

**Galt Hosts** 18th Annual Winter Bird Festival

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Liberty Ranch's Smith Breaks Records, Sets Milestones

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FEBRUARY 7, **2025** 

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### D.A. Questions Early Release for Woman in DUI Collision



Angel Renteria, 19, was struck by a drunk driver in 2022, leaving her with severe brain damage. The person responsible, Devin Calderon, is being considered for an early release program. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

By Sean P.Thomas City Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Local law enforcement agencies are asking the Galt community to sign a petition in opposition to the early release of a woman convicted of hitting a Galt teenager with her car in 2022 and causing significant brain damage.

prison in March 2023 for striking eight-year sentence. She is scheduled

then-16-year-old Galt resident Angel Renteria with a truck while she was walking her dog, leaving the teenager with permanent brain damage and the need to be fed with a tube through her stomach. She also lost the ability to speak and now resides in a long-term rehabilitation center in San Francisco.

Calderon is being considered for Devin Calderon was convicted an early release program after serv-and sentenced to eight years in ing just 22 months out of the original committed and the consequences

for early release on Feb. 21 to the Community Transitional Reentry Program.

In a letter of opposition sent to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, District Attorney Thien Ho shared a quote from Angel's father, Fernando Renteria: "Angel's got a life sentence, and this lady is serving less than two years."

Continued on Page 2

### **Utility Critics** Call **Equity Profits Excessive**

By Malena Carollo CalMatters.org

Making sense of the alphabet soup of charges on a monthly power bill is challenge enough. But there's a surprising cost baked into customers' bills that doesn't have its own line item.

A portion of each payment goes directly in the pockets of shareholders. Called a "return on equity," the amount is meant to compensate investor-owned utilities for the risk of doing business. It pays back shareholders for their investment in the companies and helps utilities maintain a higher credit rating to attract better loan rates for future

projects.

Each state's utility regulator, including the California Public Utilities Commission, is responsible for determining these often double digit rates of return, which is a key part of utilities' profits. Studies found that the shareholder rates regularly outpace a common economic benchmark, costing customers across the country as much as \$7 billion annually. CalMatters examined these rates since 2020 and found they amount to hundreds of millions of dollars annually

Approved rates of return in the state are hovering around 10%, more than double the rate for the benchmark, 10-year U.S. treasury bonds. Utilities can earn less than that if they do not meet performance targets, but California's three major investor-owned utilities still earned hundreds of millions of dollars from return on equity in 2023. Critics call that excessive and say utilities are exaggerating the risks they face.

from California customers.

"Across all the utilities, we seem to be providing some rather generous rates," said David Rode, a Carnegie Mellon University professor who studies decision making in finance and utilities. "It's easy to look at a single utility and go, 'well this rate makes sense for this utility' and miss the broader implications(but)... It's kind of like missing the forest for the trees."

Customers across the state are facing steep power bills from the state's three main investor-owned power companies. Californians pay among the highest electricity rates in the country, the largest

Continued on Page 5

### **Judge Denies Placement** of Sexual Predator Near Galt



Members of the Galt community wait outside of the courtroom on Jan. 31 in preparation of a placement hearing for a sexually violent predator just outside of the Galt city limits.

Story and Photo by Sean P. Thomas City Editor

#### SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -

A Sacramento Superior Court judge ruled against placing a sexually violent predator in the unincorporated region of Sacramento County, just over a halfmile outside of the Galt city limits, during a hearing

on Jan. 31.

Judge Kenneth Brody ruled against Christopher Dryden's placement at the home, citing concerns over area, estimated 45-minute law enforcement response times and GPS accuracy.

families and children in the Brody also recognized concerns over the future

homes that are sched-

uled to go on sale near the

residence, potentially in the next year.

"We are satisfied with the court's decision," Galt Police Chief Brian Kalinowski said after the 50-minute hearing. "It is the wrong placement in the wrong location. We recognize that the state struggles with adhering with state law about placement of these SVPs, but when and

where those placements shock the conscious and affect the quality of life of those individuals, whether that is in Galt or immediately adjacent to Galt, that will affect the residents of Galt, we will stand with the residents and push back where we can.'

The Department of State Hospitals recommended Continued on Page 4

GaltHerald.com

### City Council Votes to Send Delegates to D.C.

By Sean P. Thomas City Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Move over, Mr. Smith; the Galt City Council is going to Washington.

The Galt City Council on Tuesday voted unanimously to send the entire council on a networking trip to Washington, D.C., from May 3-7, part of the 53rd annual Capitol-to-Capitol federal advocacy effort. The delegates will join over 400 other members on the trip.

The annual conference is organized by the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce and provides an opportunity for local delegates to secure funding and resources for high-priority projects across California, and to rub shoulders with decision-makers in the nation's capital.

Council member Bonnie Rodriguez, whose daughter currently works for a congressman in Washington, said she was told that networking events like Capitol-to-Capitol give city officials, especially from small towns, an opportunity to advocate for local projects that might slip under the radar of federal officials.

"This is just one of those opportunities that gets us, with our regional partners, to help them to understand where we are sitting so they can help us to get the legislatures to make some decisions that will help us," Rodriguez said.

The agenda item approving the trip initially mentioned just three representatives, one of which was originally going to be interim City Manager Chris Erias, but at the meeting it was announced that Erias declined to go in lieu of members from his staff or other council members.

It was later decided that there was enough room in the city's travel budget to send all five of the council members, if they opted to go. All five of the council voiced interest in the trip, if their schedules aligned. The trip will cost about \$5,000 per

council member that chooses to go. No one from Galt has opted to go on the trip for about seven years.

"I think that the city of Galt needs to start getting involved regionally," Rodriguez said. "This is a great networking opportunity not just there in D.C., but with our regional people."

Rodriguez noted plans to widen Highway 99 and an interchange at Walnut Avenue as potential projects that could be discussed for funding.

During public comment, Galt resident Chris Brosman said he believed that the money would better be served at the local level and questioned if the delegation's voice would be drowned out

"I'm not a huge fan of Cap-to-Cap as you can probably see," Brosman said. "I'd like to see how the trip would benefit us. I can network on a local level. You guys can network on a local level."

Mayor Shawn Farmer said he appreciates any resident's desire to save taxpayer dollars but felt the connections and potential money that could come from the trip was worth it. He highlighted larger issues that are facing Galt, most notably homelessness, that neither Galt, nor state officials, can solve without federal

"Maybe nothing will become of this trip, but maybe something does come from it and it brings a \$10 million windfall

for a construction project," Farmer said. "Who's to say? I do think it's important that someone goes."

Interim Economic Development Director Amie Mendes highlighted a \$41.3 million grant from the federal Department of Transportation that was announced in January for work on Interstate 580 in

The project was part of a proposal made by Tracy city officials when they joined other government officials from San Joaquin Council of Government's One Voice trip to Washington, D.C., last year.

"It may take some time, but I obviously think it would be worth it," Mendes said.

Galt Commission on Aging Commissioner Joan Werblun, who also serves as vice chair for the California Health Collaborative, implored the council to send delegates.

"These opportunities do not come up all the time," Werblun said. "With people cutting budgets, I think that the fact that you may be able to pull this together, I can tell you, I would love to see all five of you

### D.A. Questions Early Release for Woman in DUI Collision

Continued from page 1 served is an affront to justice and a betrayal of the trust placed in our judicial system by victims and their

families," Ho wrote.

The Sacramento County District Attorney's Office created a petition called "Justice for Angel" in preparation for Calderon's potential release.

The Galt Police Department also shared the petition on its Facebook page, requesting community members to support the petition.

