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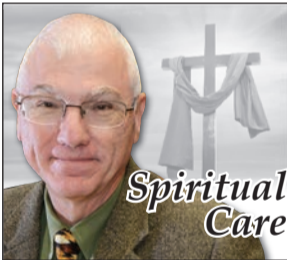
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Councilors Brace for Redistricting



Mayor Shawn Farmer, left, and Vice Mayor Paul Sandhu, the two longest-serving members on the Galt City Council, will get their first look at a set of draft redistricting maps at the Jan. 21 City Council meeting. Photo by Sean P. Thomas

**By Sean P. Thomas
City Editor**

GALT, CA (MPG) - Redistricting is on the horizon for the city of Galt and councilors aren't exactly thrilled about the change.

The City Council will hold its third public hearing on the matter on Jan. 21, where Paul Mitchell, of the Sacramento-consultant firm Redistricting Partners, will present a set of six

maps, one which includes five districts of about 5,000 residents each, and another set of maps that include four districts of 6,000 apiece and allows for a mayor elected by the entirety of the city.

While councilors said they are curious and hopeful to see what the maps look like come Jan. 21, they remain displeased about having to explore the change or face litigation from an outside law firm.

"This isn't coming from within," Mayor Shawn Farmer said. "If this was someone from Galt filing some lawsuit saying that they don't think their community is fair...that would be 1,000 times more valid than this."

The city received a demand letter from the Malibu-based Shenkman & Hughes law firm on behalf of the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project in August claiming

that the at-large voting system for the city of about 25,000 people potentially dilutes the ability of Latino voters to elect candidates of their choice or influence an election.

Latinos make up nearly 43% of Galt's population, according to U.S. Census data.

The letter, which stands as a primer for a potential lawsuit, claimed the elections violate the California

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Tdap Shot Urged as Whooping Cough Increases

California Department of Public Health News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - California is experiencing an increase in cases of whooping cough (also known as pertussis), a highly contagious bacterial disease that can be spread through coughing and can cause severe illness, especially in infants. California Department of Public Health is urging all Californians, especially those who are pregnant and those who provide care to infants, to be up to date on their Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccine to help prevent whooping cough.

Individuals vaccinated against whooping cough are protected against severe illness and complications due to whooping cough. These complications can be most severe in infants, causing apnea (dangerous pauses in breathing) and can be fatal.

More than 2,000 cases of whooping cough were reported statewide between January and October 2024. 62 of those cases were infants less than four months of age who were hospitalized, including one infant who tragically died. During the same time range in 2023, there were less than 400 whooping cough cases reported in the state.

"Since the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided, many practices that had lowered instances of whooping cough are no longer in place, and we're seeing the disease return to pre-pandemic levels," said Dr. Tomás J. Aragón, California Department of Public Health Director and State Public Health Officer. "Infants are particularly vulnerable and that's why California Department of Public Health especially encourages people who are pregnant to receive the Tdap vaccine in their third trimester which will pass along protective antibodies to the baby."

With whooping cough cases rising, ensure you are up to date on your whooping cough vaccine. Vaccination is recommended for all:

Pregnant people between 27 and 36 weeks of pregnancy, even if they have received Tdap in the past.

Adults, every 10 years.

Adolescents aged 11 or 12 years (Tdap vaccine is also required for 7th grade advancement in

Continued on Page 2

Local English Teacher Pens Zombie Novel

**By Sean P. Thomas
City Editor**

GALT, CA (MPG) - For many years, Galt native Savannah L. Jones toyed with the idea of turning her creative writing master's thesis work into a full-fledged novel.

She had previously received some interest from major publishers, but Jones felt that the publishing houses wanted to change too much of the story that she worked diligently on creating and fine tuning.

For years, the book sat on her shelf. But in September, Jones returned to the novel with renewed interest and in November, she took the plunge and self-published "Zombie Mom," which follows the story of a mother trying to find her way and protect her young children amid a zombie apocalypse. After being bitten, the protagonist finds out that not only does she not die, but she remains trapped inside that decaying zombie shell with all of her mental faculties.

Jones, who teaches seventh, eighth and eleventh-grade English at Franklin High School in Stockton, spoke with The Galt Herald on Jan. 10 about the idea behind the novel and her process writing her new self-published book.

Sean P. Thomas: This is your first novel, correct?

Savannah L. Jones: Yes, this is my first novel. This was actually my creative writing master's thesis that I started years ago, then I kind of decided to publish it last year.

ST: The plot is interesting to me.

Continued on Page 3



Image courtesy of Savannah L. Jones



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Character Coalition Urges Focus on Integrity in 2025

GALT COMMUNITY of CHARACTER

The Galt Community of Character Coalition is a community-based organization that seeks to create a community culture based on values, goodwill and accepted character traits. The character coalition hopes to inspire and motivate individuals, families and organizations to take responsibility for their choices and actions, to make a difference in the community, and to display and recognize good character.

The coalition regularly recognizes and honors outstanding individuals and groups in the community that display good character. Accordingly, nominations are sought for individuals or groups displaying the character trait of **integrity**. Integrity can be defined as the steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code.

If you would like to nominate an individual or group that displays the character trait of integrity, please submit this nomination form with the information requested to **Galt Community of Character Coalition**, P.O. Box 902, Galt, CA 95632; or you may submit the nomination by email to marimartinez2323@gmail.com. **Deadline for nominations is Feb. 28.**

Nominee:

Name: _____
 Address: _____ Tel: _____

On a separate page, describe, by giving an example, how the nominee best exemplifies the character trait of integrity.

Nominated by:

Name: _____
 Address: _____ Tel: _____

Thank you.

Trailformillga community by inspiring, motivating and recognizing good character.

By Galt Community of Character Coalition

GALT, CA (MPG) - It's hard to believe that 2025 marks the end of the first quarter of the century — It's a good time to take stock of our personal lives and character.

As we start the year 2025, the non-profit Galt Community of Character Coalition would like to encourage everyone to include in their New Year's resolutions a goal to live life with good character each day. As you know, character is the sum of qualities that distinguishes a person or group, that defines their moral or ethical strength.

Character is who you are. Character defines you and guides your actions, usually in a positive way. It is the goal of the Galt Character Coalition to motivate and inspire good character. At this pivotal time at the 2025 quarter Century mark, let's rally the good will of our entire

community to demonstrate acts of good character, including those character traits selected by the community: integrity, honesty, respect, pride in community, responsibility, and caring and compassion.

For the first two months of each year, integrity is the character trait selected for focus by the Galt Community of Character Coalition.

Integrity can be defined as the steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code.

A person of Integrity can be summed up as someone who continuously does the right thing for the right reason, to benefit others and maintain a civil and just community.

To ensure that integrity is a daily part of your life in 2025, choose or revisit a set of rules, morals, or principles that you believe will lead to a happy, satisfying life, as well as a better world.

You may subscribe to the ethics of a particular

religion, or you may develop your own personal code, based on your own core beliefs and experiences of what is right and decent. Decide what you can do in your life to align your behavior more closely with what you have chosen as your beliefs. Be conscious every day of the decisions you make, no matter how small.

If you are on a mission of self-improvement, embracing integrity is a great place to start. Stand firm on your convictions. People will come to trust you to always keep your word and do the right thing. You will be seen as a person of Integrity. Let 2025 be the year that we recommit to Integrity in our daily lives.

If you would like to nominate an individual or group who consistently demonstrates Integrity, you can nominate that individual, group or organization for the 2025 Galt integrity Award by submitting the adjacent form. ★

Tdap Shot Urged as Whooping Cough Increases

Continued from page 1
 California).

Infants and young children receive their own whooping cough (DTaP) vaccines starting at 2 months through 4-6 years of age. Babies and children who haven't had all recommended doses are more likely to have serious complications.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about which vaccines are right for you and your family.

People with whooping

cough have severe coughing attacks that can last for months. Infants too young for vaccination are at greatest risk for hospitalization and death. Early signs of whooping cough are similar to symptoms of the common cold such as a runny or stuffy nose and low-grade fever. Babies with whooping cough may have trouble breathing, turn blue or stop breathing.

To protect infants from whooping cough, California Department

of Public Health strongly urges maternal immunization with Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccine in the last trimester (between 27 and 36 weeks) of every pregnancy. When given during pregnancy, Tdap is approximately 90% effective in preventing infant hospitalizations due to whooping cough. It is also beneficial for all family members and caregivers of newborns to receive either the Tdap (for adults and children older

than seven) or DTaP (for those seven years of age or younger) vaccines to prevent spreading whooping cough to infants.

These vaccines are safe and effective and can be received at the same time as flu, COVID, or RSV vaccines.

Tdap vaccines are widely available at many doctor offices and pharmacies. Schedule a vaccine appointment by visiting MyTurn.ca.gov or contacting your local pharmacy or

health care provider.

Most health insurance plans, including Medi-Cal, cover Tdap vaccines. Individuals experiencing difficulty finding a place to get immunized may contact their health care provider or local health department for help.

The Vaccines For Children (VFC) program is a federally funded program that provides vaccines at no cost to children (18 and younger) who might not otherwise be vaccinated because of an inability to pay. Contact your doctor to learn if they are enrolled in Vaccines For Children

or visit MyTurn to find a location based on your eligibility.

Whooping cough (pertussis) activity in California is on the rise, with more than 2,000 reported cases and one infant death between the months of January and October of 2024.

