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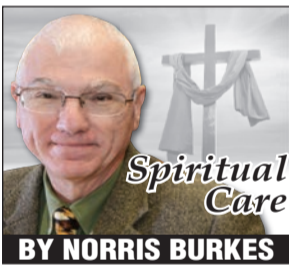
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BUYING WHAT PEOPLE AIN'T SELLIN'



Spiritual Care

BY NORRIS BURKES

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Artist Models Iconic Galt Water Tower



Artist and longtime resident Henry "Mel" Hendrix is "keeping the money local" by honoring the community of Galt with his water tower art as well as by partnering with a nearby business, Galt Signs.

Story and photos by Idaly Valencia

GALT, CA (MPG) - The water tower located on C Street, between Fifth and Sixth streets, is a historical landmark that has stood in the center of Galt for more than 100 years. The structure is very familiar to locals as the most recognizable landmark in town.

Longtime resident Henry "Mel"

Hendrix created his own Galt Water Tower that stands eight feet tall in front of his home in the Emerald Park neighborhood. Hendrix built a second replica of the tower that he said will be featured at a farm-to-fork-style restaurant, still under construction, on B Street.

Hendrix got into making metal-work art about five years ago during the COVID-19 lockdown. His first project was a water tower that he

made for his wife, Sandy. That tower is also displayed in the front of their home; it has "Hendrix Junction" written in black with a green heart and letters under that reads, "Mel loves Amy."

After creating that first water tower, Hendrix continued to have more ideas to create similar kinds of art. He started making shadow art, which is black cut-out silhouettes

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Diamond Anniversary Celebration for Houcks

Couple Mark 75 Years of Marriage

By Sheila Houck

GALT, CA (MPG) - In a rare and inspiring milestone, John Edward Houck and Marjorie Lee (Cox) Houck, both of Delia, Kansas, celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary on June 20. Surrounded by family and friends, the couple will be honored at a special gathering at their home in Galt to commemorate a lifetime of love, dedication and partnership.

John, 96, and Marjorie, 93, were married on June 20, 1950, at the First Presbyterian Church in Topeka, Kansas, beginning a journey that has spanned three-quarters of a century. Their remarkable union has witnessed countless historical events, cultural changes and technological advancements, all while they built a loving home and strong family foundation.

The couple grew up in the same town of Delia, Kansas. They were married after John returned from World War II. The couple spent their first summer of



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John and Marjorie Houck. Photo courtesy of Sheila Houck

Design Dispute Delays Summerfield Homes Project



By Idaly Valencia

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Galt Planning Commission voted on June 12 to deny design approval for the proposed Summerfield at Twin Cities development project that is set to be built in north Galt.

During the public hearing, commission members and representatives from developer Lennar engaged in a lengthy discussion before agreeing not to proceed with the current plans.

Summerfield at Twin Cities is a proposed 58-acre gated community to be located on Twin Cites Road between Waldo Road and Hauschildt Road. Initially introduced and approved by City Council in 2020, the project was first managed by developers Homes by Towne before Lennar purchased it at the end of last year.

There has been continued deliberation between the Planning Commission and the developer surrounding the design plans at the meetings since Lennar took over the project.

One of the main points of contention comes from the "executive-style housing," which was a condition promised in the original design plans that the council approved five years ago.

The Planning Commission reviewed multiple design proposals from Lennar and previously requested revisions to align with the city's General Plan and the original concept of an elevated community. However, commissioners agreed that the latest submission still fell short.

"This is the third time you (Lennar) have brought the same plans to us and the third time that these plans are nothing more than a couple of little paint jobs," said Planning Commission Chair Dan Denier. "I don't think that you actually did listen to us. I don't think you're following through with the promises that were made."

The term "executive-style housing" was loosely used to describe the development project, but it was never clearly defined.

Commissioners have had previous discussions regarding this condition and emphasized that it means plans should feature

Continued on Page 3

Grand Jury: Schools Can Improve Arts Education Funding Practices

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Grand Jury recently released reports on this year's investigations. These reports include findings and recommendations, which must be addressed by the agency involved. In most cases, the entity has 90 days to respond.

In one of its investigations, the Sacramento County Grand Jury addressed public schools' flaws with arts education funding.

Public schools in Sacramento County receive nearly \$40 million each year to increase instruction in visual and performing arts as a result of Proposition 28, passed overwhelmingly by voters in November 2022. Because of the importance of arts education, the strong support for the bill and the significant amount of money at stake, the grand jury investigated the extent to which schools are taking advantage of this funding, a multi-million-dollar opportunity that could greatly benefit students.

"In Sacramento County, Proposition 28 was approved by 65% of the voters, underscoring the importance of ensuring that our schools take full advantage of this funding," said Elizabeth TenPas, grand jury foreperson for 2024-2025. "This strong support reflects a growing awareness that arts and music education is not merely a 'nice to have' addition



to the school day; rather, it is increasingly seen as an important part of the core curriculum."

The report stated that studies show arts and music education play a critical role in helping children succeed in school and later in life.

With arts and music education, students do better in math, reading and other academic subjects; learn to think creatively and critically; and have better attendance, self-confidence and mental health. Increased participation in arts and music education is also associated with fewer behavioral and disciplinary problems.

The newly-published report outlines clear findings: Governing boards can do a better job of implementing both the letter and the spirit of law, especially in areas of program planning and hiring, transparency

in reporting and parent involvement.

The grand jury also found some technical violations of Proposition 28 that could result in the loss of funding if not corrected. In addition, one budget practice common among schools that undermines the intended effect of Proposition 28 could expose schools to legal action and have significant negative fiscal consequences.

Another jury investigation report recently released was on the Batterers' Treatment Program. For more than 30 years, California Penal Code section 1203.097 has required defendants who are convicted of and granted formal probation in felony domestic violence cases to complete a 52-week certified Batterers' Treatment Program (BTP).

However, the Sacramento County Grand Jury investigation found that the Batterers' Treatment Program of the Sacramento County Probation Department (Probation), which is housed in the Family Violence Unit, is not fulfilling its mission due to inadequate management and an outdated, ineffective approach to treatment.

In California, the funding for domestic violence programming relies primarily on the individual who committed the crime; the state provides no funding to the Batterers' Treatment Program. This approach derives from the retribution goal of the "Offender Pays Model" as identified by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). Domestic violence

offenders are expected to pay for the program on a sliding-scale pay model.

The "Offender Pays Model" has been found to contribute to sporadic attendance and a high dropout rate. From a program management perspective, state law requires that the Probation Department oversee and supervise the Batterers' Treatment Program and establish standards for batterers' treatment providers to ensure that they comply with state law and operate effectively.

The grand jury has found that supervision of offenders and contracted providers by the Family Violence Unit is severely lacking, undermining the program's goals and effectiveness.

Probation officers are not performing provider site visits and the process of collecting, storing and analyzing data is deficient, resulting in unreliable data that cannot be trusted to provide a true picture of how the program is doing.

Conversely, a pilot program is currently underway in six California counties (Sacramento County is not included) to assess the effectiveness of alternative approaches to the standard Batterers' Treatment Program methodology.

The pilot program emphasizes risk assessment for more accurate direction of services, treatment, courses and monitoring.

The full investigations are at sacgrandjury.org. ★

Diamond Anniversary Celebration for Houcks

Continued from page 1

and eventually settled on a wedded bliss traveling the Midwest helping with the wheat harvest alongside John's sister and brother-in-law. The couple spent two years in Kansas and set out for the Sacramento area in their 1949 Chevrolet. They spent approximately 17 years in the Foothill Farms area of Sacramento

and eventually settled on a 10-acre piece of property in Galt where they have resided for 55 years.

John learned the skills of being a landscape contractor and owned his business for many decades, while Marjorie was a homemaker and later earned her cosmetology license. They have been active members of the

Northminster Presbyterian Church in Sacramento and the Galt United Methodist Church. They continue to inspire all who know them with their enduring love and commitment.

The couple were blessed to enjoy many RV trips across the country with close friends and family. They enjoyed "just getting

in the truck and seeing the country."

The memories they created during these trips are ones they have always cherished.

John enjoys being outside every chance he gets. He stays active with his winter and summer gardens, fruit trees and cattle. Marjorie loves reminiscing

about their life and travels. Over the years, Marjorie was an avid baker and quilter, from which everyone around her benefited (especially the baking).

Together, they raised three children: Gregory, Scott and Brent. They are proud grandparents of four grandchildren and one great-grandchild, with two more arriving in November.

When asked about the secret to a long and happy

marriage, Marjorie said, "You just take it one day at a time." They also agree that communication and a lot of humor helps.

Their family and friends are thrilled to celebrate this extraordinary milestone with them and wish them continued health and happiness in the years ahead.

Happy 75th Anniversary to John and Marjorie, a true testament to everlasting love and commitment! ★

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12:20 PM	12:45 PM	12:50 PM	12:55 PM	1:00 PM	1:25 PM	1:45 PM	2:00 PM	2:20 PM	2:45 PM	2:50 PM	2:55 PM	3:00 PM
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Galt Youth Commission Welcomes Members



From left are Sophia Buzo, Trinity Holden, Armaan John, Estrella Diaz, Madilyn Dylan and Gabrielle Akers. Courtesy photo

By MPG Staff

GALT, CA (MPG) - City Clerk Tina Hubert swore in the newest members of the Galt Youth Commission during the June 17 City Council meeting. The seven young leaders will serve two-year terms, unless they graduate high school before their terms conclude.

The newly appointed commissioners are Sophia Buzo, Trinity Holden, Savannah Maldonado, Gabrielle Akers, Estrella Diaz, Armaan John and Madilyn Dylan.

