

**The Unstoppable Journey:
Gonzalez Named Galt
High Male Athlete of Year**

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HAPPY
4th of July



The Galt Herald

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INSIDE**

**BLEVINS NAMED
LIBERTY RANCH MALE
ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**



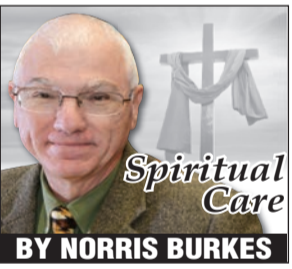
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**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE
DAY! HOT DOGS OR RIBS?**



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**DEFENDING THE
CONSTITUTION
ISN'T MAGIC**



PAGE 4



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Locals Review Skatepark Concepts



Here is a rendering of Concept Plan 1 for the Chabolla Skate Park revamp. Photo courtesy of Helix Environmental Planning

By Idaly Valencia

GALT, CA (MPG) - Dozens of community members gathered the evening of June 26 to share feedback on the redesign of the existing skatepark on Chabolla Avenue.

The city and its design partners hosted the meeting at the Chabolla Community Center, 600 Chabolla Ave., to present two proposed design concepts and gather input from residents and local riders to help shape

the future skatepark.

Representatives from Helix Environmental Planning joined city officials, including Galt Parks and Recreation Director Armando Solis and Park Maintenance Supervisor Armando Morales, project manager and associate civil engineer Brandon Woods and Public Works Director John Griffin.

The existing skatepark, originally built in 2003 as a temporary installation, is set to expand from 4,000

to about 7,300 square feet. Planned upgrades include LED sports lighting for evening use, shade structures, new seating, a drinking fountain with a bottle filler, improved fencing and direct access to restrooms.

Helix Environmental Planning landscape architect Scott Redding, who presented the project overview, added that there have been improvements with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility. *Continued on Page 2*

SUN Bucks Fills Kids' Food Gaps

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Summer break is a season of sunshine and fun but for many Sacramento County families, it also brings a food access challenge.

That's why California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is bringing back SUN Bucks, also called Summer-EBT, this summer. Eligible families receive \$120 per eligible child to help fill the meal gap when schools are closed.

Children who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals through a school meal application or an Alternative Income Form, CalFresh, CalWORKs or Medi-Cal, are automatically enrolled. You don't need to do anything to sign up.

SUN Bucks provides \$40 per month for food in June, July and August (\$120 total).

Children will automatically get SUN Bucks if they are 6 to 18 years old and get CalFresh, CalWORKs or Medi-Cal (below 185% Federal Poverty Level).

Anyone from babies to 22 years old, attending schools that are part of National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Programs and are approved for free or reduced-price meals, will also automatically receive SUN Bucks.

Check with your child's school to make sure your free or reduced-price meal application or Alternative Income Form is on file.

Children who are attending Head Start, experiencing homelessness, living in foster care or part of a migrant family are also automatically eligible.

If your family is eligible, a SUN Bucks S-EBT card will be mailed to your home. You do not need to fill out an application. You will get one new SUN Bucks card for each eligible child. You can use SUN Bucks just like a debit card to buy food such as fruits, vegetables, meat, whole grains and dairy at grocery stores, farmers' markets and other places that accept CalFresh EBT benefits.

The state is issuing SUN Bucks cards by mail in stages by last name. If your child has not received a SUN Bucks card in the mail or you have questions about how to obtain a card, visit the California Department of Social Services SUN Bucks website at cdss.ca.gov/sun-bucks or call 1-800-560-0976 for more information.

To learn more, visit the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance website at ha.saccounty.gov. ★

Veterans Memorial Digs into Big Expansion



From left are Cosumnes Legacy Foundation's Oscar O'Con, Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen, Cosumnes Community Services District Director Rich Lozano and President Angela Spease, District General Manager Tim Odgen, District Directors Reina Tarango and Peter Sakaris and Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen. Photo courtesy of Cosumnes Community Services District

By Idaly Valencia

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - After 17 years of planning, the veterans' tribute at Elk Grove Regional Park is expanding into a regional landmark to honor and memorialize veterans.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held June 19 to launch the next phase of the Elk Grove Regional Veterans Memorial, a community-supported project funded brick by brick.

The Cosumnes Community Services District and the Cosumnes Legacy Foundation hosted the event, unveiling design renderings and encouraging public involvement.

New features will include a bronze star monument with a flagpole, 50 concrete memorial stars, a granite donor walk and a veterans' memorial wall shaped like a waving American flag. The site aims to be a space for

honoring veterans, both living and deceased, and for events such as the Veterans Day Parade.

It is located to the north of the White Diamond ball field at Elk Grove Regional Park, 9950 Elk Grove Florin Road.

Representatives from local agencies attended, including the police department, school district, the chamber of commerce and offices of elected officials. Veterans groups American

Legion Elk Grove Post 55 and Post 233 were present, with honor guards assisting in the Presenting of the Colors.

Oscar O'Con of the Cosumnes Legacy Foundation, a U.S. Army and Marine veteran, spoke first.

O'Con said the effort began in 2008 when, as the Elk Grove Rotary Club president, he saw a need for a place to recognize the *Continued on Page 3*

Suspect Arrested in Arson Behind Galt Plaza

Galt Police Department News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - On Saturday, June 28, at approximately 8:40 a.m., Galt Police officers

responded to a report of a fire behind Kiki's Wings and Tenders, located at 1067 C St. Cosumnes Fire quickly arrived on scene and extinguished the fire before it could spread further.

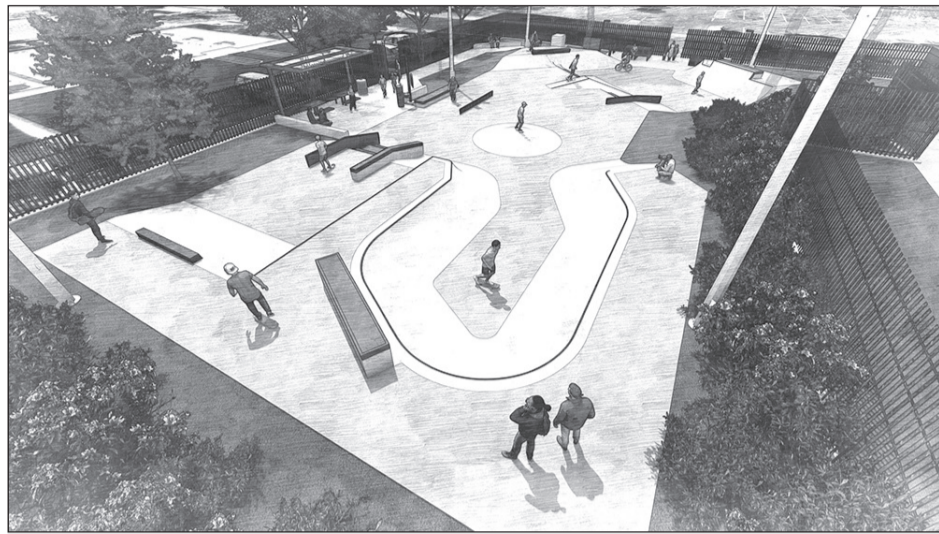
Upon arrival, officers located a suspicious male hiding on the back patio of the business. A witness at the scene positively identified the individual as the person who intentionally started the fire.