Everyone who is between 27 and 36 weeks pregnant and family members or caregivers of infants should get the Tdap/DTaP vaccination to help protect infants and young children against serious illness and hospitalization. ★

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8:20 AM	8:45 AM	8:50 AM	8:55 AM	9:00 AM	9:25 AM	9:45 AM		8:25 AM	8:45 AM	9:20 AM	9:45 AM	9:50 AM	9:55 AM	10:00 AM	
10:20 AM	10:45 AM	10:50 AM	10:55 AM	11:00 AM	11:25 AM	11:45 AM		12:25 PM	12:45 PM	1:20 PM	1:45 PM	1:50 PM	1:55 PM	2:00 PM	
12:20 PM	12:45 PM	12:50 PM	12:55 PM	1:00 PM	1:25 PM	1:45 PM		2:25 PM	2:45 PM	3:20 PM	3:45 PM	3:50 PM	3:55 PM	4:00 PM	
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Councilors Brace for Redistricting

Continued from page 1

Voting Rights Act of 2001, which attempts to prevent the disenfranchisement of protected classes. Protected classes under the law include voters of a certain race, ethnicity or other languages. The letter gives cities 45 days to respond to the law firm with the intent to switch to district-based elections or face increased legal fees.

Councilors voiced concern that the law firm didn't exactly have the voters of Galt's best interests in mind when filing the letter, nor did it explore the ramifications and complexities of the small town.

"We are being forced to make some kind of decision," Councilor Mathew Pratton said, or face litigation.

Councilor Bonnie Rodriguez said a town like Galt is too small to be "forced" into district voting and hoped the city could explore another option.

No city or government body has successfully fought a lawsuit challenging the demand letter, and the ones that tried were left with hefty legal bills that Galt city officials say the city couldn't afford if they wanted to fight the case.

The law allows Shenkman & Hughes to collect upwards of \$30,000 for every letter the firm sends and more if a government body opts to challenge the demand.

In 2013, Shenkman & Hughes took the city of Palmdale to court over

the Voting Rights Act. Palmdale lost and had to repay the firm \$4.6 million in legal fees. In total, Palmdale taxpayers spent \$7 million fighting the case.

Santa Monica is currently in an eight-year long legal battle that could cost the city millions of dollars.

Hemet, Wildomar, Upland, Clovis and Costa Mesa, among others, have received demand letters.

All have moved toward district elections.

Farmer said on the surface, the change seems like a good idea, but "in reality" he's concerned the shift could cause more harm to the city in terms of democratic participation.

"You are going to have no choice, or instead of having a choice of whoever I want to vote for you could be limited to just only voting for one person," Farmer said. "If someone is running for my district and it's just the one guy or woman, and I don't like that candidate, I just might not vote at all."

"When we are in a day and age where we are trying to encourage more people to vote and how important local voting is, we might have the reverse effect and have people become disenfranchised with voting," he added.

Pratton said the city already struggles to find candidates to run for City Council and feels that district voting could further highlight the issue.

"I'm sure we will have districts that won't have

anyone who will run and we will have to appoint people," Pratton said. "That's just not a good way of doing it. There are a lot of mandated things nowadays that just aren't good. But it is what it is."

Rodriguez said she's spent time since the last redistricting conversation looking up Galt's precinct populations to better understand the decision the city will have to make. She reiterated a point made following Mitchell's presentation that she's concerned that if the city moves forward with setting these new maps, they will quickly become unbalanced as hundreds of new homes and potentially thousands of new residents move into new developments, including the Liberty Ranch and Eastview housing developments.

"Some of those districts, especially those north-east districts, are going to get top-heavy," Rodriguez said. "It just reconfirms that this is definitely the wrong time to be forcing Galt into a district election process right now. Our population numbers are just not stable right now because of all those homes that are going to be coming online."

Farmer said the maps can try to anticipate population growth in a particular district, but "for the most part" that is why the law requires redistricting every 10 years.

Voting trends were also a concern, Farmer said.



The first big task for new City Councilors Bonnie Rodriguez, left, and Mathew Pratton, will be to help steer the redistricting process. The first set of draft maps will be revealed at the Jan. 21 City Council meeting. Photo by Sean P. Thomas

Even if the districts are balanced in terms of populations, he said it could lead to a situation where a second-place winner in one district is left off the Council, despite having far more votes than the winner of another district.

"You could have a guy who has 3,500 votes lose a seat to a guy from a different geographic area who got a fraction of the votes," Farmer said. "It's going to be very commonplace."

Elected Mayor or Mayor by Council?

When it's all said and done, Galt voters could be selecting its first elected mayor since the city's incorporation in 1946.

Rodriguez said she is unsold on the idea, but if she had to lean in any direction, she would be in favor of the current system where councilors select a mayor on one-year terms from the elected Council. That mayor then serves as the de facto spokesman for the city and leads city council meetings.

"Generally those mayors have to run every two years," Rodriguez said. "You don't necessarily want to lock a mayor in for four years. The whole

point of this lawsuit is to make things more fair for everyone... This is supposedly going to make it easier for all walks of life to be elected, and if that truly is the point then I don't see having one of these positions be tainted if that is what this is."

Pratton said he's still "up in the air on the idea," but is leaning in favor of picking from the dais on an annual basis.

He also considered potential cost increases for the city, noting that an elected mayor in most cities carries a more executive tone, and the city may have to explore increasing the salary for the potential mayor-elect. Currently councilors are paid \$300 per month, according to Galt's city code.

"To run for mayor in Galt? I don't know," Pratton said. "I think it's best to let the city council decide. Everyone may not agree with me on that."

A silver lining, Rodriguez said, is councilors do not have to incur the cost of canvassing the entire city, versus smaller districts.

Farmer said he's still in favor of an elected mayor who could be

responsible for the entire city, if Councilors become beholden to specific districts.

He added that while he doesn't believe the council as it stands would compartmentalize its focus, district voting could open the door for it down the line and an elected mayor could help balance the concern.

Desire for More Feedback

Every councilor who spoke on the matter said they desired more feedback from the community before finalizing their opinions.

"There is definitely more to see and learn," Pratton said.

Following the Dec. 21 meeting, Rodriguez said everyone she spoke to was in favor of the current mayoral selection system, but believes voters and the council alike need more information on the subject before moving in any direction.

She said she hopes the first set of draft maps will give the community the chance to provide more feedback for the council to work with.

Farmer said he wants to ensure the city does as much outreach for residents to understand the importance of the upcoming public hearings. Farmer said he'd also like to see residents submit their own maps for consideration.

"I'm going to be pushing this heavy," Farmer said. "I don't want this process to be over and for someone to say 'I didn't get any info on this.'"

"Unless you were living under a rock in the North Pole, you should know about this." ★

Local English Teacher Pens Zombie Novel

Continued from page 1

I'm a fan of the zombie genre. Where did this idea come from? And can you walk me through the process of kind of developing it into a full-fledged novel?

SJ: In my class, we had a create professor who kind of wanted us to look at the concept of "What if?" What if this happened? And my idea was "What if I got bit by a zombie, what would happen?" When I started to do the research on it and I started to really look into the zombie genre I noticed there were a lot of unanswered questions. You kind of had to accept it for what it is. It's a zombie novel; they eat brains and they are dead. Simple. I kind of wanted to answer all those questions. Scientifically, how would it feel? What would it be like? That is kind of where it started. I also had little kids at the time and I started to question, "What would that be like? What would I do

with them? Would I survive? How would they survive?"

ST: Can you describe the protagonist a little bit?

SJ: She is a mom with really young kids and it begins when the apocalypse has kind of already happened. They have already gotten into that groove of surviving in that world. But she is bit, and suddenly everything changes and she has to try to survive and help her kids survive. She is really motivated for that, and once she figures it out, she kind of goes to give up, but then figures out that she doesn't die. She finds out that zombies don't die, she figures out that zombies are actually still alive in their brains. And she is just trying to figure out how to handle that.

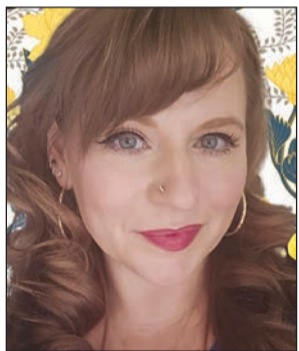
ST: Did you have any inspiration? Around what time did you start working on that thesis?

SJ: I started working

on it about seven or eight years ago in my master thesis class. And in terms of inspiration, it was more of a "why haven't I seen this before?" I hadn't really seen anything from a first-person perspective and I actually was told by a lot of students in my class that you can't write a first-person zombie novel. That doesn't work. And I did it. And my professor was like... "Well, she did." I just wanted to try something different."

ST: Did you hit any roadblocks as you were working through this idea? Any moments of writer's block?

SJ: Well with that first-person perspective there were a few moments of "How am I even going to show this scene?" If a zombie is tied up inside of a van, how is she going to express those feelings? But ultimately, my biggest challenge was just doing it myself. Self-editing,



Local teacher and Galt native Savannah L. Jones recently published her first novel, "Zombie Mom," which follows the trials of a mother trying to keep her children safe after being bitten by a zombie. Photo courtesy of Savannah L. Jones

having people reading it and getting all the feedback and trying to finish it was really the biggest challenge.

ST: This is self-published, and I know self-publishing can be tough. What was that process like for you?

SJ: Originally, I had planned to publish through one of the big-named publishers. And I originally had what is called a revise and resubmit from an

agency. They liked what I had, but they wanted me to change the ages around to make it a little (young adult) friendly and a few other things. At the time, it was the very beginning of my divorce and I ended up shelving it because I didn't have the time to fix it. A lot of the feedback was "Oh, it's a zombie novel, we have read zombie novels before," and they really weren't giving it a chance. At the time, the market was flooded with zombie novels. I actually took it off the shelf this summer and I thought, "I really like it, I don't want to change it." So, I decided to self-publish it.

ST: In terms of the setting, did you pull anything from your life and add it to the book?