The Youth Commission provides local students with a platform to voice their perspectives and contribute to community initiatives. Congratulations to the incoming members! ★

Galt Seeks Input on Vehicle Parking Rules

City of Galt News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - In the coming days, a survey will be included with residents' utility bills to gather feedback on the city's current regulations regarding the parking and storage of boats, RVs, trailers and unregistered or inoperable vehicles on residential properties.

Under the current code, these types of vehicles are prohibited from being parked or stored in front of

residential properties.

The Galt City Council is considering potential updates to this regulation, and input from residents will help to guide future decisions. Whether you support keeping the existing rules or believe changes are needed, your voice matters.

Residents have two options to complete and submit their survey:

Surveys can be completed online by scanning the QR code that will be provided with residents'

upcoming utility bills and taking the survey electronically.

Paper surveys are also available to fill out which and will be included with the utility bill. The paper survey can be returned by mail (to be included with the utility bill payment) or by using the drop box outside city hall located at 380 Civic Drive.

The deadline to submit the survey is Monday, July 7. To review the full regulation, visit bit.ly/GaltProperty. ★

June 12 Shooting Investigated

Galt Police Department News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - On Thursday, June 12 at around 9:30 p.m., the Galt Police Department responded to a report of a shooting in the 100 block of F Street.

Upon arrival, officers located an adult male suffering from at least one gunshot wound. The 19-year-old victim was transported to a local hospital and is expected to survive.

The suspect(s) fled the scene prior to Galt Police Department's arrival and remain outstanding. However, authorities say there is no indication of an ongoing threat to the community at this time.

Detectives are actively investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the investigations unit at 209-366-7010. Additional updates will be provided by the police department as the investigation progresses. ★

Design Dispute Delays Summerfield Homes Project

Continued from page 1

upscale, high-quality designs distinct from other residential areas in Galt.

At the previous meeting held May 8, the commission voted to continue the design review process with Lennar, instructing the developer to return with enhanced plans that included more upscale amenities.

The revised plans presented this month, as Denier said, did not meet expectations of the General Plan, which includes high quality and unique designs for new developments.

Commissioners pointed to specific shortcomings in the design, such as the number of lights, garage door sizes and landscaping elements, presented at the June 12 meeting that failed to meet expectations for a distinctive and upscale neighborhood.

"The city should require new neighborhoods to have a unique sense of place. That is in the General Plan. This does not give me a unique sense of place,"

Denier added.

Commission member Michaela Johnson said that it was the due diligence of the developer to investigate what kind of project they were taking on.

"We appreciate that you've made changes but when we have to answer to our community, this is not an elevated community. This is something that you guys build all throughout the state," said Johnson.

Although a motion was made for Lennar to continue working with city staff to revise its design plans, the developer declined, stating there was no value in moving forward.

"We believe we are in compliance with all objective design standards and criteria," said Lennar representative Sean MacDiarmid. "What I'm hearing tonight are a lot of subjective concerns and for those reasons, we respectfully request a denial, which we intend to appeal to the City Council."

City Attorney Olivia

Clark informed the developers that it was within the discretion of the commission chair to initiate a motion. She also noted that if an appeal is filed, it could potentially lead to litigation.

Despite Lennar's position, the commission expressed a willingness to continue working with the developer if a compromise on both sides could be reached to avoid a lengthy court process.

MacDiarmid said some adjustments, such as adding more lighting, could be made. However, he stated that increasing the height of garage doors was not feasible.

Denier then moved forward with a formal resolution to deny the revised plans, citing that they did not meet the city's expectations for high-quality, distinctive design.

The Planning Commission meets at 6 p.m. every second Thursday of the month at Galt City Hall, 380 Civic Drive. ★

Artist Models Iconic Galt Water Tower



Creating these water tower replicas and other metal artwork, Henry "Mel" Hendrix said, helps him take a break from thinking about his recent health issues.

Continued from page 1

made from wood. The shadow art displayed in his yard resembles a cowboy and cowgirl, creating a Western theme to accompany his water tower replicas.

This became an activity that Hendrix realized that he enjoyed and was good at doing. Creating steel artwork, Hendrix said, has also helped him personally.

"I started doing this for me because I needed something to take my mind off all my medical issues," said Hendrix.

The top pieces of Hendrix's projects are old chicken feeders he buys online and at auctions. Some feeders that he repurposes for his art are more than 100 years old.

"I got some that are like 130, 145 years. Except for the bottom part, they're all antiques," Hendrix said.

Hendrix currently relies on a wheelchair, so a friend helps him put together the eight-foot water tower replicas after they're stripped, polished and painted.

Besides the assembly, Hendrix does the whole process of creating the water tower replicas himself and often lays down to work on his art.

Hendrix's work and relaxation station is his backyard. He finds joy in his artwork, which vibrantly decorates his home. One of his favorite pieces is a vintage bathtub with a working water feature and live fish.

"My favorite piece is this 1840 bathtub. I like the sound of the water and we like to stay out here with the firepit on; it's very relaxing," Hendrix said.

Mel and Sandy Hendrix have lived in Galt for about 30 years and moved into



One of Mel Hendrix's water tower projects has a "Route 66" sign and will eventually sport a classic car figurine on top of it.

their home in 1996. They have two adult daughters and grandchildren who also enjoy spending time in the backyard, admiring the art.

Aside from the Galt Water Tower replica, Hendrix has made and donated water tower art to local churches, such as the Herald Baptist Church and the Galt Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"I really enjoy doing it. It's fun. At least I've had this to fall back on to get me through tough times," said Hendrix.

Hendrix emphasized the importance of "keeping the money local" by conducting business and building connections within the community. He works with Galt Signs to print the lettering and art used on the replica water towers.

To learn more about Hendrix's replica water towers or to order a custom piece, contact Hendrix at 209-912-8182. ★

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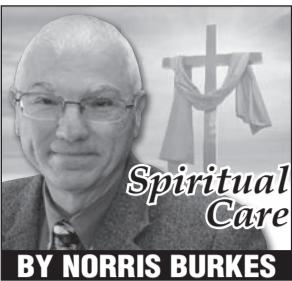
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Buying What People Ain't Sellin'



BY NORRIS BURKLES

On a hot summer day in 2018, my wife, Becky, and I were moving into our new home in Auburn, California, when Becky's sister, Melissa, stopped by to help us unpack. A few hours into the job, Becky put down her boxes and started making sandwiches for us.

A few hours into the job, Becky put down her boxes and started making sandwiches for us.

"Hey," she said to me, "I think the neighbors down the street are getting ready for a garage sale. Go see if you can find the yard tools we're going to need."

I peered out the window at our barren one-third of an acre. "What yard?"

"Go," she ordered.

I blinked. Given the opportunity to escape the tedium of unpacking, I needn't be told twice. I grabbed my car keys and suggested that Melissa come along.

A few minutes later, we pulled into an empty driveway where I couldn't believe my eyes. These were quality products, yet oddly enough, there were no customers. Stranger still, the homeowners were also absent.

"I wonder where they are," Melissa said as we got out.

"Probably inside taking a break from the heat." I shrugged. "I'd rather shop without the seller barking prices every time I touch something anyway."

She agreed and picked

up a pair of Keen sandals. "Hey, I think these are a fit." "Nice," I said. "How much?"

"I don't know." She turned her attention to a bag of bedding. "They haven't priced anything yet."

We shopped for another five minutes before I decided to give the door a light knock, then reported back. "No answer."

Continuing our search, Melissa put aside the sandals to hide them from the mob we were expecting.

My eyes quickly fell upon a nice selection of yard tools — Home Depot on a blanket.

"Wow, this is everything I need. Rakes, pruning shears and even a leaf-blower." I laid aside the best and returned to the front door to make a lowball offer.

I gave the doorbell an aggressive ring. This time, the dogs erupted with barking. I paused expecting human footsteps. Nothing.

I returned to my pile of tools, spouting the old garage-sale cliché, "No price tags, no bodies, so it must be free."

Melissa pointed to a small pile of sweepings at the edge of the garage. "Norris, I don't think this a garage sale. I think we've interrupted a garage cleaning."

"That must mean ..." My voice trailed.

"We're trespassing!" Melissa said.

Just then the house curtains jostled, either by canine snout or human hand.

I dropped the tools, and before anyone gave chase, we beat feet to the car.

The garage sale gaffe brought to mind three common platitudes.

First, the familiar triteness that says, "If the shoe fits, wear it," isn't necessarily true.

It only seems true because there are a lot of folks who'll force their images upon us trying to match their assumptions of us. They insist that the shoe fits us, so we chain ourselves to their preconceived impression.

Just because the proverbial shoe may fit, doesn't necessarily mean you have to wear it or own it. If you don't see yourself in the shoe, then drop the shoe.

The second platitude encourages us to pray that God will open doors for us. Well, the chaplain is here to testify that just because a door is open doesn't mean that God opened it. We need to ask God to help us discern whether the opening is a welcome pathway or a trap door. In other words, stay out of unmarked doors.

Finally, you can't buy what people ain't selling. At least that seems to be the pesky thought behind the Tenth Commandment: "You shall not covet your neighbor's house ... or anything that belongs to your neighbor" (Exodus 20:17 NIV).

When Melissa and I returned to report our failed grand-theft attempt, my diplomatic wife profusely apologized for her erroneous tip — at least that's what I think she said in the midst of her hysterical laughter.

Sign up to receive this weekly column in your email box at <https://thechaplain.net/newsletter/> or send me your email address to comment@thechaplain.net.

All of Norris's books can be ordered on Amazon. Autographed copies can be obtained on his website www.thechaplain.net or by sending a check for \$20 for each book to 10566 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602. ★

MEETING MINDERS

Monday, June 23
Arcohe School Board, 7 p.m., Media Center (East Campus), 11715 Ivie Road, Herald, 209-748-2313.