According to the District Attorney's Office, Calderon had a blood alcohol content level of .22% when she drove her Dodge Ram truck into Angel Renteria. Renteria was taken to a hospital with



Sacramento District Attorney Thien Ho holds a news conference with Angel Renteria, center, her mother Kelly Carr, center left, and Rhonda Campbell, left, representative for Mothers Against Drunk Driving, in opposition of the proposed early release of Devin Calderon, who was convicted of striking Renteria with her car in a drunk driving incident in 2022. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

a brain bleed and brain swelling and placed in a medically induced coma.

Calderon fled the scene after the collision, the District Attorney's Office said, before returning to

the area and colliding with a Galt police patrol vehicle as officers were investigating the scene.

The investigation revealed that Calderon was drinking with her husband

earlier in the day after she attended an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, the District Attorney's Office

Calderon was convicted in March 2023 of felony DUI with injury, felony DUI with .08% or higher, felony hit and run causing serious and permanent injury.

Rhonda Campbell, a representative for Mothers Against Drunk Driving, called for "legislative action."

"Maybe the public comes together and we work on making changes so that these things won't happen to another victim family who has gone though literal hell," Campbell said.

The

Department of Corrections issued a statement that Calderon would not be "paroled," but transferred from prison to a supervised facility to continue serving prison time.

"This conditional placement is not a reward, and it does not minimize the participant crime nor the harm it caused," the CDCR said in a statement to KCRA 3. "CDCR's community reentry programs were developed to increase public safety by preparing participants to safely transition back into their communities once paroled. Studies have found these programs decrease recidivism, which increases public safety."

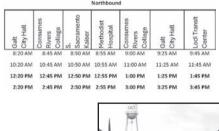
According to the California Corrections Department, Calderon has served at the Puerta La Cruz Conservation Camp, a prison in San Diego, since Oct. 27, 2023, as support staff. Camp volunteers who work as support staff, but not a fire crew, received "day-for-day" credits, meaning they receive one day off their sentence for every one day they serve.

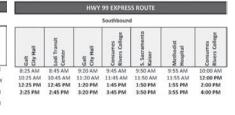
Ho, in his letter, said the release program needed to be reexamined, calling it a "deeply flawed policy."

"CDCR claims that this program is not a reward, yet the reality is that Calderon's release sends a clear message to victims like Angel and their families: The system values offender reintegration over victim justice," Ho wrote.

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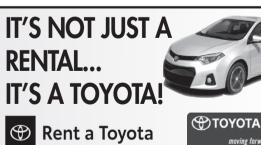
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### **Galt PD Posts Statement on Immigration Enforcement**



By Sean P.Thomas City Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Amid a cloud of national conversation regarding the interplay between local law enforcement and federal immigration policies, the Galt Police Department issued a statement on its Facebook account on Monday, Feb. 3, reiterating its stance regarding immigration enforcement.

The post stated in part that the department would not participate in immigration enforcement, ask immigration status during contacts with the police nor hold individuals solely based on federal immigration detainers.

The statement added that Senate Bill 54, California's "sanctuary

state" law, prohibits state and local law enforcement agencies from using funds to enforce federal civil immigration laws in lieu of the federal government.

"Our focus remains on building trust, preventing crime, and ensuring everyone feels safe reporting emergencies or seeking help from law enforcement," the post read. "If you need assistance, know that we are here for you 24/7."

The post was the latest in a string of posts made across the state by local police departments clarifying their approach to immigration enforcement, including the Sacramento Police Department, which said it would not engage in any immigration enforcement, "as that is a direct violation of our policy and state law (SB54)."

### **Galt Hosts 18th Annual Winter Bird Festival**



An artist sketches an image of a bird at the 18th Annual Winter Bird Festival on Feb. 1 at McCaffrey Middle School.

By MPG Staff

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - The annual Galt Winter Bird Festival was held last week, bringing public awareness of conservation efforts for the region's avian wildlife.

The event is an important stop for many bird enthusiasts across the nation, providing a look at a diverse range of birds that stop at local habitats in the area, part of what is called the Pacific Flyway.

The event was held at McCaffrey Middle School on Feb. 1, and in different nature preserves in the local area over the weekend.

The event featured live presentations, workshops, art competitions and plenty of opportunities to learn fascinating facts about the local bird population and migration schedules.



The 18th Annual Winter Bird Festival on Feb. 1 provided attendees an opportunity to learn about local birds and the local avian habitats. Photos courtesy of city of Galt



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### **Ballot Measure Proposes Secession by California**

California Secretary of State News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., is addressing misinformation surrounding a ballot measure recently cleared for signature gathering and encouraging Californians to educate themselves about the initiative process and the measures currently in circulation.

On Jan. 23, Weber announced the approval of a new ballot initiative for signature gathering, a routine step in California's direct democracy process.

The proposed initiative,



if enacted, places the following question on November 2028 ballot: "Should California leave the United States and become a free and independent country?"

For statewide initiatives, the state attorney general prepares the legal title and summary required on petitions. Once finalized, this language is sent to both

the proponent and the secretary of state, officially enabling the measure to proceed.

Announcing these approvals is standard practice designed to promote transparency and encourage public awareness. "It has come to my

attention that misinformation is being circulated, falsely claiming that I am 'organizing an effort for California to secede from the United States," stated Weber. "This is absolutely false. Such misinformation, whether intentional or not, is unacceptable, as it erodes trust in our democratic institutions. I urge everyone to turn to trusted

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sources like my office or their local elections office to verify information about ballot measures or any election-related matters."

Weber emphasized that announcements of approved ballot measures are not endorsements but a legal requirement that supports transparency and civic engagement. "I encourage all

Californians to educate themselves about the initiative process and to explore the measures currently in circulation." Weber added. For more, see the guide

at elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/ ballot-measures/pdf/statewide-initiative-guide.pdf.

**Judge Denies Placement** of Sexual Predator Near Galt

Continued from page 1 that Dryden be placed in a home at 12655 Hauschildt Road, just a little over a half mile outside of Galt's city limits.

Dryden is classified as a sexually violent predator, a designation for those who have committed a sexually violent offense against one or more victims and who has been diagnosed with a mental disorder that makes them a danger to others, according to the Department of State Hospitals.

Dryden was prosecuted and convicted in 1998 by the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office for two counts of lewd and lascivious conduct with a child under 14 years of age and sentenced to six years in state prison.

The news of the potential placement quickly spread across social media, causing concern among residents and various city boards and officials, especially considering the residents' proximity to schools including Liberty Ranch High School, Ranch Marengo Elementary School and Lake Canyon Elementary School and adjacent homes with young children.

The hearing comes just a few days after a jam-packed Galt City Council meeting in which more than a dozen residents voiced opposition to Dryden's placement.

According to Judge Brody, more than 200 pages of correspondence was sent in opposition to the placement.



Alexandra Toledo

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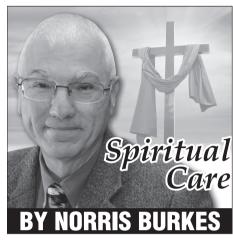
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### You Never Even Call Me By My Name



During my adolescent years, I rarely introduced myself with verbal clarity. My soft introductions were hard to hear and communicated more doubt than any kind of confident identity.

I'd try to tell people that my name was Norris, but they'd often respond with a one-word question. "What?"

If I repeated my introduction, my inquisitors only became more frustrated. "What? Did you say Morris?"

Even if they heard "Norris," they might say, "Yes, but what's your first name?" The assumption was that Norris could only be a surname.

So, by the time I graduated from high school in 1975, I'd had enough of the confusion. I anticipated an opportunity to end it when I accepted a summer job at a church conference center outside Santa Fe, New Mexico.

A few weeks later, I entered the grounds ready for a change. The first person I met introduced himself and I responded with the first syllable of my middle name, "Ed." I was not only using my middle name, but I'd adopted the abbreviated version.

I still remember his reply - "What? Did you say Fred?"