The suspect, identified as Jose Angel Guerra Hernandez, 25, of Walnut Grove, was found in possession of multiple lighters, a small propane canister and a used methamphetamine pipe, police said.

Guerra-Hernandez was arrested for arson and possession of drug paraphernalia, and later was transported to the Sacramento County Main Jail. He has been released

from custody and is scheduled to appear in court at a future date. Galt Police Department thanks community members for their vigilance and Cosumnes Fire for their rapid response. ★

Locals Review Skatepark Concepts



Here is a rendering of Concept Plan 2 for the Chabolla Skate Park revamp. Photo courtesy of Helix Environmental Planning

Continued from page 1
a digital scoreboard/lane timer and the use of skate-friendly material for surfaces to stay cool in the summer.

The Chabolla Skate Park revamp is estimated to cost \$2.55 million. Solis said that funding includes \$600,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and nearly \$2 million from Measure Q, the city's one-cent sales tax supporting essential services, which includes parks and public spaces.

Final design plans are expected to go before the Parks and Recreation Commission this fall, with construction completion targeted for summer 2026.

The two proposed concepts share the same upgraded features, with differences in the skate elements. This area received the most input from attendees, many who are regular users of the current park.

Zach Wormhoudt, a veteran skatepark designer with Wormhoudt Inc. and resident expert for Helix

Environmental Planning, gave a detailed explanation of the skate elements. He also emphasized the importance of public input in shaping the final design.

"This is your park and we want to get it right," Wormhoudt said. "Everything is still flexible at this stage. You tell us what works and what doesn't."

Wormhoudt, a lifelong skater, has worked on projects across the state and internationally, including the Wackford Skate Park in



Dozens of community members gathered the evening of June 26 to share feedback on the redesign of the existing skatepark on Chabolla Avenue. Courtesy photo

Elk Grove and the Brandon Koch Memorial Skate Park in Turlock.

"We want someone who's just learning how to skate or riding a bike, scooter, whatever they're on, to be able to come here and learn," Wormhoudt said. "But at the same time, if you're the best rider in town, you're stoked to come back and keep being challenged."

A question-and-answer session followed the design presentation, Feedback centered on

combining popular elements from both proposed concepts. Several skaters advocated for the inclusion of longer rails, flat bars, a two-flat-two stair setup and an enclosed bowl feature with varying depths.

Others called for extended hours to avoid summer heat and make use of the evening time during the shorter winter days.

Galt Parks and Recreation Director Solis said the department is still determining a schedule for park hours but is

considering extending them once the new park is completed.

"We want to make sure you get maximum use out of this facility," Solis said. "This is what you voted for and your input is what's making it happen."

Community members can continue to submit feedback through the city's online comment portal at bit.ly/45MDdQQ (case sensitive) or by emailing Galt Parks and Recreation Department at galtpandr@cityofgalt.org. ★

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10:20 AM	10:45 AM	10:50 AM	10:55 AM	11:00 AM	11:25 AM	11:45 AM	10:25 AM	10:45 AM	11:20 AM	11:45 AM	11:50 AM	11:55 AM	12:00 PM		
12:20 PM	12:45 PM	12:50 PM	12:55 PM	1:00 PM	1:25 PM	1:45 PM	12:25 PM	12:45 PM	1:20 PM	1:45 PM	1:50 PM	1:55 PM	2:00 PM		
2:20 PM	2:45 PM	2:50 PM	2:55 PM	3:00 PM	3:25 PM	3:45 PM	2:25 PM	2:45 PM	3:20 PM	3:45 PM	3:50 PM	3:55 PM	4:00 PM		



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Lunch & Learn Teaches Social Media 101 for Business



Becky Rosenspie shows how simple tools can be used to engage audience at the Lunch & Learn session on June 25. Photos by Paige Lampson



Jena Fell collaborates on Instagram information with attendees at the Lunch & Learn session, hosted by the Galt Chamber of Commerce.

By MPG Staff

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Galt Chamber of Commerce recently hosted another engaging session of its Lunch & Learn series,

featuring local Instagram-savvy business owners.

Jena Fell of Fell Together Photography, Becky Roenspie and Michaela Jonson of Roenspie + Johnson and Erica Breland

of Erica's Cookie Co. led an insightful discussion on social media trends, video tools and content tips during a live question-and-answer session.

Attendees gained practical

strategies to boost their online presence, along with lunch boxes from Raley's and a complimentary content calendar to support their business marketing.

Lunch & Learn series,

sponsored by the City of Galt and SMUD, is presented by the Galt Chamber of Commerce.

The next Lunch & Learn will be July 31 during the State of the City event at Papas & Wings. ★

Shooting Suspect in Custody; None Injured

Galt Police Department News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - On Saturday, June 28, at approximately 4:22 a.m., Galt Police officers were dispatched to the 400 block of North Lincoln Way following a report of a shooting. The reporting party stated their upstairs neighbor approached the front door of their residence, brandished a handgun, fired one round at the door and then returned to his apartment. The suspect was unknown to the victims. Fortunately, no one inside the residence was injured. The incident was captured on Ring camera footage.

Galt Police Department Investigations, SWAT and additional officers from the Elk Grove Police Department responded to assist with the active situation. Nearby apartments were evacuated, and some residents chose to shelter in place for safety.

SWAT officers made announcements instructing the suspect to surrender. A short time later, the male suspect exited his apartment and was taken into custody without incident.

The suspect was identified as 40-year-old Javier Ordaz of Galt.

A search warrant was executed at his residence, where investigators said they recovered a handgun believed to have been used

in the incident.

The firearm was reported stolen, and Ordaz was found to be a convicted felon with prior robbery convictions.

Ordaz was booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail on the following charges: assault with a deadly weapon, shooting at an inhabited dwelling and felon in possession of a firearm.

Ordaz is currently ineligible for bail. His next scheduled court appearance was Tuesday, July 1.

The Galt Police Department thanks partners at Elk Grove Police Department and community members for their cooperation during this incident. ★

Arrest in Attempted Murder and Arson Case

Galt Police Department News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - On Oct. 3, 2021, shortly after midnight, Galt Police Department officers and the Cosumnes Fire Department responded to a residential structure fire in the 700 block of Benteen Way. While on scene, officers were also dispatched to a reported shooting in the 100 block of A Street.

Through the course of the investigation, it was determined that both incidents were connected and involved the same suspect. The suspect was identified as Mario Felix, 48, of Galt.

Officers said they learned that Felix had arrived at a residence on A Street and opened fire on several family members. Fortunately, no injuries were reported. Officers also said they discovered that earlier that evening, Felix had fired shots at the same individuals at another location in unincorporated Sacramento County.