SJ: It's funny you ask that. When my son read the book, he said it reminds me of our house in Galt. I was 100% picturing my neighborhood. We lived in Galt for most of my children's childhood and I grew up in the house in Galt that we

lived in, and then me and my kids moved back into it. The way I described the neighborhood, the way it was off of 99, Washington Park, the wide streets. The fences. It was really meant to be modeled after my house. I think that was just because I lived there my entire life; it just felt safe to me.

ST: Have you had the itch to kind of continue this story? Or jump into another story since then?

SJ: I actually already started. The next one that I am working on actually started as a screenplay, and I'm in the process of turning that screenplay into a novel. I think it could be considered a thriller. It's about a couple of boys out in the woods on a camping trip. A tree falls on their tent and they are kind of left alone in the woods.

"Zombie Mom" can be purchased online at amazon.com, goodreads.com or the author's website, savannahljonesauthor.my.canva.site. ★

18th Annual Galt

WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

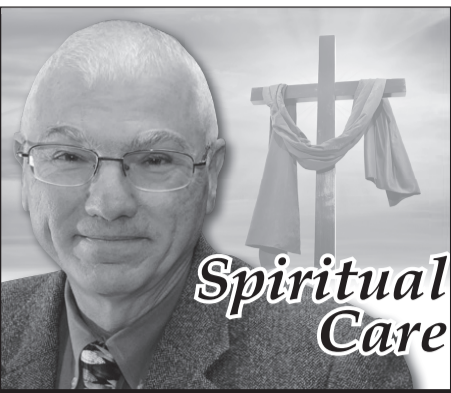
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A Misspelling Affirms Best Spiritual Care



BY NORRIS BURKLES

Lisa Nordlander was really the best boss I ever had. When she hired me from the active-duty Air Force, she encouraged me to put aside my Baptist identity and focus on affirming the unique spiritual needs of each patient.

I was so thrilled to go to work for her at Sutter Medical Center in Sacramento that I failed to notice the typo printed on my Spiritual Care ID badge.

It took more than a year, but in 2003, a patient noticed that the word Spiritual was missing two letters – “R-I.”

The patient cupped a hand over her mouth and nose and said, “I probably shouldn’t get any closer if you’re from the “SPIT-ual Care Department.”

After we shared a good laugh, I skedaddled downstairs to have HR (Human Resources) correct the badge.

Little did I know that twelve years later, the identifier “Spit-ual Care” might be appropriate for my new position as a staff chaplain at St. Joseph’s Medical Center in Stockton CA.

One summer day I entered the room of a patient recovering from minor surgery. The man didn’t speak English, but his wife and granddaughter did. After introductions, I learned that the wife was also a shaman.

Shamans are spiritual leaders and healers in the earth-based spirituality of southeast Asia. So, with careful exploration, I asked what I might do to facilitate their faith traditions.

“My grandmother wants to conduct a Hmong ritual.”

“Can you say more?” I asked.

“The rite involves my grandmother putting water in her mouth and spewing it on my grandfather’s surgical site,” the granddaughter said with little emotion.

“Excuse me for a moment,” I said. “Let me ask the nurse how we can do that.”

I dismissed myself and ducked into the nurses’ break room to Google some understanding of the request. ★

My search told me that the patient’s wife was likely blaming “misplaced energy” for precipitating her husband’s illness. She needed the water to perform an “extraction” that would remove the displaced energy that had invaded his body.

I slid my phone back in my pocket and stopped at the nurses’ station for a consult.

“Can she spit water on the wound without risking an infection?” I asked the startled charge nurse.

She thought for a minute and replied, “Yes. The surgical site is stitched and closed. Just use bottled water.”

With that permission, I returned to the room and handed over the sterile water I’d picked up from the nurse.

The patient’s wife opened the bottle, held it to her lips and sloshed the water around in her mouth. Then she tilted her head and – “Plah!” – she spat a mouthful on her husband.

I tried hard not to show scepticism by allowing my “inner Baptist preacher” to run amuck.

I mean, what just happened? I saw no evil spirits come out of the man and there was no instant healing of the wound. I felt uneasy that this family was relying on such archaic beliefs amidst such modern medicine.

As simply as the shaman had begun, she concluded. I was thanked for intervening with nursing staff and given a dismissive nod.

I returned to my office cubicle where I sat wondering what I would write in this patient’s chart. I wasn’t entirely sure what I’d accomplished.

However, as much as anything, good spiritual care had been merged into the Hippocratic Oath – “First, do no harm.” I had not ridiculed the woman or passed judgment on her request. I had not put up barriers or implied that she was inconveniencing the staff.

But more concretely, I noted an observable change in contentedness within the family. Reverence for their request had helped build a sacred, nonjudgmental space for worship.

Amid medical uncertainty, the family rekindled and celebrated their own truths. The ritual helped them navigate the harsh maze of medicine and restored meaning to their world.

And that’s what I charted.

I was left with only one more thing to consider.

How would my new employer respond if I asked them to change my badge ID to read “Spit-ual Care?” ★

Elementary School Bond Committee Seeks Members

By Galt Joint Union Elementary School District

GALT, CA (MPG) - To complete needed repairs and improvements across our community schools in the elementary school district, the voters in Galt approved a \$27 million

school improvement bond measure, Measure H, that was on the November 2024 ballot.

Measure H is a huge investment in our educational system and community.

The district is in the process of developing a Citizen’s Bond Oversight

Committee that will review annual bond audits and ensure funds are spent as intended.

The district is holding an informational meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, email superintendent@galt.k12.ca.us. ★

MEETING MINDERS

Tuesday, Jan. 21
Galt City Council, 6 p.m., Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive.

Thursday, Jan. 23
Lions Club, 6:30 p.m. social and 7 p.m. meeting, Galt Place, 400 D St., 209-745-5921.

p.m., Hendrickson Hall, 12746 Ivie Road, Herald, 916-568-2800.

Wednesday, Jan. 22
Galt-Arno Cemetery District, 4 p.m., 14180 Joy Drive, 209-745-2581.

Friday, Jan. 24
Southeast Area Community Planning Advisory Council, 7

Friday, Jan. 24
Galt Sunrise Rotary, 7 a.m., Comfort Inn & Suites, 10380 Twin Cities Road, 209-745-6617. ★

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Brighten a Senior's Day

Volunteer with Meals on Wheels Sacramento County

We need compassionate volunteers to deliver meals, support our community cafes, or help with clerical tasks. Your kindness helps our elderly neighbors maintain independence and dignity through improved nutrition.

For more information and to sign up, visit mowsac.org or call (916) 444-9533. Be the reason someone smiles today. Volunteer with us and make a heartfelt difference.

MEMORIAL

JANE ANN KENEFICK • 1/10/1947 — 1/3/2025

Jane Ann Kenefick of Galt, Ca., passed away Jan. 3, 2025, at home peacefully, at age 77, surrounded by her loving family.

Jane was born in Sacramento, Ca., on Jan. 10, 1947, to Cliff Lewis and Mary Jane Compton. Jane married her loving husband, Mike, on Sept. 30, 1967. They welcomed two children, Kelly and Kristi, to their family. Jane and Mike settled on their ranch in Galt where they raised their family and celebrated many holidays, parties and brandings.

Jane was a homemaker and ran the Kenefick Ranch and Kenefick Sand and Gravel for years alongside her loving husband, Mike. Earlier in life, Jane was an active supporter of Herald 4-H Club, Galt FFA and sports events. She was honored to serve on the Arcohe School Board for seven years. Jane enjoyed traveling and vacationing with her family and friends. Jane, “Nana,” will be greatly missed by many.

Jane is survived by her husband of 57 years, Mike Kenefick; son, Kelly (Angie) Kenefick; daughter, Kristi (Jack) Dalton; grandchildren, Kimberly (Chance) Denier and Katie Dalton; and great-grandchild Lane Denier.

Jane will be laid to rest at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, at St. Christopher’s Catholic Church, 950 S. Lincoln Way, Galt.

Celebration of Life gathering will follow at Champaign Ranch, 12174 Borden Road, Herald. Flowers can be sent to Kenefick Family, 12001 Alta Mesa Road, Galt.

The family requests that remembrances be made to Shriners Children’s Hospital in memory of Jane Kenefick.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Worship with us!

Grace & Discipleship ~ Revelation 12:17
Galt Adventist Church
209/745-1977
Pastor, Jim Witcome

619 Myrtle Ave
Galt, CA 95632

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Galt Adventist School
Lisa Willis, Principal ~ galtadventistschool@gmail.com

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One mile east of Arcohe School
(209) 748-2242

To advertise contact us at
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Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

The Galt Herald is a member of **Messenger Publishing Group**

To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email to: Publisher@mpg8.com.

Be sure to place in the subject field “Attention to Publisher”. If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.

The Galt Herald

Serving Galt and Sacramento County since 1901

It is the intent of *The Galt Herald* to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

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Subscriptions should be mailed to *The Galt Herald*, 217 Fourth Street, Galt, CA 95632. Subscription rate is \$52 per year within Galt, \$72 within Sacramento County.

The Galt Herald is published weekly. Call our main office (916) 773-1111 for more information. Visit www.MPG8.com.

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Donate Formalwear to Library's Annual Prom Drive



In 2024, more than 900 teens shopped free Prom Giveaway events at the Sacramento Public Library locations. Photos courtesy of Sacramento Public Library

Sacramento Public Library News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Ready to retire formal wear collecting dust in your closet? Give your glam a new home. Starting Jan. 21, Sacramento Public Library will accept donations of jackets, ties, dresses, shoes and accessories for its annual Prom Drive. Visit www.saclibrary.org/prom for full details.

Drop off gently-used formalwear from Jan. 21 through Feb. 1, at any library location during regular hours of operations. Donated clothing, shoes, jewelry and accessories should be free of holes, stains, rips and tears. A variety of styles and sizes including extended and plus are needed.