Tuesday, July 1
Galt City Council, 6 p.m., Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive.

Wednesday, July 2
Cosumnes CSD, 5 p.m., Elk Grove CSD boardroom, 8820 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove.

Thursday, June 26
Galt High School Board, 6 p.m., Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive.

Herald Community Club, 6:30 p.m., Hendrickson Hall, 12746 Ivie Road, Herald, 209-810-8390.

Friday, July 4
Galt Sunrise Rotary, 7 a.m., Comfort Inn & Suites, 10380 Twin Cities Road, 209-745-6617. ★

MEMORIAL

JOHN H. HENKE JR. • 8/26/1944 – 6/12/2025

John H. Henke Jr., 80, of Galt, passed away peacefully in his home on June 12, 2025. Born Aug. 26, 1944, in Sayre, Oklahoma, John spent most of his life in Galt. John was known affectionately by his friends as the Okie.

John spent his younger years in Oklahoma, before his family moved to California, eventually settling in Galt. John attended school in Galt, including Galt High, graduating in 1963. He attended Delta College in Stockton, focusing on animal husbandry. He proudly served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. John's work was in the construction industry where he was a Union member of the Laborers International Union of North America, Local 185.

He worked for Claude C. Wood, ARB, Teichert, and Tri-Valley Growers. He also had his own backhoe business, Henke's Hoe Service. John was also a farmer, rancher, property owner and landlord. He was always busy, working many hours, and he loved every minute of it.

John owned the Estrellita Ballroom and

would often donate its use to various causes.

John is survived by his daughters, Heather Farmer (Shawn) and Amy Radford (Ryan); stepson Rick Strange (Cheryl); grandchildren Kalyn, Kristian, Megan, Aleigh, and Jack. He also leaves a nephew and many nieces, along with his brother Clayton. He was preceded in death by wife June; parents, John "Jack" and Mary Cathryn Henke, as well as brother James Henke.

John was a hunter and fisherman. He took many fishing trips to Mexico, Alaska, Bodega Bay and Fort Bragg. He enjoyed crabbing and abalone diving at Lawson's Landing with his camping group, Bottom's Up Camp. He played as hard as he worked and he took pleasure in horseback riding, camping, road trips, cruises and was always up for an adventure.

A celebration of John's life will be held on Saturday, June 28, 2025 at 3 p.m. at the Estrellita Ballroom, 415 C St. in Galt. All who knew and loved him are welcome to join in honoring his memory. A private burial will take place at a later date.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-03880

Pablo Saldivar, 812 C Street, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Grouch Tattoos" 468 Sparrow Drive, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County May 22, 2025

Publish: June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025
GROUCH 6-27-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-03979

Jose Joel Alvarado Vigil, 7110 Flamingo Way, Sacramento, CA 95828 is doing business under

the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Pacific Recycling" 814 A Street, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County May 28, 2025

Publish: June 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2025
PACIFIC 7-4-25

ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
#25CV013445

Robert Harold Williams has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Robert Harold Williams to Robert

Harold Rogers.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on October 6, 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: June 6, 2025
Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2025
ROGERS 7-11-25

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June 20 through Sunday, June 22

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– Enjoy zany clowns, amazing acrobats, incredible feats and high-flying fun. Tickets and more information at american-crowncircus.com. 413 Lockeford St., Lodi.

Saturday, June 21

Sacramento County Young Farmers & Ranchers (YFR) Summer BBQ at Lake Have-a-Few, Galt – 5:30 p.m. social hour and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Contact the California Farm Bureau office at 916-685-6958 for more information, including sponsorships available.

Lodi Art Hop – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Veterans Park. This free, family-friendly event brings together artists, art lovers, and the community to celebrate creativity and local talent. Explore a variety of art displays, meet artists and immerse yourself in the local art scene. More information at visitlodi.com. 305 W. Pine St., Lodi.

“San Joaquin County: 175 Years of Growing Greatness” exhibit opening – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Micke Grove Park. San Joaquin is one of the most diverse and fertile counties in California. Learn about the communities, events, and innovations that made San Joaquin County vital to the development of the modern world, and let’s be inspired to continue growing greatness together. This free public exhibit opening event will feature a panel discussion and food vendors. There is a \$6 per car fee to enter the park (free for members).

For more information, call 209-331-2055 or visit sanjoaquinhistory.org. 11793 N. Micke Grove Road, Lodi.

Wednesday, June 25

Music in the Park, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Hutchins Street Square – Bring your picnic dinner, cozy blankets, or low lawn chairs and settle in for an evening of fantastic live music, this month featuring “The Retrofitz”. Food vendors will be on-site, offering delicious bites for purchase. More information at lodi.gov. 125 S. Hutchins St., Lodi.

Friday, June 27

Tacos and Tequila – 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at St. Bernadette’s Church. This event, hosted by the Community Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CCBVI) will raise revenue to support scholarships for youth with blindness or low vision. For more information, or to order tickets by phone, contact CCBVI at 209-466-3836. 2555 Country Club Blvd., Stockton.

Saturday, June 28

Food Bazaar and Collectibles Sale – noon to 7 p.m. at Lodi Buddhist Church. This beloved annual gathering features a delightful variety of homemade Japanese and local dishes lovingly prepared by church volunteers. Explore the bazaar and take time to browse the collectibles sale – an eclectic treasure trove of vintage funds, handmade goods, and unique keepsakes. More information at lodibuddhist.org. 23 N. Stockton St., Lodi.

Runabouts on the

River – a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Stockton Sailing Club. Join us for classic and antique boats on display, as well as classic cars, hot rods and modern performance cars. Enjoy food and drinks from our vendors, free boat rides, and live music. More information at rotr2025.com. 4980 Buckley Cove Way, Stockton.

Astronomy in the Park

– 8:30 p.m. at Oak Grove Regional Park. Enjoy telescope viewings guided by local astronomers, interactive presentations, and educational activities perfect for kids and adults alike. Bring a blanket, pack a picnic and don’t forget your sense of wonder. For more information, contact 209-953-8800. 4520 W. Eight Mile Road, Stockton.

Sunday, June 29

Corgi Paddle – 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Lodi Lake. Whether you’re a proud corgi parent or just a fan of those lovable little legs, this is a can’t-miss annual summer celebration. More information and tickets at visitlodi.com. 1101 W. Turner Rd., Lodi.

Friday, July 4

Independence Day Celebration – all-day patriotic fun in a variety of locations throughout Galt. Choose from the 13th annual Officer Kevin Tonn 5k run or walk, the Independence Day Parade, live music, food trucks, a kids’ zone, and of course, fireworks! More information and 5k sign-ups at cityofgalt.org.

Saturday, July 5

Wilton Bingo – Wilton Community Center. Doors open at 5 p.m. with food

available for sale and bingo starts at 6 p.m. All proceeds go to two nonprofits: the local Park Council and the Wilton History Group.

9717 Colony Road at Dillard Road.

Enter Aug. 2 Herald Day Contests

Herald Community Club is accepting entries for the Herald Day 2025 canning and baking contests. Herald Day is scheduled for Aug. 2 at Herald Park on Twin Cities Road. The categories are baked goods, canned jelly or jam, canned pickle or relish and salsa. Entries must be delivered to Herald Park by 11 a.m. on event day. For more information, call Jim Cunningham at 209-768-7144.

Ongoing Events

Galt Saturday Market – First Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 4th St. Promenade. Visit with local artisans, shop handmade crafts, and enjoy a variety of cuisine from yummy food trucks! Next market is scheduled for Friday, July 4 (special Holiday edition!)

Kiwanis Club of Galt meets at 8:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the Comfort Inn, 10380 Twin Cities Rd. For more information visit k13878.site.kiwanis.org.

Lockeford Community Services District Board of Directors meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Old School House, 19456 N. Jack Tone Rd. The next meeting is scheduled for July 10.

Lodi Farmers Market – 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., every Thursday evening through August, on School Street in Downtown Lodi.

Library Events

Sacramento County Libraries have the following upcoming events: (G) Marian O. Lawrence Library, located at 1000 Caroline Ave., (WG) Walnut Grove, located at 14177 Market St.

Friday, June 20: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (G) English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (G)

Saturday, June 21: Wild Things, 11 a.m. to noon. Local conservation ambassadors, Wild Things, will present an educational, entertaining event featuring animals rescued from the wild. (G)

Wednesday, June 25: English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (G) Teen space, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Meet other teens and hang out in a space dedicated to you. (WG)

Thursday, June 26: Tai Chi for beginners, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Join us for a 6-week series of this low-impact, gentle martial art. Registration required at: engage.saclibrary.org. (WG) STEAM builder space, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy making pathways and mazes for Hexbug robots to navigate, or build your own robot with Cubelets and LEGO. (G)

Friday, June 27: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (G) English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (G)

Tuesday, July 1: Adult book group, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. This month we will be reading and discussing “All Fours” by Miranda July. Pick up your copy at the circulation desk. (WG)

Wednesday, July 2: Teen space, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Meet other teens and hang out in a space dedicated to

you. (WG) English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (G)

Thursday, July 3: STEAM builder space with Lincoln Logs, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (G)

Call 916-264-2920 or 800-561-4636 for more information on any of these events.

Meetings for Veterans

American Legion Post 55, Veterans and Auxiliary Units: fourth Wednesday each month. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m. Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive. Next meeting will be June 25. Breakfast: second Saturday, 8-10 a.m., 8830 Sharkey Ave.

American Legion Post 233 have 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. Next meeting will be Thursday, July 24 (June was cancelled due to a conflict with the Legion Convention). The Post Family Breakfast on the first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. will change location for July 5 and Aug. 2 to Bert’s Diner, 8972 Grant Line Rd., Elk Grove. For more information, call 916-683-6128.