Police said the fire at the Benteen Way residence was arson, with evidence

indicating Felix intentionally set fire to his own residence prior to the second shooting. After the incidents, Felix fled the area.

His vehicle was later located at a gas station in Ripon, prompting a multi-agency search. Although he was not immediately located, a warrant for his arrest was obtained.

In January, Galt Police Department received information suggesting Felix was in Arizona. Local authorities were contacted and conducted an investigation, but he was not located. Subsequent intelligence indicated Felix had returned to California and was living and working in San Bernardino County.

Due to jurisdictional limitations, Galt Police Department requested assistance from the U.S. Marshals Office.

On June 24, U.S. Marshals successfully apprehended Felix in San Bernardino County. He is currently in custody awaiting extradition to Sacramento County, where he will face charges including attempted homicide, with additional charges pending. ★

Veterans Memorial Digs into Big Expansion

Continued from page 1

thousands of veterans living in the city.

He has led this effort for nearly two decades, continually raising awareness and funds for the project.

This memorial is one of only five in the nation where living veterans can be honored, O'Con said.

"Here, you'll be able to bring your mother, your father, your brother or whoever is a veteran and show them either a brick or paver on the wall," O'Con said.

The project is community-driven and a reflection of local pride and participation, according to O'Con.

"This is your project, so please get involved," he said.

Cosumnes Community Services President Angela Spease then approached the podium and explained how this project holds a special place in her heart as a daughter, wife, aunt and niece of veterans.

Spease shared that she purchased bricks for her family members who served, including her husband (and City Councilmember) Kevin Spease, who served in the California Army National Guard and the U.S. Air Force.

"Elk Grove Park is the perfect spot for this memorial. It's the heart of our community," said Angela Spease. "For over 100 years, this has been a wonderful place for our families to gather, celebrate and make memories. Now, it'll also be a place to have our time to pause, reflect and give thanks for all those who paid the ultimate price, served by defending our freedoms."

She expressed how this memorial will be a way to connect residents physically and emotionally. Spease also acknowledged that the groundbreaking was held on Juneteenth, a day that marked the end of slavery in the country and reminded attendees what it means to be free.



Oscar O'Con of the Cosumnes Legacy Foundation, a U.S. Army and Marine veteran, speaks during the June 19 groundbreaking at Elk Grove Regional Park for the next phase of the regional veterans' memorial project. Photo courtesy of Cosumnes Community Services District

General Manager Tim Ogden addressed attendees next. Ogden, a son and a brother to veterans, said he understands the sacrifices made by those who fought in combat.

"This memorial is an opportunity to reflect on the goodness, the greatness, the sacrifice and all that it means to us and for every visitor that passes by," said Ogden. "It will be a reminder that this isn't just about the past; it's about the present and how we can all be living a part of the legacy that's preceding us."

Ogden gave recognition to the efforts and work of the design team as well as the contractor, Cohen and Thompson Construction.

Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen, who helped secure an initial \$100,000 in state funding, was the final speaker and shared personal reflections. No matter how much she prepares to speak in front of veterans, Nguyen said, she "always gets emotional because of the impact their service had" on her life.

"If it wasn't for your bravery, if it wasn't for your courage, my family would have never left," Nguyen said. "And so, every chance I get, every moment that I get to see a veteran, somebody who served during the Vietnam War, I thank them."

Nguyen credited O'Con for his efforts and expressed how deeply she felt about the memorial's importance.

"This here gives me the opportunity to honor you while you're still here. Like Mr. O'Con said, this is one of five, where normally these events, we're recognizing them after they pass."

Nguyen said the occasion was meaningful for everyone involved but especially significant in her public service career, calling it one of her top projects.

She and the other speakers were joined by Cosumnes Community Services District board members and Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen to officially break ground with ceremonial shovels.

Afterward, attendees mingled with

colleagues, discussed the project with community members and enjoyed light refreshments.

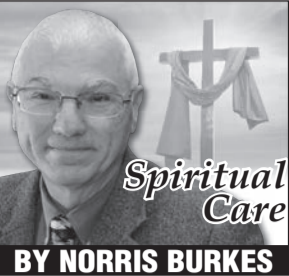
American Legion Post 55 Commander Larry Sahota told the Elk Grove Citizen that the memorial fills a long-needed gap in Elk Grove.

"We're ecstatic. We're glad that we're going to have a place where we can honor our veterans," said Sahota. "There's more like 12,000 veterans in Elk Grove, so it's fantastic that we've got a place to come."

The chamber of commerce's Leadership Elk Grove Class of 2025 also informed attendees about its efforts with the Veterans Memorial Beautification Project. The goal is to raise funds to add lighting, signage and other enhancements to the Elk Grove Regional Veterans Memorial. Donations can be made via Venmo to @EGChamber.

Those interested in an engraved dedication brick paver or granite tile can visit bricksrus.com/donorsite/egveterans. ★

Defending The Constitution Isn't Magic



and recognize male and female deities. They aren't devil worshippers, as the vandals likely believed them to be. Wiccans don't even believe in the devil.

If you question why Protestant chaplains should come to the aid of a pagan group, you wouldn't be alone. After all, Wiccans are a far cry from my Baptist brand or my boss's Methodist practice. Hartwell and I shared reasonable tension over the idea of helping Wiccans.

But we also shared a pledge called the oath of office. During the 28 years I served as a chaplain, I solemnly swore at least five times to "... support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

"Defend the Constitution?" you may ask. Exactly how does a chaplain defend the Constitution when the Geneva Convention prohibits him from carrying a gun?

I find the answer in the constitutional amendment that kicked off this whole Land-of-the-Free stuff. It's numeral 1 — "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

"Yes, sergeant," my commander promised. "We will help you find a place, a conference room perhaps, or a large office. We want you to be safe." In our next staff meeting, Hartwell elicited suggestions from his 20-person chapel staff regarding a place for the Wiccans. He made it clear that if we exclude room for any faith, we exclude

room for all faiths.

He challenged his commissioned officers to "faithfully discharge the duties of the office..." by safeguarding the Wiccans' first amendment right to freely exercise their religion. Our boss told us that chaplains must defend the Constitution by protecting the religious rights of all, even those we disagree with. We would stand with the Wiccans, he promised. We would support the atheist. And, according to Geneva Convention, we would even allow an enemy combatant his place of worship.

"Had Hartwell been bewitched?" you ask. Why stand with those whose faith practice is so drastically different than ours? Because at the end of the day if we refuse to stand with them, we will most surely stand alone in future days.

By the way, our chaplains came up with an easy solution for the Wiccans. We found an understanding commander who allowed the group to meet inside his conference room during off-duty hours.

Simple solution. No magic to it.

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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. ★

MEMORIAL

ALICE ADELAIDE PRATTON • 11/1/1929-6/20/2025

Alice Adelaide Pratton, of Galt, was born November 1, 1929, to Joseph and Adelaide Epp. Alice passed away June 20, 2025, surrounded by family and friends at the age of 95.