It was quickly apparent that my lack of confidence was still causing me to mumble my name. "Ed" rolled off my tongue with no more clarity than did "Norris."

By the end of the summer, I'd already received a lot of grief from my mother who constantly reminded me that she wouldn't have named me Norris if she had intended for me to go by Ed. I returned to Norris.

name experiment seemed harmless enough. After all, it was only a summer job. Since I was headed for Baylor University in Texas, I resolved to leave my AKA-Ed life in New Mexico's high Not so fast. I wouldn't be the only

Out in Northern New Mexico, the

staff member from the camp headed for Baylor. Imagine the surprise on the face of the

freshman girl I escorted to the homecoming bonfire when we were greeted by two of my former New Mexico coworkers who called me "Ed."

In the weeks that followed, my old camp friends continually called me Ed, compounding the confusion among my new Baylor friends. My roommates were further puzzled when they brought in mail addressed to "Ed Burkes."

During my sophomore year, David Allen Coe's, "You Never Even Call Me by My Name," became a favorite song. By my senior year, I'd persuaded all of my friends to call me Norris once again – with only one exception.

That exception was the especially spirited blonde I'd met in that New Mexico camp named Becky. Through four years of college, my roommates teased me at every mail call. "Yoo-hoo, Ed!" they'd croon in a falsetto voice. "She wrote you another letter."

It took a lot of persuasion to get this girl to call me Norris. She preferred the name Ed and it seemed as though she'd never concede. However, at our wedding in 1980, she finally made a pledge to forever call me Norris.

"Norris," she said, "I take thee to be my wedded husband. To have and to hold, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part."

Happy 45th anniversary, sweetheart. You've always known who I am, even though I often lack a clue. Your love changes me because it honors the best

It is a love for the person God created me to be, not what I should, could or would have been. And in that love, I find the most cherished reminder of the love of God.

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### Gov. Meets with Small Business Owners Impacted by Firestorm

Office of Governor Gavin Newsom News Release

LOS ANGELES, CA (MPG) - Continuing to have an eye toward recovery and rebuilding, Governor Gavin Newsom on Jan. 21 met with workers and small business owners impacted by the devastating Los Angeles firestorm to hear their stories and highlight the state's work to help communities rebuild.

The Governor visited NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in La Canada Flintridge for a conversation with employees impacted by the Eaton Fire. Hundreds of Jet Propulsion Laboratory employees lost their homes, with over 100 more likely to be displaced due to damage to their homes. Joined by Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger, Governor Newsom talked with the employees about rebuilding efforts, as well as concerns about home insurance.

As the largest employer of those impacted by the Eaton Fire, Jet Propulsion Laboratory started a disaster relief fund to help employees, which has already raised over \$2 million. Jet Propulsion Laboratory manages the Deep Space Network, a global web of antennas that communicate with spacecraft. The NASA facility has partnered with CAL FIRE to use soil moisture sensors to support the state's fire management and prevention efforts. JPL also helped California launch pollution-tracking satellites last year and partners with the state on drought monitoring.

Governor Newsom also visited with small business owners Kevin Hockin and Rosanna Kvernmo. They started Side Pie as a pizza pop-up during the



Governor Newsom met with small business owners to see how the recent wildfires have impacted them. Photo courtesy of the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

middle of the pandemic. After

it went viral, they expanded

into a brick-and-mortar shop in

Altadena in 2021. They received

news while at Disneyland with their daughter that they had lost

their restaurant and that their

home suffered extensive smoke

damage. Kevin and Rosanna plan

on rebuilding when safe to do so.

Californians lost their homes.

their businesses and their liveli-

hoods to this firestorm. From the

hundreds of workers at NASA's

iconic Jet Propulsion Laboratory

who lost their homes to folks

like Kevin and Rosanna who

lost their Altadena pizza shop –

the numbers will never capture

just how life-changing these fires

were for Californians. It will take

years to rebuild and fully recover

but California will be there every

step of the way," said Governor

Also on Jan. 21, Governor

Newsom stopped by CAL FIRE

and CDCR conservation camp crews filling sandbags that will

be placed in firestorm-affected

Gavin Newsom.

"Thousands of hard-working

areas to help protect against potential flooding and mudslides. Yesterday, the Governor issued an executive order to help mitigate this risk and protect communities by hastening efforts to remove debris, bolster flood defenses, and stabilize hillsides in affected areas.

#### Helping Small Businesses Recover

Since the firestorm, California has worked with federal and local providers to help businesses with the resources and support they need to recover and rebuild.

200+ business advisors from Small Business Support Centers funded through the California Office of the Small Business Advocate's (CalOSBA) Technical Assistance Program are staffed across the region.

This includes business advisors from the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Women's Business Center (WBC) who can answer loan application, insurance, employee wsupport and business recovery questions. They are co-located



Governor Newsom speaks with CAL FIRE employees in the wake of the Los Angeles fires. Photo courtesy of the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

at the Disaster Recovery Center at Pasadena City College and the Disaster Loan Outreach Center in Camarillo (Ventura County).

Small Business Development Center and Women's Business Center advisors are also present at the various Business Recovery Centers organized by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

California Office of the Small Business Advocates has launched a Resource Guide for small businesses impacted by the wildfires through its Outsmart Disaster website, and is conducting a series of online trainings in both English and Spanish.

The California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank) is offering loan programs for businesses from one to 750 employees affected by the LA wildfires.

Disaster Relief Loan Guarantee Program (DRLGP) issues loan guarantees up to 95% of the loan through IBank's partner Financial Development Corporations to help small business borrowers impacted by disaster who need term loans or lines of credit for working capital.

Additionally, Governor Newsom has issued a number of executive orders in response to the Los Angeles fire storms to help aid in rebuilding and recovery, create more temporary housing, and protect survivors from exploitation and price gouging.

#### Get Help Today

Californians can go to CA.gov/ LAfires – a hub for information and resources from state, local and federal government.

Individuals and business owners who sustained losses from wildfires in Los Angeles County can apply for disaster assistance online at DisasterAssistance.gov, by calling 800-621-3362, or by using the FEMA smart phone application. Assistance is available in more than 40 languages.

If you use a relay service, such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service.

### State Water Project Increases 2025 Allocation Forecast

California Department of Water Resources News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - On Jan. 28, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced an update to the State Water Project allocation forecast for 2025. The allocation has increased to 20 percent of requested supplies, up from 15 percent in December. The State Water Project provides water to 29 public water agencies that serve 27 million Californians.

While January has been incredibly dry across California, storm runoff into the state's reservoirs came in higher than forecasted at the end of December allowing for a modest allocation increase. Storms in late November and early December had a positive impact by saturating the ground, allowing for storms through December to more efficiently runoff into reservoirs.

More storms are needed, and the longrange forecast does hint at a return to wet conditions in early February that could bring much-needed rain and snow.

"We are in the middle of our biggest months for precipitation for California, and unfortunately January has been very dry, putting a significant dent in our season," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "A return to wet weather is critical for our season's success and it will take many more storms to make up the deficit

and further boost water supply deliveries."

Despite the dry conditions, California has effectively managed its reservoirs to keep storage above average for this time of year. Lake Oroville, the State Water Project's largest reservoir, is currently at 127 percent of average for this time of year. San Luis Reservoir, which is jointly operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, is at 102 percent of average for this time of year.

Reservoirs in Southern California are also near or above their historical averages.

near or above their historical averages.

Each year, the department provides State
Water Project allocation forecasts based on
available water storage, projected water supply,

and water demands. Allocations are updated

monthly as snowpack, rainfall, and runoff information is assessed, with a final allocation typically determined in May or June.

As the winter progresses, if California sees an increase in rain and snowfall, the allocation forecast may increase. Learn more about how the State Water Project allocation process works at https://water.ca.gov/News/Blog/2025/Jan-25/Get-the-Facts-About-the-State-Water-Project-Allocation.