Marine Corps League Detachment #1238: first Thursday each month. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., District 56 Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive.

VFW Post 2073: second Thursday. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., District 56 Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive. For more information, call 916-684-3849. ★

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The Bald Eagle: An American Icon

June 20 commemorates the anniversary of the bald eagle's selection as our national symbol on the Great Seal in 1782. Today, it serves as a reminder of the bald eagle's status as a conservation success story that celebrates the eagle's triumphant return from near extinction.

According to nationaldaycalendar.com in the latter 20th century, the bald eagle hovered on the brink of extinction in the continental United States. Eventually, populations recovered and on July 12, 1995, the species was removed from the United States Federal Government's list of Endangered Species and transferred to the list of Threatened Species.

In June 2007, as the species continued to thrive, the American eagle was withdrawn from the list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife list in the lower 48 States. The bald eagle's range includes most of Canada, Alaska, all of the contiguous United States and northern Mexico. They nest near large bodies of open water where abundant food supplies and old growth trees abound.

Opportunistic feeders, bald eagles



survive mainly on fish, swooping down and snatching them from the water. Their nests are the largest of any North American bird, and the largest tree nest ever recorded for any animal species.

The largest recorded eagle's nest was found in St. Petersburg, Florida. It measured 9.5 feet and diameter and 20 feet deep and weighed in at nearly 3 tons. The majestic female raptors have a wingspan of 7 feet and weigh between 7 and 15 pounds. The males are slightly smaller. They mate for life and live between 20-30 years.

As a powerful bird of prey, an eagle's sharp sense of sight joins with powerful muscles and piercing talons and beak, making them prime for the hunt. The word "bald" is derived from an older

meaning of "white headed." The bird isn't bald at all. The adult eagle is mainly dark brown/black with a white head and tail. And FYI: That majestic, piercing, screaming call you hear in movies and on television of an eagle is not an eagle cry at all. That sound is actually the call of a hawk. The eagle makes a chirping sound.

There are eagles living around the Herald area. They are very elusive, but every once in a while, they can be seen gliding over a creek and through the sky.

Today is the first day of summer, the longest day of the year! Yes, it is the Summer Solstice. A good time to take advantage of the most daylight hours in one day of the year. It is time you enjoy all the daylight you can because the days get shorter from here on in. Before you know it, there will be dark sky at 6 p.m. And then guess what? There are only 185 shopping days until Christmas. Yes, I had to throw that in as a reminder to be diligent and keep your eyes open for bargains like camping gear and sports equipment,

they make great gifts. And don't whine about having no place to store them. Put them in containers marked Christmas Decorations and no one will find them. Remember, it is never too early to shop for Christmas.

Speaking of holidays, Independence Day will be here in two weeks. Fireworks will be on sale next Friday. Do you have defendable space around your property to keep any sparks or fire at bay? That might be something to think about as you are preparing the yard and barbecue area, getting ready to celebrate our country's birthday.

We are blessed to enjoy the freedoms our forefathers fought for; let us not waste our celebration time fighting fire when it can be prevented by implementing the "7 P's" – Prior Proper Planning Prevent Pathetic Poor Performance.

Words to live by. Life is short; make a memory on this longest day of the year.

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

Local Classifieds Advertise in your local community newspaper Call 916-773-1111

Announcements

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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.

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.

TOPS Weekly Meetings

TOPS, Taking Off Pounds Sensibly, holds meetings every Wednesday at Grace Presbyterian Church, 10 N. Mills Ave., Lodi. Meeting time: 10-10:45 a.m. Weigh-ins: 9-9:50am. No charge for first meeting.

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.

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.

AA 24-Hour Hotline

For help with an alcohol-related problem, call the Alcoholics Anonymous 24-hour hotline at 209-745-1525.

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 two-hour 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 with 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.

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.

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.

Square Dance Classes 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 Valley Oaks Grange Hall is at 347 Fifth St. For more information, call Sue Regadanz at 916-835-8916. ★

POLICE LOGS

During the time period of June 10 to June 16, Galt Police received and responded to a variety of calls, resulting in nine arrests.

June 10

12:57 a.m., Theft reported, Allport Drive: Subjects stealing mail.

12:52 p.m., Burglary reported, Nathaniel Avenue: Truck broken into.

4:53 p.m., Fraud reported, Canyon Creek Way.

10:29 p.m., DUI/adult arrest, 7-Eleven, Pine Street.

11:18 p.m., Warrant Served/adult arrest, McDonald's, East Stockton Boulevard.

11:58 p.m., Warrant Served/adult arrest, Jack In The Box, Twin Cities Road.

June 11

10:03 a.m., Fraud

reported, Ashboro Lane: Credit card fraudulently opened.

11:06 a.m., Theft reported, Spring Street.

2:49 p.m., Warrant Served/adult arrest, Emerald Vista Drive/Adare Way.

11:37 p.m., Domestic Violence/adult arrest, McCauley Way.

June 12

7:50 a.m., Vandalism reported, Lavine Farmer's Insurance on C Street: Rock thrown through window.

12:52 p.m., Fraud reported, Edelweiss Way.

June 13

9:44 a.m., Arson reported, Life's A Grind, Twin Cities Road: Dumpster fire.

2:12 p.m., Theft reported, Walker Park on West Elm Avenue: Wallet stolen.

June 14

9:43 a.m., Theft reported, Birchwood Apartments on B Street: Air pump stolen.

5:42 p.m., DUI/adult arrest, Fairway Drive/Glendale Avenue.

6:16 p.m., DUI/adult arrest, Civic Drive/C Street.

June 15

12:33 a.m., DUI/adult arrest, Sterling Oak Drive.

11:59 p.m., Stolen Vehicle reported, Downing Drive.

June 16

8:58 a.m., Theft reported, Grizzly Hollow Apartments on Beaver Park Way: Stolen mail.

9:38 a.m., Warrant Served/adult arrest, 908 C St.

10:10 a.m., Theft reported, Sparrow Drive: License plate stolen from trailer. ★

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



How often are rumors worth listening to? Well, if you're a Sacramento Kings fan, buckle your seat belt.

Ja Morant, really?

One of several unlikely big names that are being cast about, including one notable player the Kings passed up in the draft class of 2012, Damian Lillard.

Does anyone remember the name of Thomas Robinson? The same Thomas Robinson that was drafted by the Sacramento Kings, one pick ahead of Damian Lillard with the fifth pick overall.

Robinson lasted a little over a year with the Kings and bounced around the NBA as a bench player before leaving the league in 2017.

Now, as Damian Lillard is recovering from a torn Achilles and likely to sit out much if not all the upcoming season, rumors have the Kings interested in a 3-team deal that could possibly have Lillard in a Kings jersey. Don't hold your breath.

One pundit has Ja Morant coming to the Kings after the Memphis Grizzlies inexplicably traded Morant's backcourt mate Desmond Bane to the Orlando Magic over the weekend.

The NBA has been quiet so far, and the Bane trade kicks off what could be a wild ride of trades as teams prepare for the upcoming NBA draft later this month.

I don't see Morant coming to the Kings, but it raises the question, why would they want a player already suspended twice for 33 games and with a history of injuries? That's a bad mix for a team trying to build a playoff contender. Hopefully, like most rumors, that's all this is.

Scott Perry has remained quiet thus far, and I'm hoping that anything resembling a knee jerk reaction won't take place.

The fans are anxious, but better to be anxious than to rush into a trade that makes no sense.

I would love to see Perry find a way for the Kings to acquire a first round pick in the upcoming draft, but only if it makes sense, and we don't have to give up too much to make that happen.

King's fans won't have long to wait, as the first round of the NBA draft is on June 25.

A lot can happen in less than 2 weeks. I'm hoping that Scott Perry is looking closely at the talent he already has before

he begins making moves.

Young talents like Devin Carter, Isaac Jones, Keon Ellis, and fourth year player Keegan Murray have a huge upside, and I want to see what these young players look like in the upcoming season before we give up on them. All four of these players have solid defensive games, and the Kings are in sore need of players that bring defense to the court.

If the NBA finals have taught us anything it's that defense wins championships, and what fans are witnessing is a look at defenses playing at the highest level.

On paper the Sacramento Kings are already checking a lot of boxes.

Perennial rebounding champ and double-double wizard Domantas Sabonis now has big man Jonas Valanciunas to spell him minutes when needed, and with a little maneuvering I can see these two gladiators playing at times side by side.

The Kings have the midrange maestro in DeMar DeRozan who had solid year in 2024/2025 showing no signs of slowing down as he averaged over 22 points per game while adding four boards and four assists. At nearly 48% from the field DeRozan is the consummate pro who can be counted on when the Kings need a basket and remains a stellar tutor to the youngsters coming up.

From 3-point land newly acquired Zach Lavine didn't disappoint after a slow start in a Kings uniform, Zach ended the year second overall in percentage with a 44% average while draining 239 3-pointers.

Although Keegan Murray slipped to 36% from 3-point land the Kings have 3-point shooters, and Keon Ellis made strides last season shooting 43% from beyond the arc and 49% overall from the field!

Look closely Scott Perry and don't jump ship. Let's bring along the youngsters and value the veterans.

Do we need to add talent? Of course we do, but let's try something different for a change. Let's make smart decisions and stop including first round draft choices in our trades!

Stay tuned Kings fans. 2025/2026 could be interesting!

All the best!

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

Social Security Matters

Can My Husband Work Part Time and Collect Social Security?



