com](mailto:nhanson@chicoer.com)

**COHASSET »** Butte County projects are benefiting from grants to speed up fire prevention, however the season to prepare is short for what's predicted to be an intense California fire season.

According to a recent analysis from the National Institute of Standards and Technology of the Camp Fire's impact on vegetation on the ridge, fuel

treatments around communities may not be able to significantly reduce ember exposures. The report said in wildland and urban interface fires — which are those which occur under severe conditions with challenging topography, low vegetative fuels moisture and high wind speeds — embers can potentially result in catastrophic life and property losses in communities with a high density of vegetative and structural fuels.

The Camp Fire, and subsequent laboratory and field work, demonstrated embers can have significant impact on communities with mixed wildland and urban infrastructure — with energy to cause ignitions generated from parcel-level combustibles such as landscaping mulch, fences and firewood piles. Ember ignitions downwind from parcel-level combustibles enable fire to readily spread from parcel to parcel, the report noted.

And, the hardening of residential and non-residential structures to resist ignition from direct flame exposures can be addressed using two different technical approaches: the fuels can be displaced or the target structure can be hardened, according to the analysis. Reduced ignitions can be achieved by a vegetative fuel treatment on the community by displacing fuels within a parcel — such as locating a combustible shed away

**FUELS » PAGE 4**

## STORIES FROM THE STREETS

# Where to go next: Homeless couple facing another move

Couple who once rebuilt a life in Oroville prepare to be moved from Comanche Creek Greenway

**By Natalie Hanson**  
[nhanson@chicoer.com](mailto:nhanson@chicoer.com)

**CHICO »** On a warm afternoon March 31, Thalia Metcalf and Donny Arbayo stood by their tent in Chico's Comanche Creek Greenway, sharing cigarettes in the sunshine, and considered where they need

to move to next.

Metcalf, 33, said she was born in Colusa and has now been unhoused in Chico for about two years. She met Arbayo, 30, five years ago.

"We met each other in Oroville, at Gold Country (Casino)" Arbayo said. "I was already homeless but she wasn't. In the

first year of being together we had our son and we both as a team took each other off the streets."

Torres Shelter in Chico helped the couple but "we did all the footwork because they can't do everything for you," he said. They found a home in Oroville after six months.

But after the Camp Fire, Arbayo said they had to walk away from their home in Oroville for multiple reasons. They now have two children.

Born in Oroville and raised in Chico, "I've been homeless on and off the streets since the age of five," Arbayo said.

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## POLITICS

### Lawmakers seek limits on governors' powers

In the wake of COVID-19 lockdowns, many states are looking to rein in the emergency power of governors. **PAGE A8**



## IMMIGRATION

### Migrant families to be kept in hotels for now

Federal authorities rush to set up temporary living quarters amid surge of people crossing U.S.-Mexico border. **PAGE A6**

## POLITICS

### Trump back in spotlight as he mulls 2024 plans

He addresses donors as he reaffirms his commitment to Republican Party, predicts GOP will win in 2024. **PAGE B6**

## GOOD MORNING!

Have a great day, subscriber Douglas Ferguson!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

Check out what's going on in your neighborhood and the community. **PAGE B7**

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# Fuels

FROM PAGE 1

from the residence — or increasing the structure setback from the property line, effectively increasing structure separation distance.

There has been concern expressed to the county's Board of Supervisors over limitations under the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's proposed fire safe regulations, which if approved would go into effect July 1. These regulations — proposing requirements for improving roads to properties, including driveways and private roads and public roads, and limiting dead-end road lengths — would include all parcels within "high-severity areas," or nearly all eastern foothill communities in Butte County, including Cohasset, Forest Ranch and Paradise. The road improvements for a project would be required to the nearest collector road — not just the roadway in front of or along the property.

**Local projects**

Despite concern about how to conduct significant fuel treatments to prevent



NATALIE HANSON — ENTERPRISE-RECORD

Bobcat Chico's machine for mastication, turning trees to mulch, for fire prevention is demonstrated Friday in Cohasset.

more disastrous fires, the Butte County Fire Safe Council has been conducting multiple thinning and controlling efforts around Butte County before July.

Members of the Cohasset community came to a fire council-initiated demonstration of an advanced mastication machine Friday

which showed turning even large trees into mulch as a fire prevention strategy alternative to hand chipping.

The mastication results funded by Sierra Nevada Conservancy and Cal Fire-Butte County Fire Prevention got positive feedback from locals. Landowner

Ron Hall said, "I'm sure every resident up here for the summer, this will probably be the one where we're most scared because of the lack of water. (There is an) urgency to get as much done as we possibly can."

Executive Director Calli Jane DeAnda explained to

landowners how community signups for hand chipping projects continue to be important as pile burning is ending soon as the heat increases, postponed until late November. Meanwhile, three contracted herd owners are handling some grazing of treated land with goats, which DeAnda said is the most cost effective option when land is treated properly.