The allocation forecast notice to State Water Contractors and historical data on SWP allocations are available at https://water.ca.gov/programs/state-water-project/management/swp-water-contractors.

### **Utility Critics Call Equity Profits Excessive**

Continued from page 1

portions of which come from new hikes for wildfire mitigation and rooftop solar programs. PG&E bills in particular have risen several times in the last year alone, and ratepayers will see another increase after regulators voted to keep the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant open to address concerns over energy reliability during the shift to renewable sources.

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced an executive order last fall to address high energy bills by asking the utilities commission to scrutinize wildfire mitigation costs and underperforming energy programs. The state Legislative Analyst's Office released a report this month examining the state's climate policies and residential electricity rates, which it found were increased by efforts to curb wildfires and global warming, among other factors.

Southern California Edison's 2024 approved shareholder return rate was the highest among its Golden State peers at 10.75%, followed by PG&E at 10.7%, and San Diego Gas & Electric at 10.65%.

The utility commission's preliminary decisions for return on equity rates this year, which have not been finalized, are all just above 10%. That's comparable to the industry average, also about 10%.

Each company's financial performance throughout the year determines whether they will achieve their full shareholder rate of return or even above it. But even a fraction of their approved shareholder rates represents millions of dollars from ratepayers. In 2023, for example. Southern California Edison collected \$91 million out of a possible \$198 million for shareholders (approved for 10.05%), PG&E

collected more than \$111 million out of a potential \$125 million (approved for 10%), and San Diego Gas & Electric collected \$41.9 million out of a possible \$42 million (approved for 9.95%).

"A competitive return on equity is important to ensure that PG&E can continue to attract the level of investment needed to meet the energy needs of our hometowns," PG&E spokesperson Mike Gazda said. "The state regulator determines that return on equity through an open, transparent and public process."

Gazda said the "vast majority" of PG&E's profits, to which the return on equity contributes, is reinvested into the utility. The company, he said, has cut expenses to customers through federal loans and grants, as well as "new technologies, improved processes, and renegotiated contracts." He did not directly answer a question about whether lower shareholder returns would be part of the company's future plans but said PG&E will work on bill affordability with regulators and policymakers.

The shareholder rates as approved by the utility commission have outpaced those for the 10-year treasury bonds, which are often used as a benchmark by researchers because they track inflation and are considered riskless. Riskier businesses tend to earn returns above this, experts said. But Rode's study and others found that utilities' shareholder return rates are going up nationally, while the risk the industry faces doesn't match that increase.

doesn't match that increase.

Treasury bond yields are part of the model the California Public Utilities Commission uses when setting these shareholder rates.

"Without capital market funding, necessary grid work would have to be funded immediately in part through the rates customers pay, and this would significantly raise those rates," Jeff Monford, spokesperson for Southern California Edison, said. "Providing our investors with a competitive (return on equity) is crucial to the success of this model."

CalMatters looked at California's three main investor-owned utilities' shareholder return rates and the average 10-year treasury bond yields from 2006 through November, including the utilities' actual returns during that period through 2023, the most recent data available.

The average rates for such treasury bonds didn't break 5% from 2006 through November. Only within the last year have any of California's three major investor-owned utilities dipped below double digits. California's gap between the shareholder and treasury rates has closed slightly since 2006, with shareholder rates for the three companies declining between less than 2 percentage points each. Treasury bond rates largely held steady during that period, with 10-year notes going from a yield of 4.53 percent to 4.18 percent.

Despite this dip, the dollar amount the state's power companies are authorized to collect for shareholders has increased nearly every year as their customer bases grow and utilities add more costs that can be charged to customers.

10% and rarely take into consideration the

gap between what utility shareholders earn

grow and utilities add more costs that can be charged to customers.

One contributing factor nationwide, studies found, is that regulators often hesitate to approve shareholder rates below

and the treasury bond rates. Psychology comes into play here – 10 can feel like a substantial round number, and moving

below that may feel like a large move. And the companies regularly ask for more. Had regulators landed at PG&E's request for 2023 – one percentage point above what was approved – the company would have been allowed to collect \$12.5 million more. Southern California Edison requested the equivalent of about \$9.4 million above what was later approved, and San Diego Gas & Electric requested the equivalent of \$2.5 million more than what was later approved.

Cal Advocates, the body responsible for advocating for ratepayers before the commission, often pushes back against these, requesting lower shareholder rates.

"We generally think they've been set a bit too high," Michael Campbell, assistant deputy director of energy at Cal Advocates, said. "The utilities' arguments of just how risky it is to be a utility in California and their ability to recover their costs from ratepayers is overstated."

Rising costs are of particular concern for Californians, whose bills, especially under PG&E, have risen steadily because of wildfire response. A law passed in 2019 attempted to cushion some of that blow on ratepayers, prohibiting utilities from collecting for shareholders a return on the first \$5 billion they collectively spend on wildfire safety measures.

"The business is not meant to be risk free," said Janice Beecher, political science professor at Michigan State University who specializes in utility economics. "If it's risk free, give them treasury returns and go home early." ★

#### **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

#### **Volunteers Sought** for Senior Resource Center

The Commission on Aging is looking for volunteers to operate a computer and are willing to answer questions from seniors in person, over the phone, on social media and by email at the Galt Senior Resource Center.

Volunteer slots are available in twohour increments for up to four hours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, excluding holidays.

Volunteers will be trained and can contact commission members if questions

The resource center is at the Chabolla Community Center, 600 Chabolla Ave. If interested in helping, call 209-294-3308 and leave a message or inquire in person.

#### **Sunshine Food Pantry Donations** Sunshine Food Pantry is a food closet

that helps provide for residents.

Collections of canned food and dry good nonperishable items are received at United Methodist Church, 571 C St. in Galt; call to make an appointment for donations at 209-745-4133.

The food closet is open from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at the United Methodist Church.

#### **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 vard? 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.

#### **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) fam-

ily 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 cafe 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.

#### **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 to 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.

Debra Estrada.

#### **ABOUT TOWN**

#### **Night to Shine** Feb. 7 at Galt High

The Horizon Community Church in Galt is hosting "Night to Shine," an unforgettable prom night experience for people with special needs, on Feb. 7 at Galt High School.

The nationwide event was created by the Tim Tebow Foundation in 2014 and seeks to provide a prom experience for people with special needs ages 14 and older. The event is

Each guest will be celebrated, and a King and Queen will be crowned at the event.

All of the guests will also receive a special takehome gift bag.

Registration is currently full, but the event is still seeking "buddies" to help accompany the guests.

For more information, contact Night to Shine Nor-Cal at 209-754-0700 or email at NTS@ Horizonweb.org.

#### **American Legion** Post 233 Invites **Veterans**

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.

#### **Cosumnes DAR** 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.

### MEETING MINDERS

#### Thursday, Feb. 13

Galt Planning Commission, 6 p.m., Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive.