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social
Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am writing to you on behalf of my husband. His intentions are to go part time as of January 1, 2026, working 30 hours a week and take Social Security benefits as supplemental income. How can we determine what his Social Security benefit would be with him still working part time? He will be 63 and 7 months old next January and has not yet applied for benefits. We look forward to hearing from someone very soon. **Signed: Anxious for Information**

Dear Anxious: If he claims Social Security at age 63 and 7 months, your husband's benefit will be about 78% of what it would be if he waited until age 67 to claim. And, since your husband will not yet have reached his SS full retirement age (FRA), he will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earning Test (AET), which limits how much he can earn while working and collecting early Social Security retirement benefits. The amount he can earn without paying a penalty changes yearly but, for reference, the earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 per year. If his work earnings exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take away some of his benefits. Using the 2025 limit as an example, if your husband's annual 2025 earnings were

\$40,000, then he would owe about \$8,300 (half of the amount he exceeded the limit by). Social Security would withhold his monthly benefits for enough months to recover what he owes for exceeding the earnings limit (how many months they withhold would be determined by his monthly SS benefit amount).

FYI, the earnings test lasts until your husband reaches his full retirement age (his FRA is age 67), but in the year he attains his FRA the penalty for exceeding the limit is less - \$1 for every \$3 over the limit - and the limit is much higher. The annual earnings test no longer applies once your husband reaches his FRA.

When your husband applies for his SS retirement benefit, Social Security will ask about his work plans and how much he expects to earn each year. Based upon that information, if he expects to exceed the annual limit they will pay his benefits for some months of the year (depending on his projected earnings) and withhold his benefits for the remaining months. They will also monitor his annual earnings as reported to the IRS and make any appropriate benefit adjustment afterwards.

If SS benefits are withheld because your husband exceeded the annual earnings limit, when he reaches his full retirement age (67), Social Security will give him time-credit for all month's that benefits were withheld. Essentially, they will advance his actual claim date by the number of months benefits were withheld, which will make his monthly benefit higher at his FRA. The higher amount he receives after reaching his FRA will help

him recover some of the money withheld as a result of exceeding the earnings limit before his FRA.

Please note that it is always best to inform Social Security up front if your husband plans to work and earn (even part time) prior to reaching his FRA. The IRS will provide the SSA with your husband's earnings information, and SSA will (if his projected earnings weren't disclosed when he applied) issue an Overpayment Notice if he earns more than allowed. He will then be required to repay SS everything owed, or have his benefits withheld until Social Security recovers what he owes.

One final point: by claiming his benefits in January 2026, your husband's monthly amount will be reduced by about 22% (from the amount he would get at his FRA of 67). Claiming early (before FRA) always results in a benefit reduction, whereas waiting longer than FRA to claim always results in a higher monthly amount (maximum benefit is reached at age 70).

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★

Newsom Wanted to Fast-Track, the Legislature Slowed



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

Repeatedly Gavin Newsom has sought legislative approval of his high-priority policy proposals within the annual state budget process, even though they often have nothing to do with the budget.

The unique rules governing the budget and its accompanying "trailer bills" allow them to be enacted quickly, bypassing many parliamentary hurdles and vote thresholds that other legislation must endure.

The Legislature, controlled by Newsom's fellow Democrats, generally allows him to use the budget process, in part because legislators often employ the same shortcuts for their own priorities.

Their underlying motive for the sneaky use — or misuse — of the budget process is to avoid prolonged analysis and debate that might, if the bills' contents are fully vetted, make them more difficult to enact. The trailer bills often contain favors for interest groups that would be difficult to justify in a

more transparent process.

Last month, while unveiling a revised state budget, Newsom asked the Legislature to attach legislation that would fast-track the highly controversial project to move Sacramento River water to the California Aqueduct without it flowing through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta — renewing a tactic that failed two years ago.

First proposed as a "peripheral canal" more than a half-century ago, it morphed into twin tunnels and, after Newsom's election, a single tunnel. Its purpose has also evolved, from a mechanism to increase water deliveries to Southern California, to one that would, Newsom and others argue, improve the reliability of deliveries.

"For too long, attempts to modernize our critical water infrastructure have stalled in endless red tape, burdened with unnecessary delay," Newsom said. "We're done with barriers. Our state needs to complete this project as soon as possible, so that we can better store and manage water to prepare for a hotter, drier future. Let's get this built."

It would take a book — a big book — to fully explain all of the project's environmental, financial and political aspects. Briefly, however, while advocates say that isolating water conveyance from the Delta would

improve habitat for fish and other wildlife, opponents contend that less water flowing through the estuary would further degrade its water quality.

While Newsom and other supporters often depict the tunnel as a stand-alone project, it is inextricably related to other aspects of California's very complex water picture.

For instance, as it touts a tunnel that would doubtless reduce Delta flows, the state also is pressuring farmers to reduce diversions from the San Joaquin River and its tributaries, to increase flows through the Delta. Those two efforts are not officially linked, but the connection is obvious.

The long-stalled Delta Conveyance Project — the latest of several official names — has slowly approached the final pre-construction phase, which is why Newsom wanted a trailer bill to finally get a green light.

Dan Walters is one of the most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends. Walters began covering California politics in 1975, just as Jerry Brown began his first stint as governor, and began writing his column in 1981, now for CALMatters since 2017. ★



The Future of Warfare is Here

Ukraine may not have "the cards," as President Trump put it, but it does have drones. They were used to great effect over the weekend in an audacious attack within Russia that has focused the world's attention on a revolution in warfare.

A badly outmanned and outgunned country just reached far inside its adversary's territory to destroy or damage hugely expensive, nuclear-capable strategic aircraft with low-cost drones basically indistinguishable from ones available on Amazon.

It's not quite David versus Goliath, because the Russian giant is not going to be felled by the blow, but the diplomatic and psychological impact of the raid could be profound, as Ukraine seeks to demonstrate to the West its staying power.

For creativity and outsized effect with widely available devices, the Ukrainian attack is in the same league as Israel's beeper attack on Hezbollah operatives in Lebanon last year. Both operations also carry a message about new vulnerabilities -- to a compromised supply chain and to a surprise drone attack -- that should make us take notice.

We've just watched the equivalent of aviation legend Billy Mitchell's demonstration in 1921 when he had U.S. planes

sink a former German battleship, in a display of the emerging potency of air power.

Ukraine's Operation Spider Web combined Mission Impossible-style intrigue -- the drones were secreted within Russia and some of them launched from containers attached to trucks, unbeknownst to the drivers -- with clever innovation.

The attacks spanned several time zones and hit 41 Russian aircraft, according to the Ukrainians. The operation was the latest iteration of a cat-and-mouse drone war between Ukraine and Russia. The Ukraine conflict is essentially a war of attrition, yet it is anything but static, as the means of waging it change almost by the week. Offensive innovation is met with defensive countermove, triggering another change on offense.

Drones are vulnerable to electronic jamming? Then, they'll be controlled by massive spools of fiber optic cable. Drones threaten supply routes? Then, the roads will be covered with netting. And drones will be attacked by other drones. What the siren of the Stuka dive-bomber was to the Blitzkrieg -- an unmistakable herald of a new way of waging war -- the high-pitched whirr of the drone is to the Ukraine war.

Estimates are that drones now inflict about 70% of casualties on both sides, and there are literally millions of them. Russia deployed roughly 4 million drones last year, and Ukraine about 1.5 million. We have much to learn from all this. After last weekend, every commander of a U.S. base should be thinking anew about potential vulnerability to drone attack, and it's

not hard to imagine the Chinese utilizing drones to execute a wide-ranging strike in the Western Pacific if Beijing goes after Taiwan.

Once a leader in drone technology when its Predators were taking out targets in the War on Terror, the U.S. hasn't kept up with the adaptations happening in the Ukraine war. Inevitably, our own bureaucratic processes are our worst enemy.

As head of the U.S. National Drone Association, Nathan Ecelbarger, writes, the system for acquiring drones "remains deeply flawed, overly bureaucratic and resistant to innovation."

We'll have to focus more on defenses, too, from early detection to counter-drone capabilities. The problem with using missiles to defeat drones is the asymmetry in expense -- an SM-2 missile costs millions, whereas a Houthi drone costs thousands. And drone swarms could overcome a battery of missiles.

This is the reason why the work of next-generation defense firms like Epirus, which has developed a scalable, high-power microwave technology platform that can knock a swarm of drones from the sky, is so important.

What's happening in the Ukraine war is the norm in human conflict. It's adapt or watch your castle get reduced to rubble, your fleet get sent to the bottom of the ocean or a leg of your nuclear triad get assaulted by, essentially, a plaything of hobbyists.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2025 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

COMICS & PUZZLES

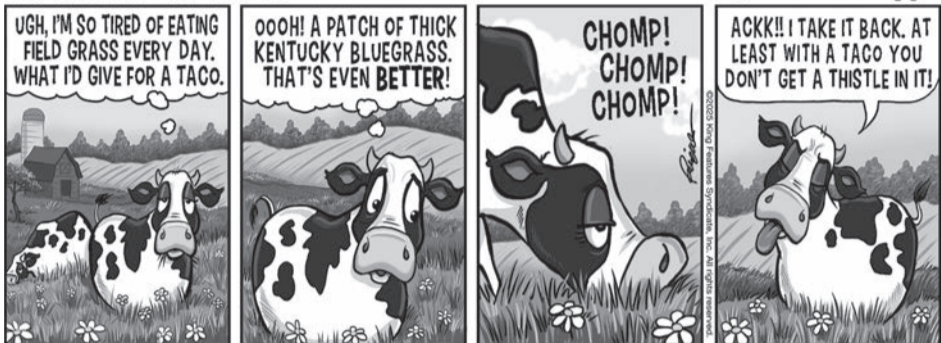
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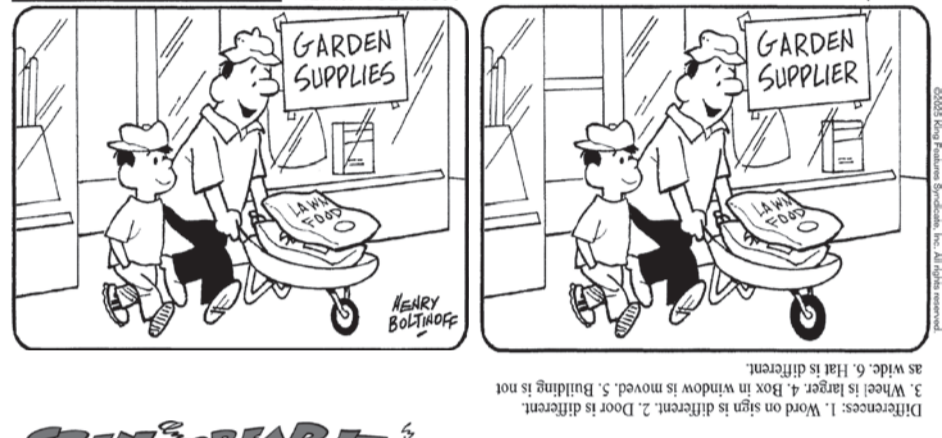