DeAnda also explained two North Valley Community Foundation grants for use in the North Complex fires area. The largest grant, \$125,000, is for a fire prevention project in the Berry Creek area for the Lake Madrone Water District fire break surrounding a 484-acre district. The other grant of \$62,500 will help Paradise Alliance Church expand its defensible space program, mobilizing volunteers to help homeowners remove dead and dying trees.

Another council project is out to bid for upper Magalia to Butte Creek for hand cutting and chipping.

"We hope to hear from PG&E if they are going to re-fund our chipper program, we'll know in about three weeks," DeAnda said. She added the utility is hesitant to fund countywide chipping projects as they "want them to be localized."

DeAnda said the timber industry is over-saturated with lumber due to many recent fires. The council's Jim Houtman added the focus continues to be on promoting biomass to make use of wood chips for bio-fuel energy, reducing fuel in the forest and increasing hardening and chipping projects.

"We're trying to get a local facility set up, ideally one on the bottom of each ridge line so we can shorten that transportation bringing (material) to a facility, turn it into hydrogen and then sell that hydrogen to make a ... revenue stream" which could be used to turn around and make more projects as a circular system, he said.

The Butte County Resource Conservation District is also teaching people how to do their own prescribed burns in Forest Ranch, alongside Cal Fire-Butte County. The next burn will take place Saturday at the Shandel ranch on Oak Grove Lane in Forest Ranch.

Contact reporter Natalie Hanson at 530-896-7763.

# Students

FROM PAGE 1

president after originally beginning with Associated Students as a student appointee. In February, Young was named a recipient of the 39th annual Lieutenant Robert Merton Rawlins Merit Award for the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences at Chico State.

Young is a senior at Chico State majoring in economics and said in his candidate profile prior to being elected, "If elected A.S. president, I will work with the administration to maximize the number of safe in-person activities in the upcoming year, support club redevelopment, and reimagine programs that train future student lead-

ers and representatives."

Officials, who must meet eligibility requirements including a 2.5 cumulative GPA, maintain a 2.3 GPA each semester while in office as well as meet enrollment status requirements, will sit on the Associated Students Board of Directors, the Government Affairs Committee through May 2022.

In an election which is solely dependent on Chico State student participation, Paladini said this year's election saw 12 percent of Chico State students participate, or 1,828 students out of 15,344 total enrollment. The number was a decrease from the 19 percent participation in the 2020 A.S. election.

"In terms of our overall approach we did have fewer students who initially opted in to be candidates, who initially filled out the intent to file packets and took the steps to become candidates officially on the ballot," Paladini said. "However we did have numerous students who did participate as write-ins and were elected to positions."

Though the president is the head of the government affairs team and serves as the liaison between the Associated Students and the university President Gayle Hutchinson, each member serves a role within the student body. The vice president will serve as the chair of the government affairs committee.

Austin Lopic will be returning for his second term as vice president of business and finance and said he returned to A.S. because after joining A.S. in his first year as a Wildcat because,



JASON HALLEY — CHICO STATE UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHER

Chico State Associated Students announced Friday that Duncan Young, one of the 2020-2021 recipients of the Lieutenant Robert Merton Rawlins Merit Award, was named the new Associated Students President. Young is shown Dec. 16, 2020 in Chico.

"I wanted to continue with what my idea was of my experience at Chico State. How I could improve the experience for students here at Chico State and what I can do within my role to maybe push administration or push the school into a better place for students."

Lopic said it is hard to ignore the biggest change for the 2021-2022 team will be returning to in-person as a team and supporting a group of students who have never experienced the Chico State campus life in-person.

With each team of newly elected student govern-

ment affairs team comes a new perspective and new goals, and in the next year the Associated Students faculty and staff are planning to prepare the student leaders for success.


"Each year we take a lot of time to get to know our officers and understand their perspectives as well as their goals in office," Paladini said. "Our government affairs team and our staff members do a really good job of taking extra care to listen to those student perspectives and try to accomplish and support those student goals throughout the entire term."

**Elected officials**

Other winners from this year's election joining Young and Burns and Lopic include: Vice President of Facilities and Services Kiley Kirkpatrick; Director of Social Justice and Equity Karina Vazquez; Director of University Affairs Olivia Rosso; Commissioner of Community Affairs Tyrell Simmons; Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Michelle Borges; Commissioner of Legislative Affairs Michelle Davis and Commissioner of Student Engagement and Advocacy Megan Oliver.

There were also senators elected from each college department at the university and they include: College of Agriculture Senator Tyler Jenkins; College of Behavioral and Social Sciences' Katherine Chai; College of Communication and Education's Krystal Alvarez; College of Engineering, Computer Science and Construction Management's Matthew Burns; College of Humanities and Fine Arts' Demondra Martin; College of Natural Sciences' James Lawrence and the College of Business' Nina Cardinale.

The full results can be found on the Chico State Associated Students website at <https://bit.ly/2Q95yfw>.




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