#### Friday, Feb. 14

Galt Sunrise Rotary, 7 a.m., Comfort Inn & Suites, 10380 Twin Cities Road. ★



Legal Advertising Hotline 916-483-2299 Legal Advertising Fax 916-773-2999

#### V E R T I S I N G

The Galt Herald Adjudicated For and By the County of Sacramento, Case No. 93246 - October 14, 1910

7144 Fair Oaks Blvd #5 Carmichael, CA 95608

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENTS

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** 

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-00204 Paul Pevehouse, 162 Stirup Court, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Power House Repairs" 162 Stirup Court, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 10, 2025 Publish: Jan 24, 31, Feb 7, 14, 2025 **POWER** 2-14-25

2-7-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-09671 Ink House Social, 812 C Street, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Ink House Social" 812 C Street, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 30, 2024 Publish: Jan 31, Feb 7, 14, 21, 2025 INK 2-21-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-00008 S.A. Woodworkers. 7357 Souza Circle. Sacramento. CA 95831 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Sacramento Area Souza Woodworkers" 7357 Sacramento. Circle. 95831. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 2, 2025 Publish: Jan 24, 31, Feb 7, 14, 2025

WOODWORKERS

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-00599 Joseph R Camacho, 865 Golden Heights Drive, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "High Over All Media" 865 Golden Heights Drive, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of

#### ORDER TO SHOW FOR

SUPERIOR COURT OF **CALIFORNIA** ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE **CHANGE OF NAME** #25CV001221

sons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on June 3, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 53, 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: January 15, 2025 Richard K. Sueyoshi, Judge of the Superior Court Publish: Jan 24, 31, Feb 7, 14, 2025 MCDONELL

#25CV001124

changing the name(s) of Karen Bao Vang to Bao Vaaj Nchaiv IT IS ORDERED that all per-

court on June 3, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 53, 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: January 15, 2025 Richard K. Sueyoshi, Judge of the Superior Court

#### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF DEBRA KAY MCLAUGHLIN AKA DEBRAK. MCLAUGHLIN, DEBRA MCLAUGHLIN, DEBRA ESTRADA CASE NO. 25PR000085 To all heirs, beneficiaries, cred-

Sacramento County January 30, 2025 Publish: February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025

**CHANGE OF NAME** COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

Cayla Jo McDonell-Encina has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Cayla Jo McDonell-Encina to Cayla Jo McDonell.

IT IS ORDERED that all per-2-14-25

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE Karen Bao Vang has filed a petition with this court for a decree

sons interested in the above-en-

titled matter appear before this Publish: Jan 24, 31, Feb 7, 14, 2025

2-14-25

itors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of Debra Kay McLaughlin aka Debra K.

McLaughlin, Debra McLaughlin,

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Bryan J. McLaughlin, in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, requesting Bryan J. McLaughlin be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will

be held in this court as follows February 18, 2025, 1:30 p.m. in Dept 129; Superior Court of California, County Sacramento, William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse, 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826. IF YOU OBJECT to the grant-

ing of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state vour objections or file written obiections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or

a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under

section 9052 of the California

Probate Code. Other California

statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250 A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

The name, address and tele phone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Ashley Clower, 6207 S. Walnut Street, Suite 800, Loomis, CA, 95650; 916-Publish: Jan 31, Feb 7, 14, 2025 MCLAUGHLIN 2-14-25

**SUMMONS** 

#### SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER: 24CV004320 NOTICE TO DEFENDANT Jerry Edwin Chapman, individually, Jerry Edwin Chapman, as Administrator of the Estate of Dana Chapman YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: Florence Luna.

NOTICE! You have been sued The court may decide against you without your being heard uness you respond within 30 days. Read the information below You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you

to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo. ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may

There are other legal require-

ments. You may want to call an

lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Website (www.lawhelpcalifornia. org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo. ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias. la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion.

30 DIAS CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que hava un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www. sucorte.ca.gov) en la biblioteca de leves de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales.

Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gra-

tuitos de un programa de ser-

vicios legales sin fines de lucro.

Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services. (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes California, (www.sucorte. ca.gov) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es): Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, 720 9th Sacramento, CA 95814 The name, address and tele-

phone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Todd A. Murray (SBN 075364), 2377 Gold Meadow Way, Suite 290, Gold River, CA 95670: 916-488-1795. Date: (Fecha) 3/07/2024 Clerk (Secretario) H. Larson, Deputy (Adjunto)

Publish: Jan 31, Feb 7, 14, 21, 2025

**CHAPMAN** 

LEGAL ADS FOR SACRAMENTO COUNTY?

We Can Do That!

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#### **POLICE LOGS**

During the time period of Jan. 28 to Feb. 3, Galt Police received and responded to a variety of calls, resulting in 16 arrests.

#### **Jan. 28**

5:01 p.m., Reckless driver, adult arrest, Oakwilde Street.

#### Jan. 29

8:24 a.m., Vandalism, Lake Park Circle/ Vinewood Drive: Window broken on production

1:36 p.m., Trespassing, State Farm Insurance on Twin Cities Road: Citation issued.

#### **Jan. 30**

8:04 a.m., Theft, Sparrow Drive: Miscellaneous items stolen from unlocked vehicles.

11:59 p.m., Child neglect/abuse; adult arrest, Olive Court.

2:17 p.m., Hit and run non-injury, Lake Park

3:51 p.m., Warrant served/adult arrest, Denny's on C Street.

7:34 p.m., Narcotics violation/adult arrest, Fourth Street/H Street.

10:13 p.m., DUI/adult arrest, CVS Pharmacy on C Street.

#### Jan. 31

7:06 a.m., Narcotics violation/adult arrest, Days Inn on North Lincoln Way.

5:55 p.m., Warrant served/adult arrest, More For Less on North Lincoln

10:04 Narcotics violation/adult arrest, Savemart Supermarket on C Street.

#### Feb. 1

12:15 a.m., DUI/adult arrest, Glendale Avenue/ Fairway Drive.

or de la colonial de la

3:50 p.m., Warrant served/adult arrest, South Lincoln Way/Ranch Road.

#### Feb. 2

10:02 a.m., Warrant served/adult arrest, Adare Way.

10:23 a.m., Theft reported at Raley's on Twin Cities Road: Reporting party's wallet was stolen out of her purse while purse was in shopping cart.

4:43 p.m., DUI/adult arrest, South Lincoln Way/C Street.

10:09 p.m., Warrant served/adult arrest, Trellis Lane/Lyonia Drive.

#### Feb. 3

4:28 p.m., Narcotics violation/adult arrest, Charles Gracie Jiu-Jitsu on C Street

5:36 p.m., Trespassing/ adult arrest, Taco Bell on C Street.

#### Bob's BASEBALL Tours **Ultimate Baseball Tour** Sports Lover's Tour

See an NHL & NBA game, visit Pro Football Hall of Fame and tour

Lambeau Field & see 4 MLB games from April 8-16

\$2,800/person based on double hotel occupancy

See 7 MLB in 11 days including Yankee Stadium, Fenway Park & Wrigley Field. Also included: Pro Football and Baseball Halls of Fame and a day at the Little League World Series!

August 11-21, 2025

Please call or text for FREE brochure 507-217-1326 or visit our website: www.bobsbaseballtours.com

### 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.

**MEALS on WHEELS** 

Kenny Robbins

(209) 744-1159

CALL Jessie –

Volunteer with us and make a heartfelt difference. SACRAMENTO COUNTY **WE SUPPORT** 



### **Black History Month Discussed**



Black History Month was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in February 1926. Photo courtesy of

Because it encompasses

By Association for the Study of African American Life and History, asalh.org

#### SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -

Black History Month is an annually observed monthlong celebration of African American life, history and culture.

Founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in February 1926, what was formerly known as Negro History Week became a monthlong celebration as a way to promote, research, preserve, interpret, and disseminate information about Black life, History, and culture to the global community.

The relevance of February goes back to 1926, when Dr. Woodson first established "Negro History Week" during the second week of February. And why that week?

the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, both men being great American symbols of freedom. More importantly, Dr.

Woodson chose them for reasons of tradition. Since Lincoln's assassination in 1865, the black community, along with other Republicans, had been celebrating the fallen President's birthday. And since the late 1890s, black communities across the country had been celebrating Douglass'. Well aware of the pre-existing celebrations, Woodson built Negro History Week around traditional days of commemorating the black past.

The 2025 Black History Month theme, African Americans and Labor, focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds, free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary, intersect with the collective experiences of Black people.