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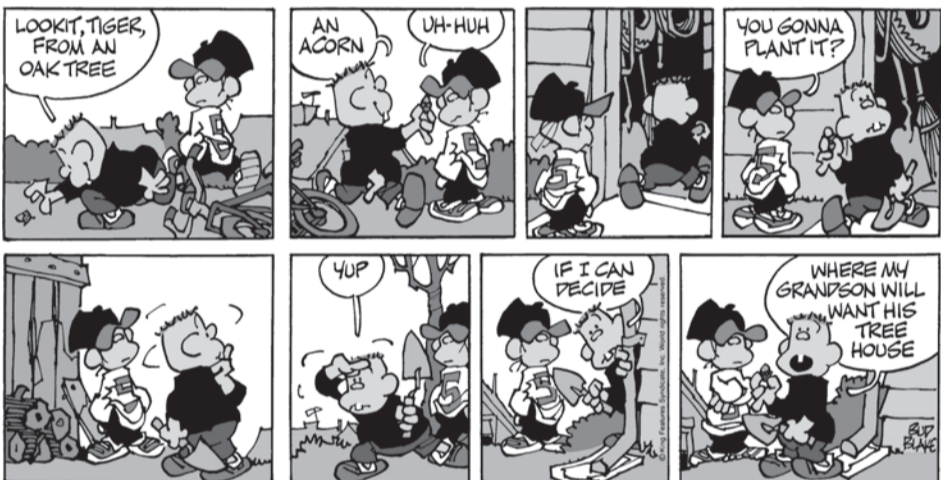
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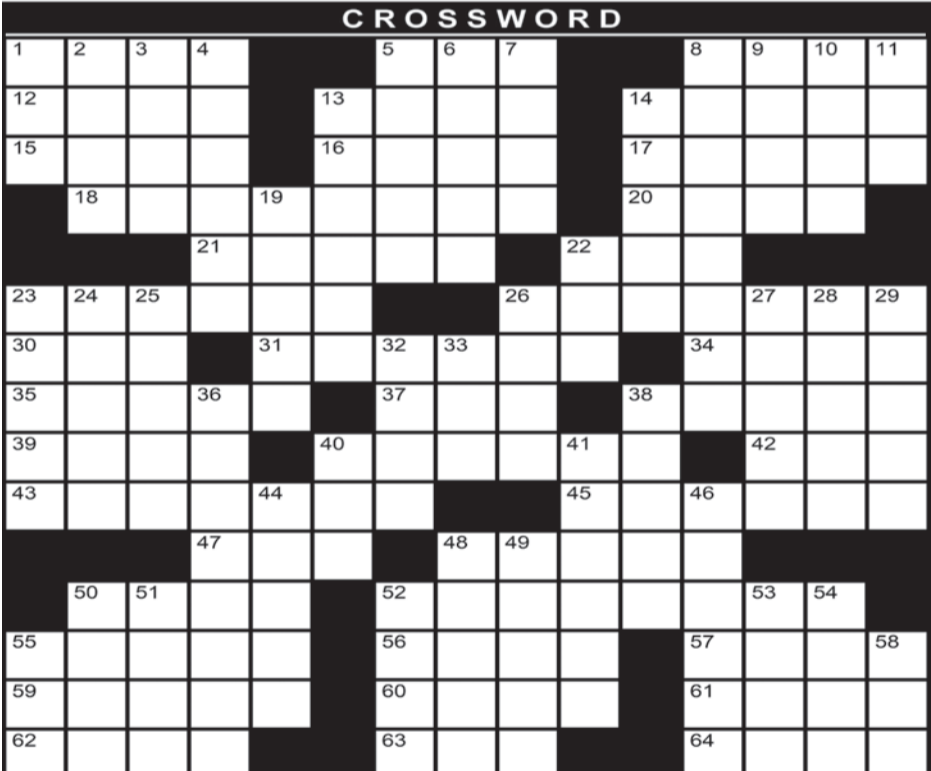
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 - Island near Java
 - From where to eternity?
 - "Land of the ____"
 - Rowed
 - Diabolical
 - Mideast bigwig
 - Unleashes
 - *Star-spangled banner (2 words)
 - Type of ski lift
 - *Day before Independence Day
 - Quilting party
 - Sherlock Holmes' confidant
 - Formal dinner
 - U.N. working-conditions agency
 - Sextet plus one
 - Cancel
 - Holey confection
 - Electric swimmer
 - Frame job
 - Comparison word
 - Type of deodorant
 - Skater's field
 - *Like "America the Beautiful" skies
 - Covered with a ceiling
 - Tennis do-over
 - Surfer's stops
 - Not guilty, e.g.
 - *Yankee Doodle's feather
 - *"To Freedom!", e.g.
 - Tel ____ Israel
 - B b's mother
 - Pseudonym
 - *Cup at a picnic
 - Do like exhaust pipe
 - Late George Wendt on "Cheers"
 - Give it a go
 - *Betsy of #18 Across-related fame
- DOWN**
- "He said, ____ said"
 - Russian left
 - Pomegranate seed
 - South African grasslands
 - Knight's protection
 - Odd and unusual
 - Like ghostly howls
 - *July 4th culinary tradition
 - ____ 51 in Nevada
 - Lecherous look
 - Dog tags
 - Felidae family member
 - As a rule
 - Casper, e.g.
 - Cricket club
 - Measurement
 - Hello, to Mr. Hand
 - Opposite of atonal
 - *Philadelphia's Liberty
 - " ____ death do us part"
 - Draw out a conclusion
 - Drank too much
 - Lowly laborer
 - What lintel and mantel have in common
 - *Personification of the U.S. (2 words)
 - Show contempt
 - Decompose
 - In eighth, book format
 - "The Second Coming" poet
 - Chemical cousin



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Men's Soccer Announces 2025 Slate

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - California State University, Sacramento head men's soccer coach Michael Linenberger announced June 12 an 18-match regular season schedule for 2025, a slate that includes a trio of National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament qualifiers and six opponents that finished inside the final top 100 in the end-of-season Rating Percentage Index (RPI) rankings.

Among the three National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament qualifiers on this year's schedule are two Big West Conference rivals as the Hornets open this year's campaign with a road match at Stanford on Aug. 21 and has road league contests at University of California, Santa Barbara on Oct. 22 and University of California, Davis on Nov. 1.

The Stanford Cardinals were a No. 16 national seed in last year's National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament reaching the third round and finishing No. 13 in the final United Soccer Coaches poll. Following a first-round bye, Stanford eliminated the University of California, Santa Barbara Gauchos on penalties, 6-5, following a 2-2 draw and then fell to Ohio State, 4-3, on penalties after a scoreless draw through 110 minutes.

UC Santa Barbara opened with a 1-0 victory over University of California, Los Angeles before its draw with Stanford and finished among those receiving votes in the United Soccer Coaches poll. Meanwhile, the Aggies made the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament for the fourth time in school history after defeating the Gauchos 2-0 in the



An 18-match regular season schedule for 2025 was released by California State University, Sacramento head men's soccer coach Michael Linenberger on June 12. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

Big West championship match, falling to San Diego, 1-0 in first round

Stanford leads the group among the top 100 in the Rating Percentage Index, finishing the 2024 season No. 12 in the nation followed by UC Santa Barbara (No. 28), UC Davis (No. 54), San Francisco (No. 70), UC Irvine (No. 72) and Cal State Fullerton (No. 90). In addition, six more were among the top 150 in Cal State Bakersfield (No. 102), Cal Poly (No. 107), Utah Valley (No. 111), Pacific (No. 130), UC Riverside (No. 145), and San Jose State (No. 149).

For comparison, California State University, Sacramento ended the year ranked No. 139 in the final Rating Percentage Index rankings.

The Hornets open the year with an exhibition noon Aug. 10 in Berkeley before officially kicking off the campaign with the season opener against the Cardinals. Utah Tech will be the first home opponent for California State

University, Sacramento at 1 p.m. Aug. 24, as the Hornets look to build off a 2024 season that saw them finish 4-2-1 on their home field.

Alternating home and away matches follow over the next two weeks as California State University, Sacramento travels to Grand Canyon (Aug. 28), hosts Santa Clara in a double header with the women's team on Aug. 31, travels to Utah Valley (Sept. 4) and comes home to host San Jose State in another double header on Sept. 7.

Back-to-back matches against West Coast Conference rivals follow with road contests at Pacific (Sept. 11) and San Francisco (Sept. 15) before the Hornets host Saint Mary's on Sept. 19 to close out non-conference play and kick off a season-long three-match homestand.