She was born and raised in Galt. Galt High School is where she met Don Pratton; after graduating they were married.

Together they owned the Pratton Dairy and raised their three children. Alice enjoyed spending time with family, traveling, reading, cooking, visiting and playing bingo and skip-bo with friends.

She is survived by her daughter, Marie Williams (Bob), son Gary Pratton (Heather) two grandchildren, Tyler Williams (Mindy) and Rachel Velasco (Allan), four great grandchildren, Kirra, Scarlett, Sydney and Wells, and several nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by husband, Don and daughter, Donna Snider.

There will be a mass at St. Christopher Church on July 3, 2025, at 11 a.m. A gravesite service will follow at the Galt Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to San Joaquin Hospice.

MEMORIAL

PEGGY ANN EISEMAN • 04/13/1938 - 06/09/2025

Peggy Ann Eiseman of Galt, California passed away peacefully on June 9, 2025 with a family member by her side. She was a wife, mother, sister, aunt, great aunt, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend to many. Although she is deeply missed, we believe she is now in the arms and presence of her sisters, niece, and son.

Peggy was born April 13, 1938, to Lois Georgina Thompson and Edgar Leslie Thompson in in Schulter, Oklahoma.

Peggy had such a huge love for life, her family, friends, and animals. Over the years, she had several pets, including horses, cats, dogs, and ducks. Her latest pets Dude, her cat, and Jack, her Jack Russell Terrier she spoiled tremendously. Even wild animals would entrust her, animals most people would be afraid of. She friended feral cats that would come up to her without hesitation while sitting on her steps of her property. They could sense her compassion and entrust in her to help them. She also enjoyed her plants and beautiful flowers in the garden. She would spend hours tending to them and weeding to make everything look beautiful.

Peggy retired from General Mills where she worked in Human Resources, Payroll and Purchasing Departments. She would frequently talk about her experiences there. After retirement she took up the hobby of golfing and golfed for thirty years!

She had many friends on the golf course and there were times she would golf from sunrise to sundown. She loved traveling to Mazatlan, Mexico to vacation and of course play a couple rounds of golf.

She was a very sophisticated, classy youthful person who enjoyed having fun and living life to the fullest. She had a heart of gold and touched everyone's heart that she came in contact with.

No matter what obstacle or tragedy came her way, she would find a way to overcome it as she was brave, strong and courageous. In the last few months of her journey here, she still gathered enough strength to be able to go to the casino with her nieces on two separate occasions and go to the nail salon. One of her family members had the honor and privilege to help in her care on a daily basis to make sure she was well taken care of and had everything she wanted or desired. She loved her sweet and sour

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



In the life of every NBA franchise, there are times that will try the patience of every fan and times of utter disillusionment. A series of moves last season by the Sacramento Kings put many fans in one of those boxes and trading away the face of the franchise didn't help.

Heading into last week's draft, "gloomy" hardly captured the mood around the Kings both for the franchise and its fans. A series of poor moves left them with just one pick and that at #42. Hardly cause for excitement.

As draft night approached, Kings fans had yet to see a glimpse of new GM Scott Perry's thought process, as virtually no moves had been made. While there was talk of him trying to land a first-round pick, hopes of that happening looked slim as the draft began.

When it appeared all was lost, commissioner Adam Silver announced that the Sacramento Kings had navigated a swap of draft choices, giving Sacramento the opportunity to pick a player at #24 of the first round. I immediately was excited, but at the same time wondering what we had to give up to acquire a first round pick.

To my amazement, Perry had orchestrated a swap of first round picks but giving up one of the two picks the Kings already had in the 2027 draft, meaning that Sacramento could realize a first round pick immediately. I waited to hear if there was more to the trade but to my delight, it was a straightforward swap of first round picks.

Perry's first move as the new GM of the Sacramento Kings made quite a splash. Little did I know there was more to come.

At #24, Sacramento chose Nique Clifford, a fifth-year player from Colorado State. Last season, he averaged 18.9 points, 9.6 rebounds, 4.4 assists, and 1.2 steals, shooting 50% from the field. At 23, this 6'5" guard/small forward brings strong versatility and is known for his defense and rebounding, making him an ideal fit for the Kings.

But Perry wasn't content on just reinforcing the backcourt. At pick #42, he grabbed 7'1" Maxime Raynand, a senior from Stanford. Stanford's head coach couldn't stop praising the 22-year-old center, and for the first time in recent memory, NBA pundits are showering

the Kings with praise. Many are calling the 2025 draft one of the best in franchise history.

Basketball fans were treated to a highly competitive finals, highlighted by some of the best defense in years. I was especially impressed by center/forward Chet Holmgren, who emerged as the series' x-factor. His versatility, handling the ball, shooting threes, blocking shots, and running the floor, left Indiana with no answer for the electric big man.

Surprisingly, when I watched the highlight clips of second round pick Maxime Raynand, I found myself looking at a close facsimile of Chet Holmgren, and with a full four years of college experience, Raynand is likely to see a significant amount of playing time in the upcoming season.

With Sabonis, Valanciunas and now Raynand, finding playing time will be a challenge for Kings coach Doug Christie but Kings fans have much to look forward to.

Raynand is being called a stretch 5, meaning in addition to his inside abilities, he is a capable 3-point shooter as well. Hard to believe he was still available at #42 but maybe the fates of the Sacramento Kings are finally changing. Changing at a time in which a new GM is giving Kings fans a glimpse of his capabilities.

It is refreshing to hear ESPN and others praising the Kings draft and most pundits are giving Sacramento an overall A, something that rarely if ever happens in Sactown.

Hope, euphoria, optimism. Pick your adjective but there is a definite climate change happening in Sacramento right now and Scott Perry is presenting himself as more than a capable GM. Are there more movies coming? I absolutely think so but I am hopeful that they will be as prudent and thoughtful as the ones we've just witnessed.

All eyes on summer league, Kings fans, and it will be interesting. I will be in Las Vegas and will be reporting on what I see with my own eyes but without a doubt, this upcoming season just got a lot more interesting.

Stay tuned, Kings fans.
All the best!
Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

Social Security Matters

When Will Funds Stolen from Social Security be Replaced?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: When will the funds stolen from the SS Fund be replaced? They used Social Security when the government ran out of money and used it for illegals. I think the funds should be replaced except for legitimate payments to Social Security recipients. This money was never meant to be used by the federal government to pay their bills. **Signed: Concerned Senior**

Dear Concerned Senior: I must tell you that no funds have ever been "stolen" from the Social Security Administration (despite the persistent myth). All money received by SS (from payroll taxes, interest on investments, and income tax on SS benefits) is - and always has been - immediately converted to special issue government bonds (investments) which are held in

the Social Security Trust Funds, and which pay interest (at the current federal bond rate). Those bond investments held in reserve have been, and are, used only to pay benefits to those who have earned them by contributing to Social Security via payroll taxes for at least 10 years (40 quarters). Only US citizens and legal residents can get Social Security benefits (illegal aliens cannot receive Social Security benefits).