The library will host a series of Prom Giveaway events in the spring. Teens can browse the free collection and take home the perfect outfit for their special night. Last year, more than 900 teens shopped free Prom Giveaway events at the library.



The Sacramento Public Library is accepting gently used formalwear from Jan. 21 through Feb. 1 at any library location during regular hours of operations. Photos courtesy of Sacramento Public Library

"Prom should be a celebration, not a financial burden. Our Prom Drive ensures that every teen has the chance to shine without worrying about the cost," said Christie Hamm, Sacramento Public Library Youth Services manager. "This initiative, created by teens for teens, allows them to express themselves through the perfect outfit and make lasting memories."

Sacramento Public Library is committed to removing barriers and expanding access for all

in our community. From free access to information and technology to a range of learning opportunities and experiences, the Sacramento Public Library strives to meet the community's needs.

The Prom Drive is one of many programs for youth. Teens are invited to a free night of fun at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria from 8 to 11 p.m. Jan. 25. Library After Hours: Teen Takeover will feature video games, a deejay, board games, food and drinks. ★

Volunteer Award Nominations Now Open

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Adult and Aging Commission is now taking applications for its "5 Over 50" Volunteer Award.

If you know someone who makes Sacramento County a better place to live and is 50 years old or older, now is your chance to celebrate them. Each year, the "5 Over 50" Volunteer Award recognizes outstanding members of our community.

The "5 Over 50" Awards will be presented during a Sacramento County Board of Supervisors meeting in May. The award is presented in May to coincide with Older Americans Month. Five nominees will receive the award, with one person selected from each district within Sacramento County.



The Sacramento County Adult and Aging Commission is accepting applications for its "5 Over 50" Volunteer Award through Feb. 7. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Nominees must be 50 years old or older, actively involved in volunteer work, and residents of Sacramento County. Two letters of reference are required as part of the application. Applications are due Friday, Feb. 7.

If you know someone who meets the criteria and has made an impact in Sacramento County, nominate them for the "5 Over 50" Volunteer Award. Learn more about the

application process and access the form by visiting the Adult and Aging Commission website at www.dcfas.saccounty.net/SAS/Pages/Adult-and-Aging-Commission.aspx.

Sacramento County's Adult and Aging Commission members look forward to celebrating the winners. Winners will also be featured on Sacramento County's website and YouTube channel. ★

Supporting Dry January Goals

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - As the new year begins, Sacramento County is highlighting the importance of a healthy start by recognizing January as Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month. Many might unknowingly celebrate this month with positive "new year, new me" changes such as "Dry January," which encourages individuals to limit or eliminate their consumption of alcohol and drugs to promote physical and mental well-being. This is also a great opportunity to evaluate your relationship with drugs and alcohol and seek treatment if needed.

Substance use disorder affects countless individuals and families, often showing signs that can be easily overlooked. These warning signs include drastic changes in mood or behavior, such as irritability, impulsivity or depression, as well as shifts in eating or sleeping habits, memory blackouts and neglect of home or work



Sacramento County is highlighting the importance of a healthy start to the new year. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

responsibilities.

Arguments about alcohol or drug use, strong cravings and risky behaviors such as driving under the influence are also key indicators.

For those struggling with substance use, Sacramento County offers comprehensive prevention and treatment services for youth and adults. The Behavioral Health Services, Screening and Coordination team is available 24/7 for screenings and referrals to appropriate treatment providers.

Individuals seeking help

can call 916-875-1055, CA Relay 711 or toll-free at 888-881-4881 to take the first step toward recovery.

By promoting awareness and access to treatment, Sacramento County representatives hope to encourage residents to reflect on their relationship with alcohol and drugs, take steps to improve their health and support loved ones who might be in need. Remember, recovery is possible and resources are available every day of the year to assist those on their journey. ★

Shape Sac County's Economic Future Together



Three meetings in January will be to go over Sacramento County's updated Economic Development Strategic Plan. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County's Office of Economic Development (OED) invites residents, business owners and stakeholders to participate in shaping the county's updated Economic Development Strategic Plan (EDSP). Three community meetings, two in-person and one virtual, will provide opportunities for the public to share insights and help craft a shared vision for Sacramento County's economic future.

These meetings are part of the county's ongoing effort to create a comprehensive roadmap that supports equitable economic growth, job creation and resource prioritization.

The first in-person community meeting will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 22 at the North Highlands Recreation and Park District at 6040 Watt Ave. in North Highlands. Residents can register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sac-county-economic-development-strategic-plan-update-community-meeting-tickets-1115898826429?aff=oddtcreator>.

The second in-person meeting will be from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Jan. 22 at the Sacramento County Health Department at 7001 East Parkway, Suite A, Sacramento. Residents can

register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sac-county-economic-development-strategic-plan-update-community-meeting-tickets-1115903650859?aff=oddtcreator>.

The third meeting is a virtual meeting from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Jan. 30 on Zoom. To register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sac-county-economic-development-strategic-plan-update-community-meeting-tickets-1115904563589?aff=oddtcreator>.

Meeting objectives are to hear from community members about economic development priorities; collaborate on a shared vision that reflects collective goals for Sacramento County; and inform the development of an inclusive economic development strategy.

These events are open to all Sacramento County residents, workers and business owners, and focus on addressing the needs of unincorporated areas. Your participation is vital to ensure the updated strategy reflects the diverse perspectives and priorities of our community.

For additional details on the Economic Development Strategic Plan process and to stay updated on progress, visit the Economic Development Strategic Plan webpage at economic.saccounty.gov. For any questions, email Jean Coleman at colemanj@saccounty.gov. ★

2024 Seventh-Best Year for Region's New Home Sales

North State Building Industry Association News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Well above-average new home sales in December pushed sales for the year to just under 7,000, making 2024 the seventh-best year for sales in the Sacramento region since the North State Building Industry Association (BIA) began keeping records.

The Building Industry Association announced Jan. 7 that its members reported selling 398 new homes in December, bringing the yearly total to 6,993. That figure is up 8% from 2023 and is 35% higher than the average year since records began being kept in 1997.

Building Industry Association President and CEO Tim Murphy said area builders are optimistic that the market for new homes will remain robust in 2025.

"While mortgage interest rates remain higher than expected, there is still high demand for new homes, and we are optimistic that trend will continue into 2025," Murphy said. "Many builders are able to offer incentives that make new homes more affordable, and the advantages of buying new are clearly a major selling point as well."

December's sales total was down 24% from November, which is normal as December is historically the slowest month for builders. Sales for the month



The Building Industry Association announced Jan. 7 that its members reported selling 398 new homes in December. MPG file photo

were even with December 2023 and were 24% above the monthly average. As with sales for the year, it was the seventh-best December on record.

For the year, Rancho Cordova nosed out Roseville for the most sales with 620, five sales more than the usual leader. Sacramento was third with 431, followed by Elk Grove (428) and Folsom (331.) Note that total sales for 2024 have been true up by including statistics for a handful of builders who do not report on a monthly basis. Thus, the monthly figures and the annual total for 2024 are different.

Building Industry Association statistics include sales by members in Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties. ★

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Square Dance Classes on Mondays

The Diamond Dancers Square Dance Club hosts social square-dancing classes in Galt. The classes are open to everyone and are held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays at the Valley Oaks Grange Hall. The classes are formatted for flexibility and students can learn numerous square dance calls in about three months. The Valley Oaks Grange Hall is at 347 Fifth St.

For more information, call Sue Regadanz at 916-835-8916.

Nar-Anon Family Group Meetings

Narcotics Anonymous (Nar-Anon) family group meetings for friends and family members who are dealing with drug addiction are held locally from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays at the Galt United Methodist Church, 571 C St. in Galt.

Meals on Wheels Cafe Accepting Older Adults

Meals on Wheels is accepting new participants in its Galt All Seasons Café located in the Chabolla Community Center, 600 Chabolla Ave.

The café is open at 11:30 a.m. Mondays through Fridays for adults age 60 and older. Those interested can apply at the Chabolla Center when meals are being served or they can call 916-444-9533.

Senior Bingo Weekly at Chabolla

The Galt Commission on Aging is hosting free Senior Bingo games at the Chabolla Community Center at 600 Chabolla Ave. from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays (except holidays and when required by the city). Seniors of Galt and its immediate vicinity are invited to have fun and play bingo together and socialize.

Cosumnes DAR Chapter Accepting New Members

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is accepting new members into its Rio Cosumnes Chapter in the Elk Grove/Galt community.

The nonprofit, nonpolitical volunteer women's service organization is dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education for children.

Members are all lineal descendants of those who supported the cause of

independence in the Revolutionary War.

For more information on the Rio Cosumnes Chapter's monthly meetings or membership, contact Registrar Paula Schroeder at egdarregistrar@gmail.com.

Library Offers Older Adults Computer Time

In cooperation with the Galt Commission on Aging, the Galt-Marian O. Lawrence Library will schedule a set time for older adults to use its computers, upon request. Those 65 and older who want computer time can call the library at 916-264-2920. Staff will help set up the computer or tablet. The library is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 1000 Caroline Ave.

City After-Hours Assistance

After-hours assistance is available at the Galt Public Works and Parks and Recreation departments. For Public Works concerns, call the Galt Police Department nonemergency line at 209-366-7000. The Parks Maintenance Division is available for scheduled field or facility use assistance only from 10 p.m. Mondays to Fridays and from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Call 209-810-0293

Recycle Household Batteries

City of Galt residents can recycle their household batteries in one of two green household-battery recycling bins: on the west side at the front entrance to the Galt Police Department or on the east side at Galt Community Park, just west of the fire station. The green bin is only for dry-cell household batteries.

For additional information, contact the Public Works Department at 209-366-7260.