Indeed, work is at the very center of much of Black history and culture. Be it the traditional agricultural labor of enslaved Africans that fed Low Country colonies, debates among Black educators on the importance of vocational training, self-help strategies and entrepreneurship in Black communities, or organized labor's role in fighting both economic and social injustice, Black people's work has been transformational throughout the U.S., Africa, and the Diaspora.

The 2025 Black History Month theme, "African Americans and Labor," sets out to highlight and celebrate the potent impact of this work.

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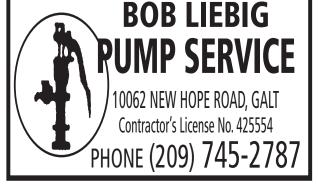
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### Chew On Some Bubble Gum History

According to national daycalendar.com, celebrating Bubble Gum Day on the first Friday of February every year doesn't burst many people's bubbles. However, for those who are inclined, it's a fun way to chew your favorite flavor of bubble gum and. blow some spectacular bubbles.

Long before any substantial chewing gum formed bubbles, ancient human beings chewed bits of resin from trees. All around the world, people collected substances from the available trees and used them for dental care and general enjoyments.

It wasn't until 1928, after decades of failures by those before him, and several of his own, that Walter Diemer created the first bubble producing gum.

His employer, the Fleer Chewing Gum Company, marketed it as Dubble Bubble. Some interesting trivia: The largest bubble gum bubble ever blown was 50.8 centimeters (20 inches) in diameter. Chad Fell of Haleyville, Ala., blew the bubble with three pieces of Dubble Bubble on April 24, 2004, at Double Springs High School in Winston County, Ala.; One



piece of bubble gum contains 29 calories; people all over the world chew what amounts to about 100,000 tons of bubble gum a year; and the record for the longest continuous stretch of 135 sticks of gum chewed successively for eight hours straight is held by Richard Walker.

One last thing, or maybe two: Little comic strips used to be included with the piece of gum and flat, square-shaped gum was included in baseball cards; I wonder if that happens anymore.

Guess I will go buy some Dubble Bubble and find out.

The furry ball of rodent from Pennsylvania saw his shadow. Ugh! Looks like six more weeks of winter.

Hopefully, rain will continue on a regular basis to keep our ponds and reservoirs full and help the grass grow.

St. Valentine's Day is next Friday. Are you ready? I am hoping for a seafood dinner. That's it. Well maybe a couple of pieces of See's candy. And a card. I love greeting cards, almost as much as a seafood dinner. It means the card giver took the time to go to the card section of a store, look through the cards and find the one meant especially for me. And then I have something to remind me of that person on that special day.

I like flowers, too. Alstroemeria and tulips are my favorite. The blooms last a long time, although I received a preplanted Amaryllis bulb before Christmas, followed the directions as in do not overwater and it is still blooming. Very little effort and very pretty flowers.

Do you give your children valentines? I do. I love them and Don too, of course. He is my Honey Bunny. I will give them all cards and a little something to enjoy. And this year, I joined the Secret Sister group at my church, and my new Secret Sister will definitely receive a valentine. And since I have already heard from the Secret Sister who randomly received my name, I will say, "Thank you for sending your first correspondence." You are a blessing and have inspired me.

The Galt High School District schools will be closed all next week, including President's Day, Monday, Feb. 17. I will call it President's Week since it includes Lincoln's birthday (Feb. 12) and President's Day.

Taking the week off balances the school

days in second semester to be even with the first semester. So, our students start a new semester instead of returning from Christmas vacation and taking first semes-It's a bit confusing but it is a week off

for our students and their families to take a winter vacation without missing school, or to stay home and get in some yardwork, spring cleaning, etc.

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

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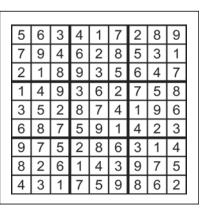
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- 38. Very, in music 39. Actress Barrymore
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- May 43. Annulling
- 45. Loads
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- 50. Check-in via text 52. \*Sign of nervous-
- ness (2 words) 55. One up
- 56. Lowest female voice
- 57. One quark plus one antiquark 59. Toothpaste brand 60. Riddle without
- solution
- 61. Cogito sum 62. \*Leg's partner, price-wise
- 63. Make a mistake 64. Robin's house
- 1. "Eureka!" 2. \*They cause no problems when they sleep
- 3. Nursemaid, in India 4. \_\_\_\_ 5, band 5. "Il Trovatore" composer
- 6. Garment insert 7. Month before Nisan
- 8. Torus, pl.
- 9. Word before sesame 10. \*Cupful that's not for everyone
  12. Adjective derived from
- 13. Distorts
- 14. \*Cutting these leads to poor results 19. Prods
- 22. Dot follower 23. Lost, in Provence
- 24. Live's partner
- 25. Hungry
- 26. Voting no 27. Like Fran Drescher's
- voice 28. Wide open
- 29. Bear digs 32. Group of buffaloes 33. \*Breaking it relieves
- tension \*When these meet, one can afford what they want (2 words)
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- 54. Duds 55. Edible tuber
- 58. 1990s negation

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### A's Announce 2025 Promotional Schedule

Major League Baseball News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA** - The A's 2025 promotional schedule for their inaugural season at Sutter Health Park will feature 14 giveaway items including three bobbleheads, four fireworks shows and

more. Single-game tickets will go on sale on Friday, Jan. 31.

Opening Series

Giveaways. Every fan who attends the A's inaugural game at Sutter Health Park on March 31 against the Cubs will receive a green-and-white trucker hat donning the new Sacramento jersey patch that the team will wear this season in addition to a Rickey Henderson rally to

rally towel.

The following day, every fan in attendance will receive a 2025 magnet schedule and on the final day of the opening series, each fan will receive a Rickey Henderson t-shirt in honor of the greatest A's player of all time.

Player Bobbleheads. The A's are giving away three bobbleheads throughout the course of the season to celebrate the exciting talent on the field in 2025. On Sunday, June 8, fans will receive a Home Run Counter Bobblehead of 2024 Silver Slugger Award-winner Brent Rooker. Two

weeks later, on Sunday, June 22, fans will receive a Mason Miller bobblehead in honor of the flamethrowing closer's All-Star 2024 campaign. Finally, a Lawrence Butler bobblehead will be given away Thursday, July 10, which also happens to be the superstar's 25th birthday.

**Wearables Galore.** The rest of the giveaways feature a plethora of wearable items, including an A's basketball jersey on April 26, a straw hat on May 6, a cooler bag on May

22, an A's back-pack just in time for the back-to-school rush on Aug. 3, a hat on Aug. 26, a t-shirt on Sept. 14, and a crewneck sweat-shirt on Sept. 26.

**Four Fireworks Days.** The 2025 home schedule will feature four super-sized fireworks shows. Following

the games on June 7 vs. the Orioles, July 4 vs. the Giants, Aug. 16 vs. the Angels, and Sept. 27 vs. the Royals, fans will be treated to a fireworks display they won't want to miss.

TM

Heritage Nights Return. The A's will bring back heritage nights for the 2025 season beginning with Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Night on May 20. African American Heritage Night will be held on June 19 to honor Juneteenth, and Sept. 23 will mark Hispanic Heritage Night. ★

# Saving the Environment at Kings Games

Sacramento Kings News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION. CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Kings and Golden 1 Center unveiled a new PATH Grab-and-Go location, integrating Amazon's Just Walk Out technology to enhance the fan experience. This innovative store debuted at the Jan. 22 game against the Golden State Warriors and will be available during all Kings home games, as well as most concerts and events at Golden 1 Center.