For information, repayment of the special issue bonds held in SS reserves occurs every day, because incoming revenue has been insufficient to pay all Social Security benefit costs for several years now, which means that the bonds must be redeemed regularly so that full benefits can be paid to all SS recipients who have earned them. There were about \$2.8 trillion in SS reserves as of the end of 2023, but that balance is steadily decreasing (due to being redeemed to pay full benefits). As of the last report by the Trustees of Social Security, the reserves will be depleted in about 2033, unless Congress passes reform legislation to restore SS to full solvency.

FYI, the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) is working hard to prevent depletion of the Trust Fund, suggesting to Congress a way to reform the program so future generations can fully benefit from it, with AMAC's Social Security Guarantee proposal (see this). AMAC is constantly working to prevent depletion of the SS Trust Funds, which would result in an across the board cut in everyone's benefit by about 23%. AMAC works every day in Washington D.C. to ensure Social Security is here for many generations.

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. ★

Politicians Ignore Agriculture's Troubles but Boost Movie Business



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

When James Marshall discovered traces of gold in the American River in 1848, he ignited the famous California Gold Rush that attracted a tidal wave of immigration and led to statehood just two years later.

However, not everyone who made the arduous trek to California in the mid-19th century was seeking gold. Many — including those in the ill-fated 1846 Donner Party — wanted farmland.

Completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 made immigration into California and shipping produce out of the state much easier. As the gold rush quickly waned, agriculture became the state's dominant industry, globally famous for fresh fruits and vegetables.

California's vast network of reservoirs to capture water and canals to deliver it was originally created to help farmers prosper. They still use, by a wide margin, most of the system's water.

While California is still No.1 in agricultural production among the states, generating about \$60 billion a year, other sectors, such as technology, health care and logistics now play much larger roles in the state's economy.

This is the time of year when crops are maturing and farmers are looking forward to harvests, shipments

and paydays. But agricultural leaders see this year as one of the industry's most trying periods, beset by economic and political factors that could significantly reduce production.

"When we talk about the things that are keeping me up at night, it really comes down to what is going to keep our members in business," Shannon Douglass, president of the California Farm Bureau, said this month during a gathering of industry leaders.

She cited a federal census of agriculture which revealed California has lost 20% of its farmers in the last decade. The industry is at a tipping point, she declared.

She also pointed to a study by researchers at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo that detailed rising costs of producing lettuce in the Salinas Valley due to government regulations. It found that costs of environmental, labor and food safety regulation are \$1,600 per acre, up 63.7% since 2017, while income from lettuce has been virtually stagnant.

The list of factors affecting the industry also includes rising labor costs due to state wage regulations, new limits on pumping water from wells and demands from the state to reduce water diversions from rivers.

This year brought two new adverse factors — President Donald Trump's tariffs that could generate retaliatory tariffs, depressing export markets, and Trump's sweeps of undocumented immigrants, who are a major portion of the agricultural labor force.

Alexi Rodriguez, president of the Almond Alliance, told the gathering

that China had been the top market for almonds until 2018, when an earlier round of Trump's tariffs cut shipments. "After this year, China is likely to drop out of the top 10 export markets for almonds as a result," she said.

The state's labor costs also put California's growers at a disadvantage.

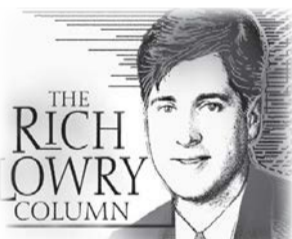
"We're sitting here in California and getting our brains beat in with costs that are through the roof and going up against my competitors in the East Coast paying \$8 to \$9 an hour for labor, and we're dealing with the same customers," said Mike Way, a bell pepper producer in the Coachella Valley. "What's my choice? My choice is to shrink my acreage and go elsewhere."

As agriculture's acreage declined, so too did its economic importance and its once-dominant political clout vis-à-vis other economic interests. Efforts by Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders to double state subsidies for the film industry underscore that decline.

Newsom, et al, say the subsidies are necessary to keep film production from declining further. The film industry pegs its economic contribution at \$30 billion a year, just half of agriculture's output.

Implicitly politicians believe that producing movies is much more important than producing food.

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. ★



The Rioter's White Hood

Who is that masked man? Well, there's a chance he's an antisemitic rioter.

New York City and other jurisdictions are debating mask bans after face-coverings have become associated with acts of mayhem committed by people who hope to avoid recognition and evade criminal responsibility.

The most iconic image of the L.A. riots involves a man on a dirt bike waving a Mexican flag ... in a mask.

It's no surprise that he was wearing a mask. At this point, failing to wear a mask when engaging in lawless activity is a major faux pas. It's like wearing white before Memorial Day or showing up at L.A.'s upscale restaurant 71Above in flip-flops.

Embattled New York City mayor Eric Adams has been emphatic that there needs to be a return to the broad ban on masks that was repealed during the pandemic (the state just passed a more limited measure creating enhanced penalties for people wearing masks to conceal their identities while committing crimes).

The meaning of the mask has changed in recent years. Prior to COVID-19, wearing a surgical mask in public likely meant someone had a compromised immune system; during COVID-19, it usually

meant someone was complying with the pandemic rules and associated social pressure; after COVID-19, it tends to indicate either someone is too neurotic to give up pandemic-era practices -- or wants to harass Jews or throw rocks at the cops.

In an era of ubiquitous facial reconciliation technology, a face mask is a bid to foil efforts by police to track down after the fact those who committed criminal acts. It's not a get-out-of-jail card -- masked rioters are sometimes arrested on the spot -- but it's a layer of protection for the person hoping to break or burn something and melt away without consequence.

This is why prior to COVID-19 masks outside of a medical context tended to have a negative connotation in the popular imagination. The Lone Ranger was the exception that proved the rule. Otherwise, the masked man was going to hold up the stagecoach, rob a bank or burn a cross on someone's lawn. A 1990 Georgia Supreme Court ruling upholding a mask ban said, "A nameless, faceless figure strikes terror in the human heart."

Certainly, after seeing what's gone down on the streets after the killing of George Floyd and on the campuses since Oct. 7, everyone should be on edge when encountering masked protestors. If nothing else, it's not reassuring when people are afraid of being associated with their own cause, or the means with which they are going to agitate for it.

New York first banned

masks in the 1840s in response to protesters harassing landlords. Later, in the 20th century, states prohibited face coverings to address the depredations of the KKK.

The bans were either not enforced or repealed during covid. Masks went from being a symbol of outlaw behavior to becoming the sine qua non of good citizenship according to Dr. Fauci and other public-health authorities. The snugly fitted N95, or even better, an elastomeric respirator with replaceable filters, showed a heroic commitment to your own health and the well-being of others.