Nominate Your Neighbor

The Galt Beautification Committee wants you to "nominate your neighbor." Has your neighbor recently completed a yard project? Does your neighbor have the best flowers in town or the best-looking yard? The Galt Beautification Committee wants to know. Send an email with pictures and why you are nominating your neighbor to planningdivision@cityofgalt.org.

The best submissions will be included in future newsletters and City Manager Updates. ★

POLICE LOGS

During the time period of Jan. 7 to Jan. 13, Galt Police received and responded to a variety of calls, resulting in seven arrests.

Jan. 7

11:50 a.m., Warrant service/adult arrest, Church of Christ, North Lincoln Way.

1:13 p.m., Warrant service/adult arrest, Highway 99 Northbound/Twin Cities Road.

9:30 p.m., Domestic violence/adult arrest, Plains Court.

Jan. 8

9:44 a.m., Kost Road/Joy Drive: City water department site fence damaged.

10:51 a.m., Fraud, Second Street: credit card fraud.

1:32 p.m., Theft, Creekside Way: License plate stolen.

Jan. 9

7:29 a.m., Narcotics violation/adult arrest, Max Muscle Nutrition & Wellness on C Street.

8 a.m., Warrant service/adult arrest, Galt Express Laundromat on Pine Street.

10:51 p.m., Narcotics violation/adult arrest, Bergeron Road/Twin Cities Road.

Jan. 10

12:27 p.m., Identity theft, Ripken Avenue.

1:13 p.m., Attempt theft/tampering, Fumasi Drive: Registration tag stolen off vehicle.

1:55 p.m., Burglary, Allport Drive: Flute stolen.

3:01 p.m., Battery, Lapwing Lane.

6:50 p.m., Violation of city ordinance/adult arrest, Ace Hardware, C Street.

7:53 p.m., Stolen

vehicle, Downing Drive.

Jan. 11

3:10 p.m., Battery, Corral Place.

Jan. 12

3:58 p.m., Trespassing, Third Street.

Jan. 13

11:07 a.m., Identity theft, Los Flores Court.

11:30 a.m., Burglary, Roenspie + Johnson Real Estate on C Street: Subjects took propane tanks.

1:31 p.m., Theft, Trailridge Apartments on North Lincoln Way: Black Huffly Beach Cruiser stolen.

3:15 p.m., Vandalism, Civic Drive/C Street: Blue paint on Kevin Tonn Memorial and surrounding.

5:02 p.m., Vandalism, Third Street: Front windshield of truck shattered. ★

U.S. Population to Exceed 340 Million, Census Expects

By Daniel Canfield, Compiled from the United States Census Bureau Website

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The U.S. Census Bureau projected the U.S. population would reach 341,145,670 at midnight EST, on Jan. 1, 2025. This represents an increase of 2,640,171 (0.78%) from Jan. 1, 2024, and an increase of 9,696,329 (2.93%) from Census Day (April 1) 2020.

By comparison, just before the nation's independence nearly 250 years ago, the 13 colonies had about 2.5 million residents.

In January 2025, the United States is expected to experience one birth every 9.0 seconds and one death every 9.4 seconds. Net international migration is expected to add one person to the U.S. population every 23.2 seconds.

The combination of births, deaths and net international migration increases the U.S. population by one person every 21.2 seconds.

The projected world population on Jan. 1, 2025, is 8,092,034,511, up 71,178,087 (0.89%) from New Year's Day 2024. During January 2025, 4.2 births and 2.0 deaths are expected worldwide every second.

The Census Bureau's Population Clock,

located at www.census.gov/popclock/, displays simulated real-time growth of the United States and world populations. The U.S. Population Clock shows the population by age (0 to 100+) and sex, as well as the highest-density states, counties and cities.

At the end of each year, a revised series of population estimates from the census date forward is used to update the short-term projections for the population clock. Once the updated series of monthly projections is completed, the daily population clock values are derived by interpolation. Within each calendar month, the daily numerical population change is assumed to be constant, subject to negligible differences caused by rounding.

The U.S. Population Clock identifies California as currently the most populous state in the U.S. with a population of 39,431,263, up 466,070 (1.2%) from a year ago.

Rounding out the top five most populous U.S. states is Texas in second place with a population of 31,290,831, Florida in third place with a population of 23,372,215, New York in fourth place with a population of 19,867,248 and Pennsylvania in fifth place with a population of 13,078,751. ★



City of Plymouth California

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Account Clerk II

\$4,748.71 - \$5,772.08 per month

The City of Plymouth is seeking an Account Clerk II, under general supervision from the City Manager, to perform a full range of professional level accounting tasks and duties, including maintaining, developing and analyzing fiscal statements and records; prepares financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and Governmental Accounting Standards; performs other related duties as required.

1 Full-Time Position Available

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open Until Filled

Application materials are online at www.cityofplymouth.org. Application materials can be emailed, mailed or hand-delivered to Plymouth City Hall, Human Resources, 9426 Main Street/P. O. Box 429, Plymouth, CA 95669; emailed to vmchenry@cityofplymouth.org; faxed (209)245-6953.

THE POSITION

This is the journey level class in the Account Clerk series and is responsible for a full range of financial record keeping transactions including accounts payable, accounts receivable, utility billing, collection and taxation. Incumbents may be assigned a variety of accounting related responsibilities and are expected to perform more detailed non-professional accounting duties. This classification is distinguished from the next lower-level classification of Account Clerk I by the performance of the full range of duties working with minimal supervision and performing the more complex assignments in all areas.

Qualifications/Requirements:

Two years of accounting and financial work and a bachelor's degree in accounting, business administration or related field preferred, but not required. Any combination of education and experience which would provide the required knowledge, skills and abilities is qualifying. To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. Applicant must be able to communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing; establish and maintain effective working relationships in a professional manner.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Candidates must submit application materials that include a complete and signed employment application. The materials can be mailed or hand-delivered to Plymouth City Hall, Human Resources, 9426 Main Street/P. O. Box 429, Plymouth, CA 95669, or emailed to vmchenry@cityofplymouth.org.

Candidates considered to be best qualified based on the information provided will move forward in the recruitment process.

The City of Plymouth is an equal opportunity employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, political affiliation, age, marital status, medical condition, or disability. The City of Plymouth makes reasonable accommodations for the disabled. If you believe you require special accommodation in the testing/interview process, you must inform the City of Plymouth in writing prior to the testing. Applicants that request such accommodation must document their request with an explanation of the type and extent of accommodation required.

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Carmichael, CA 95668

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08564
Tyler James Mackenzie, 800 S Lincoln Way, Unit C, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Get it Gone Junk Removal" 800 S Lincoln Way, Unit C, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 13, 2024
Publish: January 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025
GET 1-31-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-00154
Underwood Hauling and Junk Removal LLC, 691 Cedar Flat

Avenue, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Noble Doody" 691 Cedar Flat Avenue, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 9, 2025
Publish: Jan 17, 24, 31, Feb 7, 2025
NOBLE 2-7-25

ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#24CV024003

Ashiesh Chand has filed a petition with this court for a decree

changing the name(s) of Ashiesh Chand to Warehn Chand Vurtan.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on March 27, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 54, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: December 30, 2024
Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: January 10, 17, 24, 31, 2025
CHAND 1-31-25



PUBLIC NOTICE

Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEARBY GIVEN pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 2041, subdivision (C) that:

Beginning on January 30, 2025 public property will be posted for competitive bidding and sale on <https://www.govdeals.com/SacramentoYoloMosquitoVectorControl>

Each online public sale will begin approximately by 3 PM PST and And will continue for a period of ten (10) days. The property will be sold to the highest bidder upon auction close. If you are interested in bidding on the property, go to: <https://www.govdeals.com/SacramentoYoloMosquitoVectorControl> for instructions on how to place a bid.

If you have any questions concerning this sale or the property to be sold, please contact:

Robert Fowler
(916) 405-2069
rfowler@fighthebite.net

ABOUT TOWN

Chili Cook-off at River Rock Brewery Jan. 25

River Rock Brewery is hosting a chili cook-off Jan. 25 to help raise money for the Sunshine Food Pantry in Galt. To sign up, register at River Rock Brewery, 608 N. Lincoln Way. Only eight spots were available as of Jan. 8, and each entry is \$25.

Participants should bring their chili pre-cooked and ready to be judged. First place will take home \$100, in addition to bragging rights; second place will earn \$50 and third place will take home a \$25 River Rock Brewery gift card. In addition to the chili cook-off, attendees can enjoy \$5 beers throughout the event and take part in raffle prizes and a silent auction.

All the proceeds from the event will benefit the Sunshine Food Pantry.

18th Annual Winter Bird Festival on Feb. 1

The city of Galt is hosting the 18th annual Winter Bird Festival on Feb. 1.

The free event, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at McCaffrey Middle School, provides local ornithologists a chance to learn more about their avian subjects, and enjoy local tours of nature preserves, take in bird photography, workshops and more.

Elk Grove Community Band Concert Feb. 3

The next Elk Grove Community Concert Band Concert, free for the community, is from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3 in the Multipurpose Room at Joseph Kerr Middle School, 8865 Elk Grove Blvd. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Christopher J. Tootle is musical director

of the band, which includes professional, semi-professional and amateur adult musicians; and talented Elk Grove Unified School District school musicians.

The band's future concerts are April 7 and May 19. Learn more at elkgrovecommunityband.org.

American Legion Post 233

American Legion Post 233 and Auxiliary Unit 233 has general meetings the fourth Thursday each month at 7 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 9240 Survey Road, Elk Grove. Dinner at 6 p.m.

Elk Grove American Legion Post 233 Family Breakfast meets the first Saturday each month with location TBD. Currently we meet at Mimi's Cafe on the corner of Laguna Boulevard and West Stockton Boulevard (just off Highway 99).

For information, call Henry at 916-205-9296 or Sue at 916-683-6128.