"Sustainability is a core value of Golden 1 Center, and this Graband-Go location not only provides fans with convenient access to PATH's eco-friendly aluminum bottles but also reflects our shared dedication to environmental responsibility," said Sacramento Kings President of **Business Operations John** Rinehart. "By also adding PATH refillable water stations, we are furthering our commitment to reduce waste and protect our environment for future



Grab-and-Go location at Golden One Center provides fans with convenient access to PATH's eco-friendly aluminum bottles containing still purified water. Photo by Sacramento Kings

generations."

"Golden 1 Center is setting the standard for convenience and sustainability in sports venues," said PATH Partner Cedric Benaroch. "This innovative Grab-and-Go location not only makes it easier for fans to enjoy PATH's sustainable aluminum bottles, but it also highlights our shared commitment to enhancing the fan experience while prioritizing the planet. Additionally, the PATH refillable water stations allow fans to stay hydrated while reducing single-use waste, reinforcing our mission to create lasting change."

The new PATH Graband-Go location will offer a selection of beverages, including co-branded

PATH aluminum water bottles, featuring a sleek, redesigned black finish. These lightweight bottles contain still purified water with electrolytes for taste and serve as a stylish, reusable souvenir for fans. PATH water has been available at Golden 1 Center since the 2021-2022 season, and as part of this partnership, water refill stations presented by PATH will also be available throughout the arena.

Shopping at the PATH Grab-and-Go is fast and simple. Fans start by scanning their credit card or mobile wallet at the gate to enter. Once inside, they can grab what they need and simply walk out. Payment is automatically processed as they leave. \*

### A's Announce Value Ticket Prices

Major League Baseball News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Single-game tickets for the A's inaugural season

in West Sacramento are on sale now. Fans

may purchase tickets online only at athletics.com/tickets.

Tickets are available in all price ranges, with more than 100,000 tickets priced at less than \$30.

A number of value options go on sale

in early February. These options include special ticket offers for students, teachers and families; discounted tickets for first responders and military personnel, as well as complimentary tickets for community groups and nonprofit organizations.

available for a fixed price of \$25 for all 81 regular season home games, including Opening Day, on the day of each game. More details about day-of-game tickets will be shared closer to the season.

The A's promotional calendar will fea-

The A's will also make 250 lawn seats

ture giveaway items including three bobbleheads, four fireworks shows and more.

# Kings Korner By V.G. Harris Mark your calendars for March 7 in the DeAaron Fox



friendly confines of Golden One Arena, as it should be a night to remember. Yes, on that night when the San Antonio Spurs arrive, you'll have the opportunity to once again witness the fastest man in the NBA, and you guessed it, none other than former King DeAaron Fox.

Emotions are running high right now as arguably the best overall player in Sacramento Kings history leaves the Sactown family to join the San Antonio Spurs.

What do I think of that? Sad simply doesn't get it. There's a hole in my heart, but a gratitude for a player that turned back the clock when it comes to professionalism and fan involvement.

DeAaron has comported himself with a degree of elegance and grace seldom seen in professional athletes. I feel that Sacramento is not only losing an amazing athlete, but an amazing family as well. Make no mistake about it, the Foxes are a package, and they will steal your heart.

I fondly recall a moment earlier this season in which DeAaron took a hard fall at the edge of court where the baseline meets the sideline. He went head over heels, and as he rolled over to get up, who was there to assist but none other than his wife who was sitting on the front row with his son. It made me smile as DeAaron was helped to his feet by Recee, and then it was on with the game.

I will miss watching his young son clapping gleefully, and DeAaron streaking to the hoop and scoring baskets that would be beyond the capability of most NBA players.

I won't forget his record setting 60-point performance against the Minnesota Timberwolves, albeit in an overtime loss, but it took nothing away from the highest scoring single game total in franchise history.

I can't help but smile and nod my head when I remember DeAaron taking several minutes to talk with my grandson and sign his treasured DeAaron Fox rookie card prior to a game last season. The photos of that moment along with the card itself will be something my grandson will never forget, and it simply is who

Sunday Feb. 2 will be a day that most Kings fans will never forget, and as big a trade as the Luka Doncic for Anthony Davis was over the weekend, for those of us that love the Kings, it pales in comparison.

The nuts and bolts are that DeAaron Fox is going the San Antonio Spurs in a 3-team trade that also sends Jordan McLaughlin to the Spurs, and Keven Huerter to the Chicago Bulls.

What the Kings receive in return is 2-time all-star Zach Lavine who at age 29 is right in the heart of his prime. Zach was the longest tenured player on the Bulls squad, so like most Kings fans, Chicago is likely shedding tears. Lavine is scoring 24 points per game this season, which is just a hair below the scoring output of Fox

Not to be ignored by any means in this blockbuster trade, are the 6 draft choices that come with the trade. The Kings receive 3 #1's and 3 #2's and it will be years before the Sacramento Kings and their fans are able to see the full completion of this trade.

tion of this trade. Zach Lavine does not solve the missing component at the power forward position, but many believe that another move is coming prior to the trade deadline this week. Auspicious in all of this, is the remarkable 3-point shooting that Lavine brings with him. Currently shooting just over 44% ranks among the league leaders, and as Keven Huerter departs, leaving Sacramento as somewhat of a disappointment from beyond the arc, a 44% 3-point shooter is just what the doctor ordered. That combined with a field goal percentage of over 50% is notable for a guard in the NBA, so let's all take a deep breath, and a collective wait and

Will I miss DeAaron Fox? Do I believe he is the #1 overall best first round pick in the history of the Sacramento Kings? I say heartily, YES!

Godspeed DeAaron Fox and may you and your family thrive in San Antonio! You will be missed!

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★



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### Liberty Ranch's Smith Breaks Records, Sets Milestones

Story and Photo by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Liberty Ranch High School's junior basketball sensation, Haley Smith, has been making headlines since her freshman year, and this season is proving to be her most remarkable yet. Known for her tenacity on the court and impressive skill, Smith has shattered long-standing school records and continues to elevate her game, capturing the attention of fans and scouts alike.

Last year, as only a sophomore, Smith broke the career rebound record of 507 set by Ashley Kirbyson, concluding her season with an impressive 538 rebounds. More than halfway through the current season, Smith has already amassed an additional 129 rebounds, bringing her career total to a staggering 667.

In the recent game against rival Galt High, Smith added to her growing list

of accolades by breaking the Liberty Ranch career scoring record. The previous record, held by Selina Moore for a decade, stood at 1,339 points. Smith surpassed that milestone with ease, ending the Galt High game with 1,341 points and subsequently increasing her record to 1,367.

Her scoring prowess is evident in her average of 20.1 points per game this season, making her the go-to scorer for the Hawks and a key player in their 20-2 record this season.

Liberty Ranch Athletic Director, Samantha Vitoria, a former Division 1 basketball recruit herself, spoke highly of Smith's achievements and potential. "Haley Smith, for the past

three seasons, has become one of the best players in Liberty Ranch history," said Vitoria. "Her stats show it all. With 1,341 points just in her junior season, it is a phenomenal accomplishment. I cannot wait to see what records and triumphs

she brings to Liberty Ranch girls' basketball going forward."

Smith's dedication extends beyond her individual accomplishments; she's deeply committed to her team and driven by their shared goals.

"We have had a great season so far with lots of solid wins," Smith said. "We are looking forward to hopefully earning another league championship and making it far in the playoffs. We have put in lots of work to achieve this success together with second-year coach Josh Williams. Each of us plays a very important role on this team. When we all work our hardest and do our jobs, we achieve greatness together."

As the Hawks continue their impressive run toward league champions and the playoffs, Haley Smith stands as a beacon of the future for Liberty Ranch basketball, poised to set more records and lead her team to further success.



Liberty Ranch High School phenom Haley Smith drives to the basket against Amador High.

### **Lady Hawks Extend** Winning Streak with **Gritty Amador Victory**



Madisyn Robbins turns from a quick pass to score against Amador on Jan. 29.