The clashing perspectives of the last two governors of New York indicate how the debate on masks has turned. Then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo in 2020 urged protestors to mask up. "You have a right to demonstrate," he declared, "You don't have a right to infect other people." Cuomo's successor, Gov. Kathy Hochul, went in the opposite direction after seeing masked protestors menace Jewish riders on the subway last year. She came out in favor of restricting masks and supports the watered-down change recently passed by the legislature.

With a long, hot summer in the offing, the issue won't go away in New York, or anywhere else. The mask is now part of the kit of rioters, as useful, indispensable and emblematic as a Klansman's white hood.

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



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Happy Independence Day! Hot Dogs or Ribs?

Each year on July 4, the United States celebrates Independence Day. The federal holiday commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain.

According to the National Day Calendar website, for nearly 250 years, the country has been celebrating a day in history that inspires us still today. On July 4th, communities host speeches and ceremonies across the nation. Across the county, people crowd cities for parades and festivals.

Cities deck the streets in red, white and blue bunting and flags. Families and friends gather for some of the most mouthwatering food, served at picnics, local fairs and barbecues, that provides a taste of culture and mom's home cooking, too.

With so many converging on their hometowns, family and school reunions take place. Before the day is over, many communities hold spectacular fireworks displays re-enacting moments of victory. Patriotic music accompanies the performance while spectators view the show from blankets and lawn chairs strewn



along capital lawns or from boats floating in the bays or on the rivers.

In some parts of the country, people will shoot their own fireworks while children delight in the bright colors and sparklers. They roast marshmallows and make s'mores.

In 1775, people in 13 colonies began fighting the British under King George III for their own independence. On July 2, 1776, Congress secretly voted for independence from Great Britain. Two days later, on July 4, 1776, the final wording of the Declaration of Independence was approved, and the document was published.

The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence was July 8, 1776. Delegates began to sign the Declaration on August 2, 1776. In 1870 Independence Day was made an unpaid

holiday for federal employees. In 1941 it became a paid holiday for them.

Interesting trivia: In a letter from John Adams to his wife Abigail on July 3, 1776, he described the day as pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells and bonfires.

Also, moving forward, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, both signers of the Declaration of Independence and presidents of the United States, died on July 4, 1826 – exactly 50 years after the adoption of the declaration.

It is important to note that Native Americans lived in the country, and each tribe had its own nation and government prior to the European settlers.

There you have it, several facets of our Independence Day and how to celebrate it. Be safe and enjoy the freedom that was won so long ago.

Now the question to answer: hot dogs or ribs? Ribs, of course! For one reason it is National Barbecued Spareribs Day and second, I don't think hot dogs were a "thing" in 1776, but I'll bet someone was cooking ribs over a fire back then.

(Although hot dogs were invented in 1487, five years before Columbus discovered America.)

Get the charcoal fired up because it is National Barbecued Spareribs Day across the nation.

This delicious food holiday is one of the most popular food celebrations because anytime a grill and barbecue are involved, it's going to be a great day to gather family and friends.

While steak is great, these inexpensive cuts of pork or beef ribs can be seasoned with spice rubs and sauces. Spareribs are cut from the lower portion of the pig. Though ribs have more bone than meat, the fat in them makes spareribs more tender than other kinds of ribs.

And when eating ribs, don't wear your Sunday best. While some manners do go out the window, try to maintain some decorum. Eat this sweet and messy deliciousness with your fingers but carry plenty of napkins. Wiping your hands on your shirt is a big no-no. The better the ribs the more napkins you will need. Enjoy!

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

ABOUT TOWN

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.

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 Memorial 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.

4th of July at the Lake – An American Festival at Lodi Lake. The day opens with a Kiwanis pancake breakfast, followed by afternoon activities for the whole family and the grand finale of fireworks after dark. Full schedule and information at visitlodi.com. 1101 W. Turner Road, Lodi.

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.

Sunday, July 6

Central Valley Classics n' Customs cars and coffee mini show – 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Park West Casino, Lodi. Free registration for all cars, trucks and motorcycles – all makes, models, and years are welcome. Supporting our local U.S. active duty and military veterans and their families, and bringing awareness to PTSD, traumatic brain injury and wellness. 1800 S. Cherokee Lane.

Stockton Swap Meet and Car Show – 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the San Joaquin Fairgrounds, Stockton. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to shop, showcase and connect with fellow car enthusiasts. Bring your family, enjoy the displays and celebrate love for classic cars.

For more information, call 209-513-8651. 1658 S. Airport Way.

Friday, July 11

Friday Night Movies at Veterans Field – Gates open at 6 p.m. and the movie starts at dusk. This month we'll be watching "Snow White (2025)," so bring your blankets, chairs and picnic baskets to enjoy an evening outdoors with family and friends.

For more information, call 209-366-7115 or email jgarcia@cityofgalt.org. 900 Caroline Ave.

Saturday, July 12

Cafe and Cars – 8 a.m. to noon at Café Latte. Open to cars, trucks, bicycles, motorcycles and anything with wheels. Come out and get a drink and a bite to eat at this local café that has been open for over 25 years, serving breakfast and lunch all day. 1000 C St.

Summer Concerts in the Park – presented by the City of Galt Parks and Recreation. This month's event will be at Community Park. Join us when the gates open at 6 p.m. to enjoy the Listen Hear Band. Bring your chairs, blankets, snacks, neighbors and friends.

More information at cityofgalt.org. 1000 Walnut Ave.

Lodi Community Art Center annual membership show and awards presentation – 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Stroll through an exceptional exhibition of paintings, photography, mixed media and more. This celebratory event highlights the best of the show with an engaging award presentation. Light refreshments will be served, and admission is free.

More information at lodicenter.org. 110 W. Pine St., Lodi.

Ongoing Events

Galt Saturday Market – First Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Fourth Street 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!)

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, 1000 Caroline Ave., (WG) Walnut Grove, 14177 Market St.

Friday, July 4: English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (G)

Saturday, July 5: Cunamacué Afro-Peruvian Dance, noon to 1 p.m. Join us for an interactive cultural experience. (G)

Wednesday, July 9: 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, July 10: Tai Chi for beginners, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Join us for a six-week series of this low-impact, gentle martial art. Registration is required. (WG) STEAM builder space – rocket-propelled cars, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Build your own toy car and take it for a ride. (G)

Friday, July 11: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (G) Magical Mary – summer reading program, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. (WG) English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (G)

Wednesday, July 16: Teen space, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Meet other teens and hang out in a space dedicated to you. (WG)

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 July 23. Breakfast: second Saturday, 8-10 a.m., 8830 Sharkey Ave., Elk Grove.

American Legion Post 233 and Auxiliary Unit 233 – 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.

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 Road, 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, Elk Grove.

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

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MEETING MINDERS

Sunday, July 6

Galt 4-H Club meeting, 4 p.m., at either Barbara Payne Community Garden or Grange Hall (depending on weather); see Facebook page GALT 4-H or email galt4h@gmail.com.

Monday, July 7

Lodi Parkinson's Support Group, 10 a.m., GracePoint Church, 801 Lower Sacramento Road (enter off Tokay Street), Lodi; 209-269-1080 or 209-329-1185.