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 233 meets the first Monday each month at 5:45 p.m. at the Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove.

Other Veterans Meetings Listed

American Legion Post 55, Veterans and Auxiliary Units: fourth Wednesday. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive. Breakfast: second Saturday, 8-10 a.m., 8830 Sharkey Ave.

Marine Corps League: first Thursday. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting, 7p.m., Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive.

VFW Post 2073: second Thursday. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



A team in search of an identity. That's all we've heard from the pundits all year. The Kings don't have an identity. They can't figure out who they are.

A six-game losing streak and falling six games below 500 cost coach Mike Brown his job.

Monte McNair and Vivek Ranadive were roundly criticized and vociferously so from columnists and even talk show hosts from Kings radio station 1140 AM.

Even the hiring of Doug Christie was met with raised eyebrows as he leap frogged over other assistant coaches with more experience.

Winners of seven out of eight games since Christie took over, including an eye popping seven straight wins, has fans and pundits singing an entirely different tune.

Winning five straight home games was amazing to be sure, but we were all prepared for what the inevitable would be when the Kings entered the Boston Garden. World Champs from last year and playing some of the best basketball in the NBA, the Celtics take no prisoners on their home court.

All that the Kings did was hand Boston their worst defeat of the season and win by an overwhelming 17 points! Platitudes alone don't tell the story. This was the Sacramento Kings at their finest hour, playing frenetic and inspired defense that Sactown fans had been dreaming of. Oh, did I mention that Kings leading scorer and point guard DeAaron Fox sat this one out with a hip injury?

It's time to get on your feet Sacramento and put your hands together, because this unit of basketball players deserves a standing ovation.

Sunday, DeMar DeRozan went into Chicago with his teammates riding a 6-game winning streak, and the game was a see-saw event with a total of 28 lead changes. Zach LaVine looked as though he was a one-man wrecking crew, and regardless of who the Kings put on him, LaVine did pretty much what he wanted. Add to that an inspired game by Lonzo Ball and this contest had all the makings of a game where winning streaks die.

The Kings played a style of defense once again that we have rarely seen, and

at crunch time took care of the ball, all the while making timely baskets. DeRozan was there to remind his former teammates why he was a 6-time all-star, and his 21 points were crucial to the Kings victory.

Domantas Sabonis continued his torrid streak with another stellar game, scoring 22 and adding 15 huge boards. His eight assists were only eclipsed only by Malik Monk's nine, but in this victory, everyone played a part.

Admittedly the Kings are on a roll, and this team is fun to watch.

So, what's changed? If you ask the players, they will say that since Doug Christie took over, they are playing loose and having fun. The results don't lie, but why couldn't former coach Mike Brown achieve the same results.

Part of the answer lies in his desire to experiment with his bench on a constant basis, to the point that no one knew from game-to-game whether they would get significant minutes or no playing time at all. This type of coaching smacks a player's confidence, and it showed in bench players and starters alike.

There is no question that being a former NBA player brings a different perspective to a basketball team, and Doug Christie has their attention in a very positive way.

At this point, fans are taking a completely different attitude, and after giving the Celtics their worst defeat of the season and being only one of two teams to hold the world champs to under 100 points, anything looks possible.

So, how has this affected the Kings and their organization? Well, it quells crazy trade rumors and puts Sacramento in a much better bargaining position as it relates to players that might bolster the front court and give Sabonis some support.

The desultory play of the past is just that, past. This team is bent on showing DeAaron Fox why being a King for life is the ticket to happiness, and nothing would make me happier than to see DeAaron Fox in a Kings uniform for the next 10 years!

Stay tuned Kings fans because this is just heating up, and the best is yet to come!

All be best!
Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

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Today, more than 150 years later, the cable car is considered to be a moving national landmark for the city of San Francisco. And Cable Car Day is here

to celebrate these and others all over the world!

Some fun facts: In San Francisco, the first cable car line came at a hefty price tag of \$85,150, which translates to more than \$1.6 million today. Before the earthquake in 1906, San Francisco had more than 600 cable cars, but the fleet was sadly reduced to fewer than 100 cable cars by 1912. Today it only has 40 cable cars.

The best way to celebrate Cable Car Day is to ride one, but logistics are a hassle unless you live in San Francisco; Los Angeles; Tampa, Fla.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Las Vegas, Nev., Milan, Italy, and a variety of other cities around the country and the world.

But even folks who are nowhere near a cable car railroad can still honor the origins of the invention by patting a horse on the head! LOL.

On another note, I must confess that I love to see some of us still have our Christmas lights up. After all it was Three Kings Day just this past Monday. Did

anyone find a small doll in their piece of cake? Me, neither. Oh well; there is always next year. Back to the lights: Christmas came and went too soon. And next year will be the same. But thanks to those of you who just want to extend Christmas cheer a little long, more power to you. Your lights brighten the dark of night and make us look forward to next year. But we really need to think about getting them stored in the next few weeks before the next storm.

And what about this sunshine? I am loving it! Not too crazy about the morning misty fog. But the afternoon sunshine warms my soul. And the animals are flourishing.

But you know there will be a storm or two around the corner and we must be diligent not to forget to be prepared with flashlights, candles, warm clothing and bedding, and non-perishable food for ourselves and as well as our animals. Spring doesn't arrive until March 20. So, enjoy it while you can. Make some memories in the sunshine.

Until next week – be strong, be courageous, make a memory. ★

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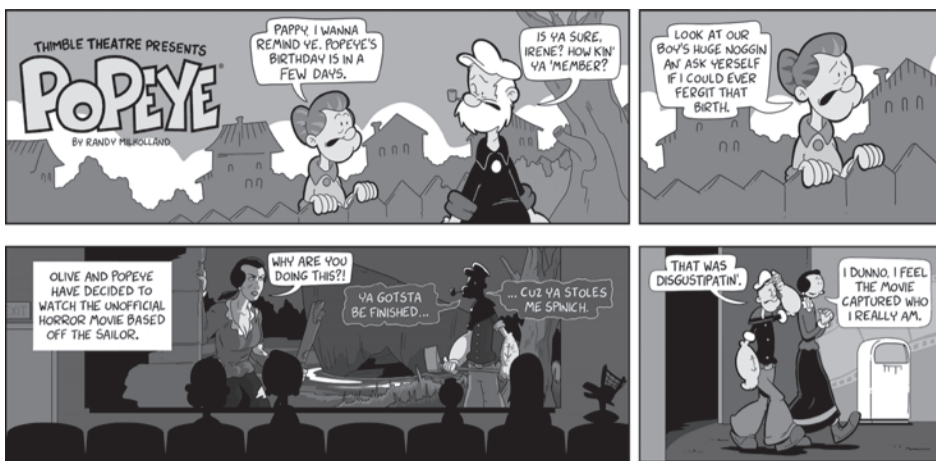


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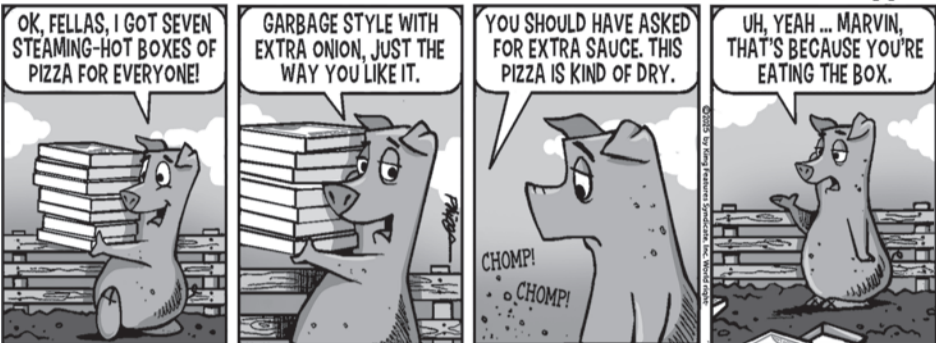
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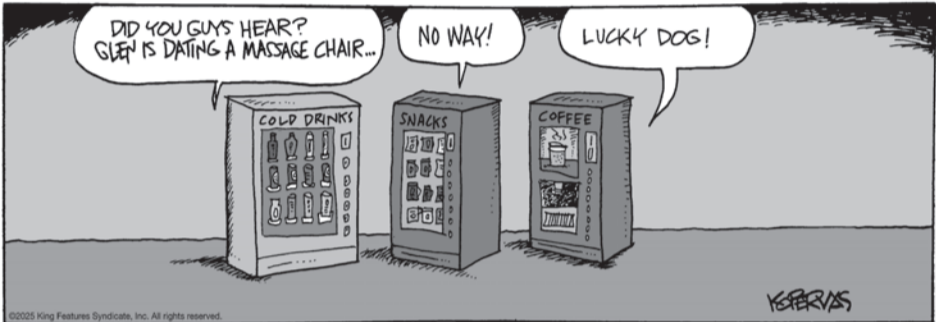


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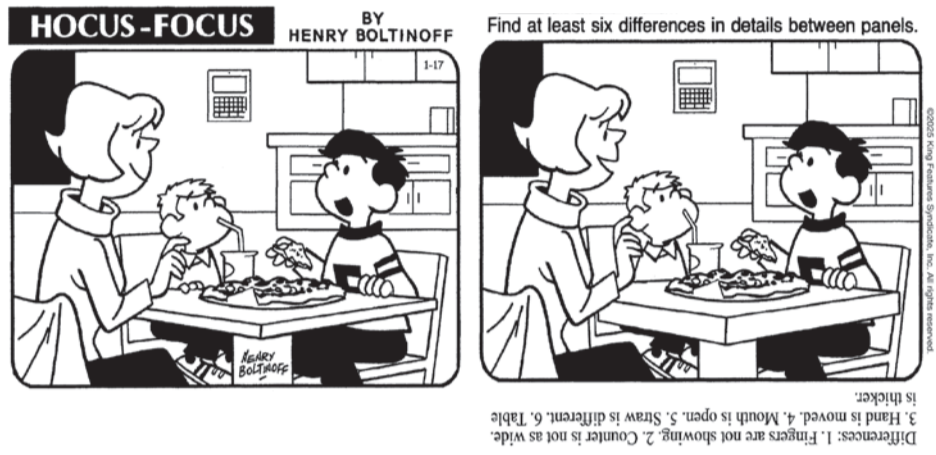