#### Story and Photos by Paige Lampson

Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Lady Hawk basketball team continues to assert their dominance in the league, securing their 19th consecutive victory in a hard-fought game against Amador with a final score of 46-37. This remarkable winning streak has solidified the team's reputation as a powerhouse this season, marked by never scoring less than 40 points in any game.

While Amador's team displayed tenacity, staying close on the scoreboard throughout the game, the Lady Hawks' relentless offensive and defensive strategies ultimately paved the way to victory.

Leading the charge was Haley Smith, who delivered an impressive 19 points,



Summer McCoy muscles through to the basket in the Lady Hawks' victory.

supported by Madisyn Robbins with 12 points and Kamrynn Blevins who added another seven.

The Lady Hawks demonstrated versatility and teamwork not only in scoring but also in rebounds, which played a crucial role in maintaining their edge. Kamrvnn Blevins led the effort on the boards with seven rebounds, followed by Summer McCoy and Haley Smith, each with six rebounds. Madison Robbins added five, Cruz Gregorio four. Kendall Durvee two. and Ella Garcia with one critical rebound.

As the regular season draws to a close with their final game against Galt High on Feb. 13, the Lady Hawks are setting their sights on the upcoming playoffs. Their consistent performance has not only led the way to league victory but also set the stage for a promising postseason run.

### **Liberty Ranch Wins on Senior Night**



Liberty Ranch senior soccer players Kyle Oltmanns, Raj Pillay, EZ Duarte, Luis Ortiz, and James Briggs with head coach Garett Árechiga.



An Argonaut player tries to slide the ball out, which EZ Duarte dodges easily enough.

#### Story and Photos by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Liberty Ranch men's soccer team marked a memorable senior night with an emphatic 16-0 victory over Argonaut, extending their remarkable winning streak to eight games. In a match that not only celebrated the contributions of their graduating seniors but also potentially set a new high score record, the Hawks dominated from start to finish in front of a jubilant home crowd.

Argonaut, facing challenges with a limited squad, brought only one substitute to the match. Despite the odds, they displayed commendable perseverance and played valiantly until the final whistle. Next year, they are set to merge with Amador, hoping for stronger seasons ahead.

Liberty Ranch's head coach, Garett Arechiga, ensured that his team maintained a respectful approach throughout the lopsided contest. Demonstrating true sportsmanship, almost every Liberty Ranch player seized the opportunity to score, including standout performances across the roster and even two goals from goalie Raj Pillay, who thrilled the Hawks by scoring despite his usual

defensive role. "We are standing where we wanted to be at this time in the season," Arechiga proudly noted. "It was a great game and all five of our graduating seniors had the opportunity to score, with senior EZ Duarte topping it off with a 'hat trick'. We have a huge last game against Galt High and we are staying focused on that."

Indeed, the Hawks' seniors made their final regular season home game one to remember. EZ Duarte shone brightly with three goals, while Ivan Gonzalez, James Briggs, Raj Pillay, and Kyle Oltmanns each added two to the impressive tally. Contributions from Christian Maciel, Isaac Flores, Alan Montelongo, Beto Dominguez, and Luis Ortiz completed the scor-

ing feast.

With this victory, Liberty

#### El Dorado 2-9 0-10-1 Amador

**LEAGUE STANDINGS** 

**Girls Soccer** 

10-0-1

9-2

8-3

5-5-1

4-4-3

1-6-4

School Galt

Liberty Ranch

Rosemont

Argonaut

Bradshaw

**Union Mine** 

Boys Soc	ccer
School	W/L
Liberty Ranch	11-0
Galt	10-1
Bradshaw	7-4
El Dorado	6-4-1
Amador	3-8
Rosemont	4-6-1
Union Mine	1-10
Argonaut	1-10

#### Cirle Rockethall

GITIS Daske	wan
School	W/L
Liberty Ranch	10-0
Union Mine	8-2
Argonaut	6-3
Amador	5-5
El Dorado	5-6
Rosemont	4-6
Galt	2-8
Bradshaw	0-10

#### **Boys Basketball**

3011001	VV/L
Union Mine	9-1
Argonaut	8-2
Liberty Ranch	7-3
Rosemont	7-3
Bradshaw	3-6
El Dorado	3-7
Amador	2-8
Galt	0-10

Ranch solidifies their top position in the league, setting the stage for an eagerly anticipated clash against Galt on Feb. 10. ★

#### GALT HERALD ATHLETES OF THE WEEK







Shantiny Lemus, Galt



Ranch Soccer



Hailey Katen, Liberty Ranch Soccer

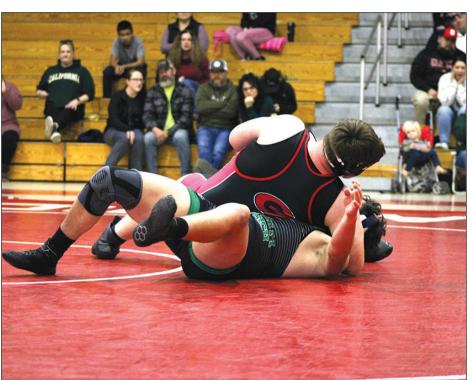
Photos by Paige Lampson

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### Liberty Ranch Edges Out Galt Warriors



Head coach Edward "EJ" Smith celebrates senior wrestlers Jonathan Maple, Izaac Robledo and Roman Peterson. Photo courtesy of Ella Ipson



Warrior Jonathan Maple pins Hawk Andreas Reyas. Photo courtesy of Ella Ipson



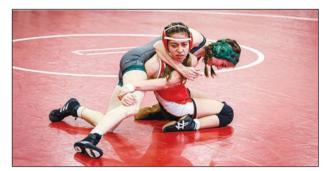
Galt's Jace Stanek takes down Liberty's Merlina Pantaleon. Photo by Paige Lampson

By Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - In an exhilarating display of tenacity and skill, the Liberty Ranch Hawks narrowly defeated the Galt Warriors in a closely contested crosstown wrestling match. Hosted at Galt High School, the event drew a spirited crowd eager to witness this highly anticipated showdown.

The boys' matches highlighted the intense competition, culminating in a 39-36 victory for Liberty Ranch. The evenly matched teams showcased their talent and determination throughout the meet, keeping the audience engaged until the final bout. The narrow victory underscored the competitive nature of the rivalry and set the stage for exciting future encounters.

On the girls' side, Liberty Ranch won the majority of matches and benefited from a series of forfeits, leading to a commanding 30-6 triumph. With women's wrestling gaining traction and popularity in both schools, the meet reinforced the



Galt's Margareth Cacnio works to get a leg hold on Liberty's Brooklynn Burton. Photo by Paige Lampson

importance of nurturing these programs to engage more young athletes.

Galt's new head coach, Edward Smith, emphasized a back-to-basics approach this season, focusing on fundamentals.

"Our goal this season was to build a solid foundation of fundamentals," Smith said. "Most importantly, my focus was on developing these young men and women to be the best versions of themselves every day, on and off the mat. Our season ended with a near loss to Liberty Ranch, 39-36. Had we not given up several forfeits, we could have pulled out an upset victory over a very strong, talented team.'

As the Hawks and the Warriors prepare for the

upcoming league match and individual competitions at sections, there is a shared aspiration to refine their skills and achieve their personal and team goals. The efforts displayed by both squads highlight the commitment and dedication of the wrestlers and coaches, promising an exciting future for wrestling in the region.

With wrestling gaining a stronger foothold among female athletes, both schools are eager to keep building their programs, enhancing opportunities for young women to excel in the sport. As the season progresses, it will be exciting to watch these wrestling programs grow and thrive, fostering talent and sportsmanship in the local community.

# Valentine's Day Deals