Big West play opens at home against California State University, Bakersfield (Oct. 1) and California State University, Fullerton (Oct. 4) as California

State University, Sacramento hosts five of its nine league contests in 2025. Remaining home conference matches include Cal Poly (Oct. 15), UC Irvine (Oct. 18), and UC San Diego (Oct. 25), while the Hornets will take to the road to face CSUN (Oct. 8), UC Riverside (Oct. 11), UC Santa Barbara (Oct. 22) and UC Davis (Nov. 1).

This year's Big West Tournament kicks off at campus sites with the quarterfinals on Nov. 5 and the semifinals on Nov. 8, with the championship held on Nov. 15. The National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament play begins with first-round matches on Nov. 20.

The Aug. 10 exhibition match is at California Berkeley and starts at noon. The Hornets play on Aug. 21 at Stanford, starting at 7 p.m.

On Aug. 24 the Hornets face Utah Tech at 1 p.m.

On Aug. 28 the Hornets travel to play Grand Canyon at 7 p.m.

The Hornets play Santa Clara

(DH) on Aug. 31 at 5 p.m.

On Sept. 4 the Hornets play at Utah Valley, starting at 7 p.m.

On Sept. 7 it's the Hornets versus San Jose State (DH) at 3 p.m.

On Sept. 11 at Pacific, the Hornets play at 7 p.m.

The Hornets play on Sept. 15 at San Francisco and the game starts at 7 p.m.

The Hornets play Saint Mary's on Sept. 19 at 4 p.m.

On Oct. 1 the Hornets play Cal State Bakersfield* at 4 p.m.

On Oct. 4 the Hornets go up against Cal State Fullerton* at 4 p.m.

The Hornets play CSUN* on Oct. 8 at 7 p.m.

The Hornets play at UC Riverside* on Oct. 11 at 7 p.m.

The Hornets play on Oct. 15 against Cal Poly* at 3 p.m.

The Hornets will play UC Irvine* at 3 p.m. on Oct. 18.

The Hornets play UC Santa Barbara* at 7 p.m. on Oct. 22. On Oct. 25, it's the Hornets versus UC San Diego* at 3 p.m.

The Hornets will go against UC Davis* at 7 p.m. on Nov. 1.

The Big West Conference Quarterfinals will take place on Nov. 5 at campus sites to be determined by season results.

The Big West Conference Semifinals take place on Nov. 8 with campus sites still to be determined.

The Big West Conference Finals on Nov. 15 will take place at a site to be determined and the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament takes place from Nov. 20 - Dec. 15.

An * denotes a Big West Conference match. Home matches are in bold and are played on campus at Hornet Soccer Field. Dates and times are subject to change. Visit HornetSports.com for the latest information. ★

Tennis Coach Named Region's Top Assistant



California State University, Sacramento Hornets' associate head women's tennis coach Jack Maddocks speaks with student-athletes Mayya Gorbunova and Reese Walker during a dual match at home against Nevada in 2024. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California State University, Sacramento associate head women's tennis coach Jack Maddocks was honored by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association and named the Northwest Region Assistant Coach of the Year on June 10.

"I am so excited for Jack to be named ITA Region Assistant Coach of the Year," head coach Sophie Breault said. "He's shown great leadership, commitment and a team-first mindset every single day. This award is a well-deserved recognition of the impact he's had on our team over the past few years."

Recently wrapping up his fourth season with the Hornets, his first as associate head coach in 2025, Maddocks has helped shape a resurgence in the Sacramento State University program since coming on as an assistant in 2022. He teamed up with Breault and volunteer assistant Enrique Alcacer to return the Hornets back to the top of the Big Sky Conference.

In his four years, Maddocks has helped California State University, Sacramento rise from a five-win team in his first season to claiming the 2024 Big Sky Conference regular season title, the 10th in the history of the program and the first since 2012 and winning each of the last two Big Sky

Tournament crowns, giving the Hornets a league-best 13 titles.

As a result, California State University, Sacramento has advanced to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournaments in back-to-back years, the program's 14th and 15th all-time trips to the postseason, while compiling 41 wins over the last two campaigns. The program posted back-to-back 20-win seasons for the first time since 2004 and 2005.

The 21-4 overall record during spring 2025 marked the most victories for the Hornets since 2008 as California State University, Sacramento returned to the national rankings for the first time since 2015, reaching as high as No. 49 in the nation, while ending the year in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's northwest regional rankings for the second straight season, finishing No. 10 in 2024 and No. 5 this past year.

Under Maddocks' tutelage, 10 student-athletes have gone on to collect a total of 22 All-Big Sky honors and 16 conference Player of the Week awards on the court, while claiming three Intercollegiate Tennis Association All-Academic Team honors, a total of 20 individual academic citations from the organization, and 20 Big Sky All-Academic Team awards off the court over the past three years.

Academic awards for the 2025 season will be released at a later date. ★

Co-Ed Youth League Tips Off at Golden 1

Sacramento Kings News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Kings and Queens Rise Co-ed Youth Sports and Mentoring League, an initiative of The Center at Sierra Health Foundation's Black Child Legacy Campaign program, launches its eighth season this week with a tip-off event hosted by league partner, the Sacramento Kings.

Focused on basketball and cheer activities, Kings and Queens Rise offers youth various opportunities to engage in inter-neighborhood events during the summer. By fostering these positive interactions, it aims to prevent and combat violence in our communities, creating a safer and more cohesive environment for all participants.

"The Kings and Queens Rise League is integral to our ongoing commitment to supporting Sacramento's youth through meaningful, community-centered engagement," said Sacramento Kings Chief Operating Officer Matina Kolokotronis. "We are proud to continue our partnership with the Black Child Legacy Campaign to provide a safe and inspiring space where young people can build confidence, develop leadership skills and connect across neighborhoods. As we launch the eighth season, we remain focused on using the power of sports to uplift the next generation of Sacramento leaders."

Said The Center at Sierra Health Foundation Founder and CEO Chet P. Hewitt, "The start of our eighth season shows just how deeply rooted Kings and Queens Rise has become in Sacramento's neighborhoods. This league is more than basketball and cheer; it's a proven violence prevention strategy that creates safe spaces for youth to grow, lead and connect across neighborhoods. With trusted partnership from the Sacramento Kings, Black Child Legacy Campaign community partners and hundreds of local families, we're building a culture of safety, belonging

and opportunity that lasts far beyond the summer."

The eight-week league will run from June 21 through Aug. 23 and feature 24 teams composed of more than 400 youth from fourth- through 11th-grades. Participants will be a part of teams from one of the following neighborhoods served by the Black Child Legacy Campaign and its partners: Arden Arcade, Del Paso Heights-North Sacramento, Foothill Farms-North Highlands, Fruitridge-Stockton, Marina Vista, Meadowview, Oak Park and Valley Hi. Games and practices will take place in community locations throughout North and South

Sacramento and the season will culminate with a final tournament.

Last year, Kings and Queens Rise expanded opportunities for participation with co-ed cheer squads. For the second year, each neighborhood will have their own cheer team that will practice throughout the week and perform during Saturday basketball games.

The Sacramento Kings support Kings and Queens Rise through the Jr. Kings program presented by Kaiser Permanente. The league offers weekly learning modules crafted by Kenneth Duncan of Ball Out Academy, who serves as the league's commissioner. Black Child Legacy Campaign community partners in each of the program's priority neighborhoods provide safe spaces for training and season games, and coaches are trained members of these partner organizations.

To learn more about the first season of Kings and Queens Rise, see the season video recap at youtube.com/watch?v=GWxQatKdmnY. View more program videos at instagram.com/p/DACMQe_S2Q6/.

For more information about the Kings and Queens Rise Co-ed Youth Sports and Mentoring League, visit the Black Child Legacy Campaign website at blackchildlegacy.org/kings-and-queens-rise-2025-season-eight. ★



LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE



Liberty Ranch Stunt Awards: Mikina McCreery Named League MVP for Second Year

By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Liberty Ranch High School stunt team has again established itself as a powerhouse in the league, claiming its consecutive championship title while making school history by advancing to the semifinals of the section competition for the first time.

Competing against five other schools in the league – Bradshaw Christian, Union Mine, Galt High School, Argonaut and El Dorado – the Hawks demonstrated exceptional skill, teamwork and determination throughout the season.

With 28 talented athletes on the roster, the competition for all-league honors was fierce. Four stand-out performers ultimately received recognition for their exceptional contributions: Bailey Babcock, Isabela Richardson, Sofia Richardson and junior Mikina McCreery, who was named league MVP for the second consecutive year.

McCreery’s journey in the sport began at age 6 with the Jr Hawks for a single season before transitioning to competitive cheer for six years. Since joining Liberty Ranch, she has become an invaluable asset to both the cheer and stunt programs, excelling as a base, tumbler and jumper.

“This year with the Liberty Ranch stunt team has meant everything to me,” said McCreery. “As a junior, I’ve grown so much – not just as an athlete, but as a person. Being named MVP for the second year in a row is something I’ll never take for granted. It wasn’t easy – there were moments of pain, doubt and exhaustion – but I held onto the belief that pain is just weakness leaving the body. That



Barbara Welch-Coach of the Year.



Mikina McCreery-League MVP. Photos courtesy of Tracy Portrait Studio



Bailey Babcock-All-League.



Sofia Richardson-All-League.



Isabela Richardson-All-League.

saying got me through the toughest days. This team has been my safe place, my

combined with unwavering parental involvement has created an environment where excellence can flourish.

With only three seniors graduating from this year’s roster, the future looks exceptionally promising for the Liberty Ranch stunt team. The returning athletes, including two-time MVP McCreery, will bring valuable experience and leadership to next season’s campaign.

As the sport of stunt continues to grow in popularity and recognition throughout California, Liberty Ranch has positioned itself at the forefront of competition. The Hawks’ historic semifinal appearance in the section tournament this year may well be just the beginning of even greater achievements to come.