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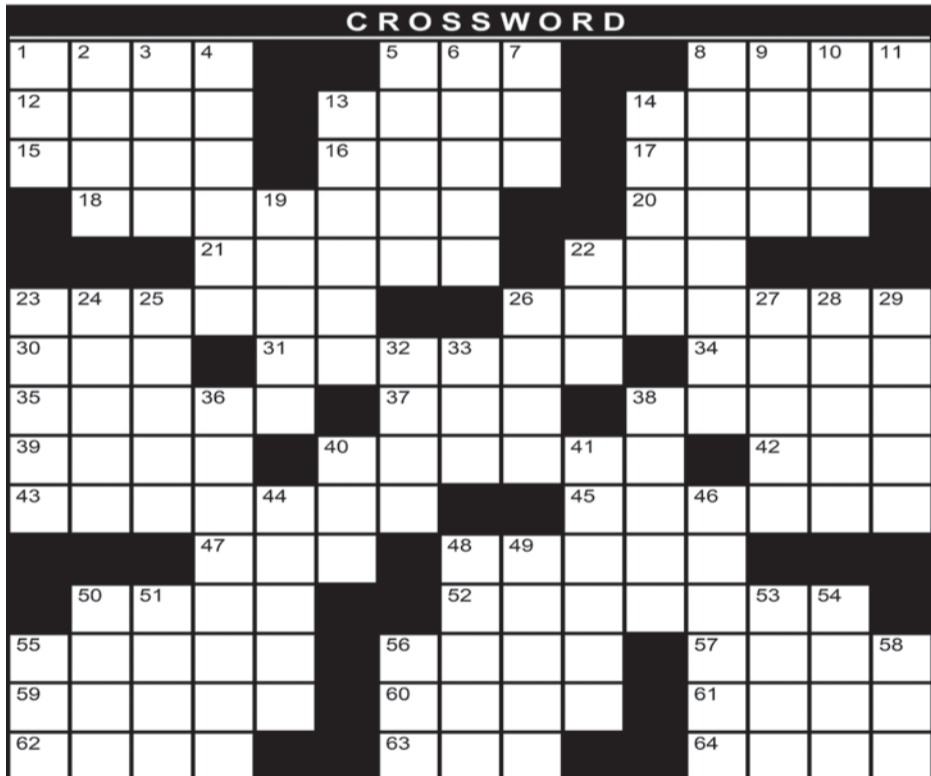
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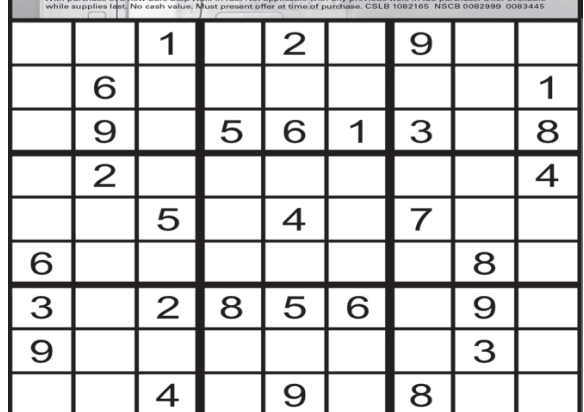
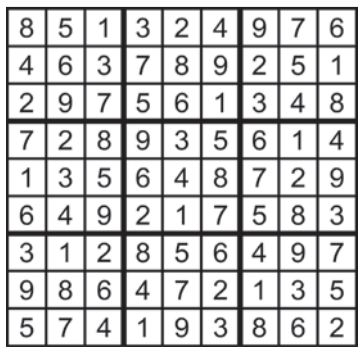


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Athletics Make Themselves at Home

By Martín Gallegos, MLB.com

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - As Major League Baseball's Athletics prepare to begin their temporary relocation to Sutter Health Park in West Sacramento for at least the next three seasons, manager Mark Kotsay and some of the club's top players spent some time getting to know their new community.

The intermingling began on Sunday, Jan. 5, when outfielders Brent Rooker, Lawrence Butler, JJ Bleday and left-hander JP Sears enjoyed a private dinner at Mulvaney's B&L, a Michelin-recommended restaurant located near downtown Sacramento. In addition to being treated to a five-course meal, the players encountered plenty of friendly welcomes from locals who are excited about the opportunity to watch Major League Baseball in their hometown.

"The number one thing that stood out to us was that everybody was super nice and smiling," Sears said on Jan. 6 from the Kimpton Sawyer Hotel in Sacramento. "They're super excited to have us here. It seems like everybody around here is going to be supporting us."

"I've played in so many different cities over the years that, as long as you have good people supporting you, that's all you really ask for as a player from a



The Athletics' mascot Stomper pays a visit to Sutter Health Park in West Sacramento where the Athletics will be playing their 2025 home games. Photo by MLB.com

fan base or city. Just people supporting you and uplifting the team. I think this is a place for that, for sure."

Monday, Jan. 6 also brought some NBA action, as all four players along with Kotsay were invited to sit courtside at Golden 1 Center for a matchup between the Sacramento Kings and Miami Heat. Earlier in the day, they received a tour of Sutter Health Park, which is undergoing major renovations in anticipation of the A's arrival.

Among the ongoing construction to get the ballpark - which will be shared with the Sacramento River Cats, Triple-A

affiliate of the Giants - up to Major League standards is the addition of extra lighting structures around the field, upgraded dugouts and bullpens, and a brand new two-story home clubhouse designed specifically for the A's during their stint.

"It looks good," Rooker said. "We were all very encouraged with the things we saw as far as the amenities and facilities that are important to us as players that we use extensively on a daily basis. The plans look great, and the execution looks great. As a whole, we came away from the tour more optimistic and more excited than we were

beforehand."

On Tuesday, Jan. 7, Rooker, Butler, Sears, Bleday and Kotsay visited Mariemont Elementary school in Sacramento and interacted with the students as part of a recess takeover. Also on the agenda for the group was breakfast and lunch at different food spots around the area, including The Sandwich Spot, which features a sandwich named after current A's radio broadcaster and longtime River Cats broadcaster Johnny Doskow that is fittingly named 'The Dosky.'

"It's very important," Butler said of showing their faces around town. "When you're a

new team coming into a new city, you want to draw fans in. Us going out there signing some hats and giving some hats away, throwing some balls out and taking pictures, that'll be a cool way to get the fans involved and let them know what they're getting."

There already appears to be plenty of local interest drumming up for this young Athletics squad on the rise based on season ticket sales. According to the club, there have already been close to 6,300 seats sold for the season, which leaves only about 3,700 season tickets remaining for Sutter Health Park, which of its total capacity of 14,014 includes 10,624 permanent fixed seats. By the time Opening Day rolls around in March, the Athletics expect a complete sellout for the majority of their home games in 2025, beginning with their home opener against the Cubs on March 31.

"We are expecting to sell out a lot of games, which is exciting for us," Rooker said. "I think the atmosphere is going to be great. ... We're building excitement by just getting out here and meeting people. Developing relationships and getting people excited that we're going to be here and that they get to come to Major League baseball games in their backyard. Adding on to an already existing incredible fan base is what we're trying to do." ★

Sac Republic FC Names New Coach



Former English Premier League player Neill Collins has been named as Sacramento Republic FC's new head coach. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

By Grace Ogata-Beutler, Sacramento Republic FC

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Republic Football Club (FC) announced that Neill Collins has been named as the Indomitable Club's fifth head coach and is set to lead the club beginning with the 2025 season. Per club policy, the terms of the contract were not disclosed.

"Neill is a tremendous addition to our club and his past successes speak for themselves," said Republic FC Managing Partner Kevin Nagle. "I'm excited for our fans and city to get to know Neill and support him as we all look to win a championship."

"We are delighted to welcome Neill and his family to Sacramento," said Republic FC President and General Manager Todd Dunivant. "His history of success in USL, combined with a steady demeanor and well-respected reputation, align with our pursuit of championship hardware. Neill is a proven winner, a fantastic leader, and we have no doubts he is the right man to lead our club forward."

"I first of all would like to thank Todd and Kevin for this fantastic opportunity to join Sacramento Republic. I aim to repay that faith by working hard every day to bring success to everyone associated with the club," said newly appointed Head Coach Neill Collins. "Sacramento have been one of the most consistently successful teams in the USL for the past few years and I can't wait to help build on that platform. I am well aware that Sacramento Republic is more than just what happens on the pitch and I look forward to being part of the community and creating special memories for our fans."

Collins is one of the all-time winningest head coaches in USL Championship history, fifth overall with a record of 94 wins, 42 losses, and 34 draws in six seasons with the Tampa Bay Rowdies. After ending his playing career in Tampa, Neill began his coaching career immediately for the Floridian club and quickly found an upward trajectory.

After reaching the playoffs in 2019, the Rowdies would go on a dominant multi-season run, reaching three straight Eastern Conference Finals and claiming the Eastern Conference title in 2020 and 2021.

Championship Coach of the Year after leading Tampa Bay to the best regular-season record with 23 wins and 71 points, one of the best single-season performances in league history. During the Players' Shield Campaign, the Rowdies posted a nine-game win streak and had held opponents scoreless for 891 consecutive minutes, the longest-ever shutout stretch in USL Championship. They would go on to reach the playoffs for a fifth straight year in 2022 after a 73-goal regular season campaign.