Galt Youth Commission, 6:30 p.m., Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive.

Thursday, July 10

Lockeford Community Services District Board of Directors, 9 a.m., Old School House, 19456 N. Jack Tone Road.

Saturday, July 12

Kiwanis Club of Galt, 8:30 a.m., Comfort Inn, 10380 Twin Cities Road. For more information: k13878.site.kiwanis.org.

org.

Tuesday, July 15

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

Galt High Alumni Association (GHAA), 7 p.m., Three Palms Mobile Estates Clubhouse, 604 Pringle Ave., 916-835-8690.

Wednesday, July 16

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

Thursday, July 17

Galt Beautification Committee, 9 a.m., Community Development Dept., 495 Industrial Drive, 209-366-7130.

Herald Fire Protection District, 6 p.m., Station 87, 12746 Ivie Road, 209-748-2322.

Friday, July 18

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

Draft Plan for Sacramento Region Growth Released

Sacramento Area Council of Governments News Release



As the sole public agency representing every regional jurisdiction, Sacramento Area Council of Governments fosters collaboration and progress for an equitable, sustainable and prosperous future. Image courtesy of Sacramento Area Council of Governments

SACRAMENTO REGION (MPG)

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) announced that the draft 2025 Blueprint and Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the region's long-range transportation and land use plan, has been released for public review and comment.

The drafts are now available for public review and comments will be taken until Aug. 8. View the Draft 2025 Blueprint and Environmental Impact Report at sacog.org under the "Planning" tab.

By the year 2050, it is expected the region will add 580,000 new residents, 278,000 new homes and 263,000 new jobs, while investing more than \$40 billion in multi-modal transportation improvements.

The 2025 Blueprint lays out a plan for how the region's six counties and 22 cities will work together to create a vibrant, inclusive and resilient region that meets the needs of

current and future residents while preserving the environment for future generations.

"We have to work together to build a region that works for both our existing and future residents," said Darren Suen, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments Board of Directors chair and a City of Elk Grove councilmember. "The 2025 Blueprint is our playbook for how cities and counties will collaborate and ultimately helps setup the region for success to attract more grants and investments."

Community members are invited to review the draft plan and provide feedback by Aug. 8. To view the draft plan

and Environmental Impact Report, visit sacog.org/planning/blueprint.

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments is where local government leaders in the Sacramento region advance three strategic goals of equity, economy and environment.

As the sole public agency representing every regional jurisdiction, Sacramento Area Council of Governments fosters collaboration and progress for an equitable, sustainable, and prosperous future.

Support extends to local governments, addressing diverse issues such as transportation planning, funding assistance, airport planning and housing affordability. ★

Niello Raises Awareness of Familial Adenomatous Polyposis



From left: Rich Lozano, Roger Niello, Dan "Dry Dock" Shockley, Abid Sha and Salma Sha. Photos courtesy of Office of Sen. Roger Niello

By Adelyn Fowler

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California State Senate unanimously passed Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 73 on June 23. It aims to establish June 16-June 22, 2025, as familial adenomatous polyposis awareness week, and the ceremony also recognized attenuated familial adenomatous polyposis (AFAP), a subvariant of FAP.

What is familial adenomatous polyposis? FAP is a rare and genetic condition that is caused by a defect in the adenomatous polyposis coli gene. The condition results in an extra amount of tissue, also known as polyps, to form in the large intestine and rectum.

If left untreated, the polyps can become cancerous typically when a person reaches their 40s.

Galt's state Sen. Roger Niello worked closely with constituent Dan Shockley to raise awareness about this issue. Shockley is a survivor and advocate for FAP and AFAP awareness.

"As a 13-year Attenuated FAP warrior, I'm honored to have the support of Sen. Roger Niello for this life-saving

campaign," said Shockley. "The late Dr. Henry T. Lynch, the founding father of hereditary cancer research, is credited with discovering AFAP. Dr. Lynch considered me a colleague through the years. He shared with me that there seems to be a limited number of resources for individuals diagnosed with hereditary cancer. My purpose is to educate medical students about AFAP continuing the legacy of Dr. Henry T. Lynch on the importance of early detection in hopes of saving lives. My mantra is a positive spin on a bleak diagnosis, Always Forge Ahead with a Purpose!"

Niello presented SCR 73 on the Senate floor and received unanimous support. He shared, "Drawing attention to conditions such as this raises awareness about those living with FAP." He continued, "I am proud to author SCR 73 with help of fierce advocates like Dan and encourage Californians to understand their own risk for conditions like this."

Shockley was joined in the Senate by friends and fellow advocates Rich Lozano, Salma Shah and Abid Shah.

SCR 73 now moves on to the State Assembly. ★

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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



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON THE RESOLUTION DECLARING INTENTION TO ANNEX TERRITORY COSUMNES COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 1 (ELK GROVE FIRE PROTECTION)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to California Government Code Section 53322, the Board will hold a public hearing at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at the meeting place of the Board, 8820 Elk Grove Blvd, Elk Grove, California, to consider:

- A. A summary of the text of Resolution 2025-22 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COSUMNES COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT DECLARING INTENTION TO ANNEX TERRITORY TO COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 1 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE LEVY OF THE SPECIAL TAX THEREIN is as follows:

The Board has conducted proceedings to establish Community Facilities District No. 1 (Elk Grove Fire Protection) (the "CFD") pursuant to the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982, as amended (the "Act"), Chapter 2.5 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5, commencing at Section 53311, of the California Government Code and The Board hereby finds and determines that public convenience and necessity require that territory be added to the CFD. The name of the existing CFD is "Cosumnes Community Services District Community Facilities District No. 1 (Elk Grove Fire Protection)." The territory included in the existing CFD is set forth in the map of the CFD recorded in the office of the County Recorder of the County of Sacramento in Book 116 at Page 1580 of Maps of Assessment and Community Facilities Districts, to which map reference is hereby made. The territory now proposed to be annexed to the CFD is as shown on Annexation Map No. 57 to the CFD, on file with the Clerk of the Board ("Board Clerk"). The services and facilities to be financed by the CFD (the "Services and Facilities") and pursuant to the Act are described in Exhibit A of Resolution No. 2012-25 of the District, adopted on June 6, 2012 (the "Resolution of Formation") which is incorporated herein by reference. The Resolution, Description of Facilities, Rate, and Method of Apportionment of Special Tax, and the proposed boundaries of the Community Facilities District No. 1 Annexation No. 57 are on file with Nou Vang, Cosumnes Community Services District, 8820 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, California, and are available for review there during business hours by any interested persons.

On Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at the meeting place of the Board, 8820 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, California, this Board, as the legislative body for the CFD, will conduct a public hearing on the annexation of the territory to the CFD and consider and finally determine whether the public interest, convenience, and necessity require the annexation of the Property to the CFD and the levy of the Special Tax thereon.