The Hawks will aim to not only defend their league title next season but potentially advance even further in section competition, building on the strong foundation established by this year’s record-setting team. ★

motivation and my second family. The bond we share is something I’ll always carry with me. I’m proud of what we’ve accomplished together, and even more proud of who we’ve become along the way. I can’t wait to see what we can accomplish next year.”

The team’s success extends beyond the mat to the sidelines, where Coach Barbara Welch was voted Coach of the Year by her peers. Welch, who has guided the stunt program since its inception at Liberty Ranch, attributes the team’s achievements to a combination of athlete

dedication and parental support.

“I am truly honored,” said Welch regarding her Coach of the Year recognition. “All the girls put in 100% effort. They come to practice every day and our parents are the most supportive parents. They come to every game and cheer their daughters on and give them and us the support we need.”

Welch’s emphasis on consistent effort and community support highlights the foundation upon which the program has built its success. The daily commitment from athletes

Rodriguez Named All League for Galt High Stunt

By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Galt Warriors stunt team has taken significant strides forward this season under the direction of first-year head coach Emmary Buys, finishing fourth in the six-team league standings: a notable improvement from previous campaigns.

Coach Buys brought fresh energy and perspective to the Warriors program, helping the team climb in the competitive league that includes powerhouse Liberty Ranch, Bradshaw Christian, Union Mine, Argonaut and El Dorado. The fourth-place finish represents meaningful progress for a program looking to establish itself as a contender.

Junior Andriena Rodriguez was selected as the Warriors’ sole representative on the all-league team, an honor allocated by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). The distinction places Rodriguez among the elite performers in a league known for its high level of talent and

competition.

“A lot of girls worked hard and improved this year, but Rodriguez stood out, worked hard and deserves the honor,” said Coach Buys, highlighting the junior’s exceptional commitment and performance throughout the season.

The Warriors’ improvement in the league standings suggests the program is moving in a positive direction.

With Rodriguez returning for her senior season next year, the team will have an established all-league performer to build around as they continue their upward trajectory.

As the relatively new sport of stunt continues to grow in popularity across California schools, Galt’s progress this season positions it to potentially challenge for even higher placement in the coming years.

The Warriors will look to carry this season’s momentum forward as Coach Buys continues to develop the program and establish Galt as an emerging force in the increasingly competitive stunt landscape. ★



Andriena Rodriguez-Stunt All League. Photo Courtesy of Simply Bee Photo

LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE

PRESENTED BY THE GALT HERALD

Liberty Ranch Hawks Celebrate Season of Triumph, Resilience at Annual Banquet

Story and photos by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Under the golden glow of the stadium lights, the Liberty Ranch High School baseball team closed an extraordinary season with an emotional awards banquet, celebrating standout performances, hard-earned accolades and the unwavering spirit of a team united by more than just the game.

The Hawks soared to a remarkable 12-2 league record, securing second place behind an undefeated Bradshaw Christian squad. Despite the sting of narrowly missing the league title, the team's grit and camaraderie shone brightest during the night's festivities.

The CIF's All-League selections sparked conversation, as Liberty Ranch—despite its stellar record—received just three spots (seniors Kade Lecompte, Vance Moe and Garrett Owen), while other teams with lesser records landed more. The third-place team was awarded four spots, while the last-place team was given two spots, while Galt High, ahead of them, was only given one. This was due to the CIF making three of the awards “at-large,” giving the group of coaches the power to award those by voting.

However, the league's coaches voted to give Liberty Ranch Head Coach Jason Adversalo the Coach of the Year: a testament to his leadership and the program's culture.

“Awards are fleeting, but the lessons these young men take from this game—discipline, perseverance, accountability—that's what lasts,” Adversalo remarked, his voice tinged with pride. “We don't just train ballplayers; we're shaping futures. These kids battled every day, not just for wins but for each other.”

The banquet carried profound weight as players and coaches paid tribute to Junior Varsity Coach Tony Gomes, whose relentless determination to support the team amid his battle with brain cancer became the season's emotional cornerstone.



Garrett Owen-All-League.



Kade Lecompte-All-League.



An emotional moment at the banquet honoring JV Coach Tony Gomes.



Jason Adversalo-Coach of the Year.



Vance Moe-All-League.

“Tony's presence was our rallying cry,” Adversalo shared. “He showed us all what true toughness looks like.”

The Hawks' award recipients embodied the team's balance of talent and tenacity:

Hawk All-Team Award: Nolan House, Hunter Adversalo

Coaches Awards:

Andrew Guthrie, Austin Vicens Landon Peterson

The Big Three: Garrett Owen, Defensive MVP

Vance Moe, Cy Young Award (pitching MVP, feared by batters league-wide)

Kade Lecompte, Offensive MVP

P.O.P. (Pace of Play) Award: Jayden Scelzi (for

relentless hustle)

Radio Language Award: Kyle Quaresma (for “spicy” walk-up music choices)

The future looks promising as Liberty Ranch's junior varsity squad honored its own standouts:

JV MVP: Jayden Valle
Silver Slugger: Alec Ortega

JV Pitcher of the Year: Mason Gomes

JV Gold Gloves: Kade Jaramillo, David Sanchez

Triple Threat Award: Josh Vargas

Coaches Award: Owen Bennett

As laughter and brotherhood filled the evening, Adversalo left his team with a final charge: “Wherever life takes you, carry the same heart you showed here. Be leaders. Be family. And never stop grinding.”

With a roster brimming with talent and character, the Hawks' legacy is secure—not just in the standings, but in the lives they're building beyond the diamond. ★

One Last Game for These Seniors: Stars Unite for Optimist All-Star Baseball Classic

By Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - In a heartwarming display of sportsmanship that transcended school rivalries, three local senior baseball standouts shared the diamond one final time as high school athletes during the prestigious Optimist All-Star baseball game last Saturday.

The cross-town rivals became teammates. Galt High School's Nick Reid joined Liberty Ranch Hawks Kade Lecompte and Vance Moe on the small schools team, representing their respective programs with pride while setting aside the usual cross-town competition that has defined much of their high school careers.

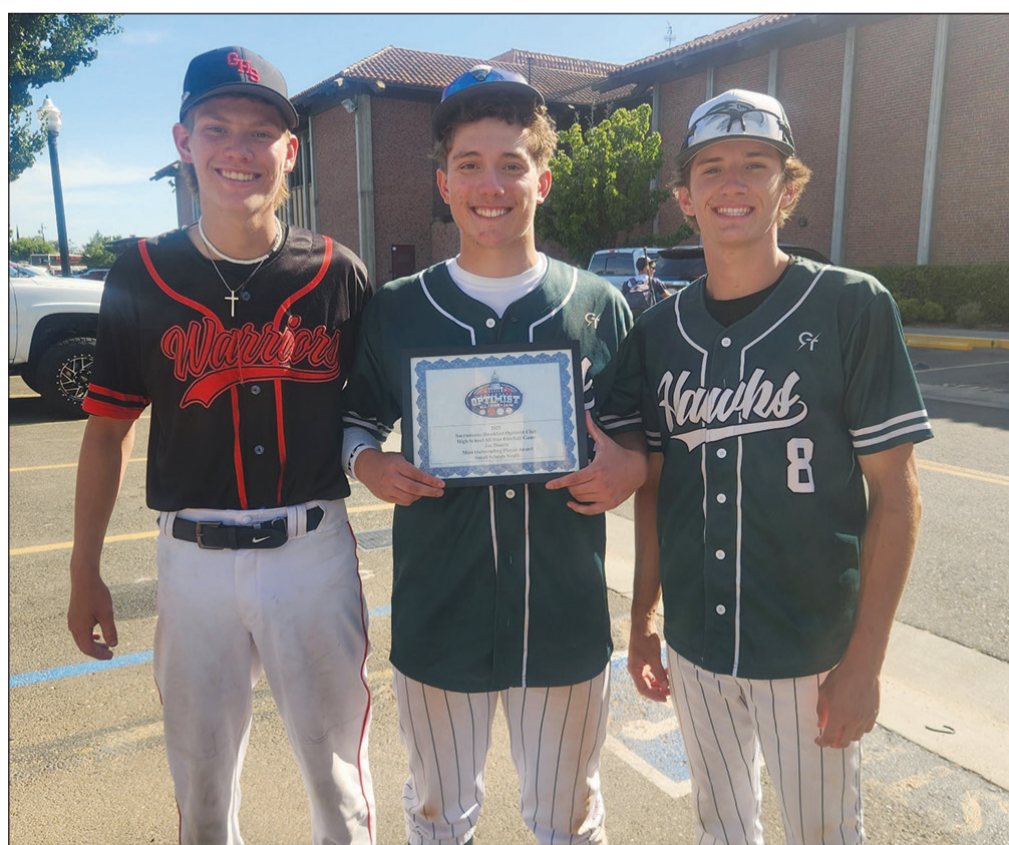
The trio earned coveted spots in the 54th annual event hosted by the Sacramento Breakfast Optimist Club Foundation, which showcases

the region's top senior baseball talent while raising funds for charitable causes.

For more than five decades, the Optimist All-Star game has served as both a celebration of graduating seniors' achievements and a platform for these athletes to display their skills before moving on to the next chapter of their lives.

Selection to the game stands as recognition of the players' outstanding contributions to their high school programs and their development as both athletes and young men throughout their four-year careers.

While the competition on the field remained spirited, the event represented something deeper for Reid, Lecompte and Moe: a final opportunity to play the game they love at the high school level, and a rare chance to do so as teammates rather than opponents. ★



Nick Reid, Kade Lecompte and Vance Moe pose after the Optimist game. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Breakfast Optimist Club Foundation