During his time in Tampa Bay, players under the direction of Collins experienced tremendous success. The team accolades would include 6 All-League First Team Selections, 3 All-League Second Team Selections, the 2022 USL Championship Player of the Year, a two-time Defender of the Year, as well as the Goalkeeper of the Year and Golden Glove winner. In four separate seasons, Collins' side finished the season with a goal differential of 20 or more, including a +40 goal differential in 2022, the third largest in league history.

After going undefeated in 15 of the first 20 games of the 2023 USL Championship season, Collins departed Tampa Bay to return to the United Kingdom as the Manager for EFL League One side Barnsley FC (24-15-13). Earlier this year, he made the move to the Scottish Championship to lead Raith Rovers FC.

As a player, Collins amassed 598 appearances, with 35 goals and seven assists. He featured for some of the biggest clubs in Europe, with stints in Premier League, EFL Championship, and EFL League One for Sunderland AFC (2004-2005), Wolves (2006-2008), Leeds United (2009-2010), and Sheffield United (2011-2016). He won three EFL Championship titles and in the 2009-2010 season helped Leeds earn promotion from League One to Championship. He made the jump across the pond to play for Tampa Bay Rowdies in 2016, then playing in the NASL, and made the move to USL Championship with the club in 2017.

Season ticket memberships are now on sale for the 2025 season, offering a range of benefits including discounts on merchandise and access to exclusive fan experiences, as well as priority seats in the new Republic Stadium at The Railyards. For more information, or to purchase a membership today,

Hornet Jaiteh Comes Up Roses in Portland

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sacramento State junior forward Fatoumata Jaiteh parlayed a career afternoon against Portland State in the team's Big Sky Conference opener into league co-player of the week honors on Tuesday, Jan. 4, the conference office announced.

It is Jaiteh's first career player of the week award and the second for a Hornet women's basketball student-athlete after teammate Jaydia Martin picked up honors back on Dec. 10.

In the team's first game in over two weeks, the junior from Lynnwood, Wash., helped power Sacramento State to a victory in its league opener, outlasting the Vikings for a 76-74 overtime win on the road. Jaiteh finished with a collegiate-high 28 points to go with four rebounds, a block and two steals, hitting a near-perfect 6-of-7 from the field and 16-of-19 from the free throw line.



Sacramento State junior forward Fatoumata Jaiteh scored a career-high 28 points against Portland State in the Hornet's Big Sky Conference opener on Jan. 4. Courtesy photo

Of her 28 points, 24 of those came in the second half and overtime, including 13 of those in the fourth quarter, as the Hornets erased an 11-point fourth-quarter deficit to force the extra period. Jaiteh hit all six of her field goals after the break and finished 12-of-13 at the line in the final 25 minutes, including 6-for-6 in the overtime period alone.

Her shooting performance from the field fell

just one make shy of tying the school's Division I era single-game record of 7-for-7 set by Isnelle Natabou against Fresno State in 2022, while her 16 makes from the line were the most by a Hornet since All-American Kristy Ryan made 17 at UC Irvine on Dec. 4, 1993, and were just two shy of Ryan's school single-game record of 18 against Alaska Fairbanks on Jan. 8, 1994.

Jaiteh's 28-point explosion double-up her previous collegiate high of 14 points set at Montana while playing with Northern Arizona on Jan. 5, 2023, and demolished her Sacramento State career high of 10 points set against Cal State Fullerton and matches against UC Davis earlier this season.

It was the second-highest point total by a Hornet this season behind only Martin's 31 points against Kansas City on Dec. 4, while the 16 makes from the free throw line entered the week tied for the fourth-most in a single game in the nation this season. ★

ARC's Cleland Named Cross Country Coach of the Year

American River College Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The California Community College Athletic Association announced their selections for this year's 2025 Head Cross Country Coaches of the Year and American River College's own Melanie Cleland was named the Head Women's Coach of the Year.

Coach Melanie Cleland is responsible for reviving the American River College women's cross country team in just three seasons at the helm. In fall 2024, the American River College women's cross



American River College's Cross Country Coach Melanie Cleland was named the 2025 Head Women's Cross Country Coach of the Year by the California Community College Athletic Association. Photo courtesy of American River College Athletics

at the state championship led by the All-American finish of freshman Alejandra Magana-Ramirez in seventh place and All-State finish by Alanna Laverty in 24th place.

From once struggling

scoring team just a year ago, the American River College women rose up in 2024 and placed second at the NorCal Championship and won the Big 8 conference title. Way to go Beavers and Coach

LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE

PRESENTED BY THE GALT HERALD

Liberty Ranch Wrestling Celebrates Senior Night



Hawk Veronika Shayhen pins her opponent.



Galt's Isaiah Robledo uses his weight to tire out his opponent.



Liberty's Wyatt Correia goes under his opponent for a grab.



Galt's Carson McEwen sizes up his opponent.



Liberty Wrestlers Celebrate Senior Night at their only home match of the season.

Story and Photos by Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Last Wednesday, the Liberty Ranch Hawk wrestling team held their only home match of the season. It was a dual match where both Galt and Liberty wrestled against El Dorado and Union Mine.

The crosstown rivals did not officially wrestle each other because that match is set to be hosted at Galt High School on Wednesday Jan. 29.

While both Galt and Liberty Ranch lost both matches as a team, there were some individual wins.

"We continue to improve and gain momentum," said coach Brian Robinson. "We don't have enough wrestlers to fill all the weight slots this year, so those forfeits really affect the outcome of our matches. We look forward to some of our individuals winning all-league and moving on to sections as the season concludes." ★



Warrior Wyatt Burns on his way to win his match.



Hawk Braden Salbeck prepares to flip his El Dorado opponent.



Hawk Chalo Enriquez sizes up his opponent.



Liberty's Anastasia Richardson pins her Galt opponent in an exhibition match.



Hawk Brandon Eckroth tries to gain the upper hand.



The ref gets low to see if Liberty's Lola Marie Rodriguez-Orozco has the pin.



Hawk Noe Pantaleo tries to turn his opponent.



Liberty's Jaden Vang works to get that shoulder pinned.



Hawk Angel Contreras works his El Dorado opponent.

LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE



PRESENTED BY THE GALT HERALD



Shantiny Lemus takes the ball from an Amador player. Photos by Paige Lampson

Miller Scores Hat Trick Plus One

By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Galt Warrior girls' soccer team is having a great league season with new coach Alejandro Renteria. Their record stands at 5-0, having beat Amador, Argonaut, El Dorado, Bradshaw and Rosemont.

Last week they annihilated new league member Amador 8-0. Senior Bayley Miller contributed a "hat trick" plus one and scored four goals.

Miller has been a leader on the team for four years and she is motivated to win

this year. "My motivation was to show that we are out here to win league and were excited to play," said Miller. "I think all of our team chemistry is really coming together and I am really excited about how we played today."

Shantiny Lemus scored two along with Katie Dalton who also scored two. They worked well as a team and the assists helped to rack up all those points. Brianna Romero had two assists, Lemus-2, Monica Valencia-1, Emilyann Sheldon-1 and Giovanna Melendrez-1. ★



Senior Kylee Chapman, who has played varsity goalie for four years, saves a ball.



Bayley Miller, who scored four goals against Amador, maneuvers easily.



Krista Meier powers past Amador.

Galt Girls Basketball Continues to Improve

By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Coach Jared Moore continues to see improvement as he focuses on the basics.

While the improvement isn't documented by wins, the points scored continue to rack up and improve each game.

The Warriors have had three league games where they beat Bradshaw Christian 40-15 and lost to El dorado and Rosemont.

Freshman Skyler Moore continues to be the point leader, averaging 6.9 per game, while freshman Alexandra Gonzalez Landa averages 5.1 per game. Junior Emily Pena averages 4.3.

Moore has a season total of 110 points, with Landa-82, and Pena-60.

Junior Antanella Feilbach, the tallest on the team, averages 6.4 rebounds while freshman Allison Garcia averages 4.3 and junior Alaya Gunter averages 4.1.

Feilbach has snagged 103 rebounds this season, Gunter-66 and senior Izabella Cathey-62. ★



Antanella Feilbach looks to put the ball in against Tokay. Photos by Paige Lampson



Alaya Gunter with a side toss.

LEAGUE STANDINGS



Girls Soccer

School	W/L
Galt	5-0
Liberty Ranch	5-0
Rosemont	3-2
Argonaut	2-2-1
Bradshaw	2-2-1
Union Mine	0-2-3
El Dorado	0-5
Amador	0-4-1

Boys Soccer

School	W/L
Liberty Ranch	5-0
Galt	5-0
Bradshaw	3-2
El Dorado	2-2-1
Amador	2-3
Union Mine	1-4
Argonaut	0-5

Girls Basketball

School	W/L
Liberty Ranch	3-0
Rosemont	2-1
El Dorado	2-1
Union Mine	2-1
Amador	1-2
Galt	1-2
Argonaut	1-2
Bradshaw	0-3

Boys Basketball

School	W/L
Rosemont	3-0
Union Mine	2-0
Argonaut	2-1
Liberty Ranch	2-2
Bradshaw	1-1
Amador	1-2
Galt	0-2
El Dorado	0-3

GALT HERALD ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Jan. 10	Jan. 17
 <p>Alexandra Gonzales Landa Galt High Basketball</p>	 <p>Savina Villa Galt High Wrestling</p>
 <p>Kendall Duryee Liberty Ranch High Basketball</p>	 <p>Chalo Enriquez Liberty Ranch High Wrestling</p>

Photos by Paige Lampson



Marilyn Kate Miller tries to get in the key.



Alexandra Gonzalez Landa goes for a layup.