At the public hearing, the testimony of all interested persons or taxpayers for or against the proposed annexation will be heard. If owners of one-half or more of the area of land in the existing CFD and not exempt from the Special Tax, or if the owners of one-half or more of the area of land in the territory proposed to be annexed and not exempt from the Special Tax, file written protests against the proposed annexation, and protests are not withdrawn so as to reduce the protests to less than a majority, no further proceedings to annex the same territory shall be undertaken for a period of one year from the date of the decision of the District Board on the issues discussed at the hearing.

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Two Graduate Nursing Programs Earn Accreditation

University of California, Davis Health News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The first week of June marked the start of a new educational journey for students in two recently-accredited graduate programs at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at University of California, Davis (UC Davis).

They are members of the Class of 2025 for the University of California Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Certificate Program and the Class of 2028 Doctor of Nursing Practice - Family Nurse Practitioner (DNP-FNP) Degree Program.

Both programs earned full accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) Board of Commissioners following a site visit and formal review in fall 2024. In addition, the California Board of Registered Nursing approved the School of Nursing's programs, affirming they meet state-specific licensing and practice requirements.

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accreditation is a trusted mark of quality for graduate nursing programs. It confirms the program meets national standards, qualifies students for financial-aid and licensure, and enhances its reputation with employers and peers. It also reflects a commitment to continuous improvement and excellence in nursing education.

"This accreditation reflects what we value most, an environment where faculty and staff are deeply



Primary care is delivered by family nurse practitioners for all areas of California. Photo courtesy of University of California, Davis Health

invested in student success, where academic excellence is the standard and where every graduate is empowered to be a change agent in health care," said School of Nursing Dean Stephen Cavanagh. "It's not just about meeting benchmarks. It's about transforming lives and advancing the future of how and where care is delivered to meet the needs of California and beyond."

Primary care is delivered by Family Nurse Practitioners for all areas of California.

Launched in 2022, The Doctor of Nursing Practice - Family Nurse Practitioner program marked the first Doctor of Nursing Practice program at University of California, Davis. Faculty developed the curriculum from the ground up, weaving into every facet the elements of leadership, innovative clinical practice and health equity. The

result: a new curriculum that actively develops meaningful solutions to provider shortages in rural and urban areas.

The hybrid program combines distance-based education with four on-campus immersions across three years. The inaugural cohort graduated June 12, prepared to implement evidence-based innovations and develop expertise in their clinical practice.

Doctor of Nursing Practice program director Charleen Singh suggested that faculty have learned as much from the first students as those soon-to-be graduates have learned through their coursework.

"As a result, we've created not only a program that we are extremely proud of but one that is a rewarding journey that starts with exploring the Central Valley and ends with the DNP symposium to celebrate their

projects with colleagues, family and friends," said Singh. "I often asked myself if I am leading the team in the right direction to fulfill the mission of the school and meet the vision of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. As the inaugural cohort graduates, I believe we did."

Inaugural graduate Samiksha Dhakal credits the program with transforming her perspective as a nurse and expanding how she sees her future impact.

"This program has been a truly transformative experience, really life-changing," said Dhakal. "This program helped to equip me with the advanced leadership skills, critical thinking abilities and expertise to apply these evidence-based solutions in clinical practice."

Mental care access has expanded through the Nursing Practitioner certification.

While residents in many areas of the state lack access to primary care services, more than half of Californians living with mental illness do not receive the psychiatric care they need. To answer the call, nursing schools at University of California, Davis; University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, Irvine; and University of California, San Francisco launched the multicampus, hybrid mental-health certificate program to prepare nurse practitioners across California as psychiatric mental-health specialists.

The one-year program, which welcomed its first class in 2021, grew out of a course of study developed by University of California, San Francisco. University of California, Davis became the administrative home of the program in 2023 with a focus on expanding the

impact on people in desperate need of mental health services and identifying ways to expand the curriculum and placement opportunities.

"This accreditation marks more than a milestone," said Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program director Lynda Creighton-Wong. "It reflects our intentional decision to lead an established program and reimagine its potential. We saw an urgent need in our communities and made it our mission to reach those too often left behind. Accreditation affirms that we're on the right path in building a program rooted in equity, innovation and real-world impact."

More than 120 students from across the state have graduated from the program, including 30 from the first cohort program since University of California, Davis assumed its operations.

Among those graduates is Roxanne Abella. She credits the faculty, preceptors and curriculum with not only preparing her to become a psychiatric mental health provider but a leader in health care.

"Coming from an underserved background and having worked as a nurse practitioner in resource-limited communities, many aspects of this framework initially felt intuitive," said Abella. "However, the program expanded my approach, not just as a clinician but as someone committed to equity, collaboration and lasting impact."

Accreditation for both programs lasts for five years. The next on-site evaluation will take place in fall 2029. ★

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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.

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@city-ofgalt.org.

The best submissions

will be included in future newsletters and City Manager Updates.

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.

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.

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.

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 non-emergency line at 209-366-7000.

The Parks Maintenance Division is available for scheduled field or facility use assistance only from 8 a.m. 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.

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.

AA 24-Hour Hotline

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

POLICE LOGS

During the time period of June 24 to June 30, Galt Police received and responded to a variety of calls, resulting in 10 arrests.

June 24

8:20 a.m., Recovered Stolen Vehicle, AJ's Towing on Live Oak Avenue.

9:04 a.m., Identity Theft reported, Palin Avenue.

4:15 p.m., Vehicle Accident-Injury, Third Street/C Street.

June 25

11:54 a.m., Vandalism reported, Savemart Supermarkets on C Street.

3:45 p.m., Warrant Served/adult arrest, Galt Food Center, A Street.

10:18 p.m., Warrant Served/adult arrest, McDonald's, East Stockton Boulevard.

June 27

1:47 a.m., Trespassing/adult arrest, Fifth Street.

8:03 a.m., Theft reported, Winn Drive.

10:42 p.m., Extortion reported, Michelle Court.

10:55 p.m., Warrant Served/adult arrest, Spur Way.

June 28

4:22 a.m., Assault w/Deadly Weapon/adult arrest, Trailridge Apartments on

North Lincoln Way.

8:40 a.m., Narcotics Violation/adult arrest, Kiki's Wings & Tenders on C Street.

4:46 p.m., Stolen Vehicle reported, Velvet Grill & Creamery on Fourth Street.

6:04 p.m., Weapon-Possession/Adult Arrest, Walmart on Twin Cities Road.

June 29

2:18 a.m., Domestic Violence/Adult Arrest, Lake Canyon Avenue.

2:18 p.m., Vandalism reported, Crescent Drive.

16:04 Domestic Violence/Adult Arrest, A Street.

June 30

11:17 a.m., Burglary reported, Spur Way: Broken window; multiple items damaged or stolen.

12:17 p.m., Vandalism reported, Savemart Supermarkets on C Street: Vehicle with damage.

2:03 p.m., Burglary reported, Galt's Gettin' Place on South Lincoln Way: Lock cut to shed and items taken.

3:49 p.m., Theft reported, Dutch Harbor Court: Checks stolen from community mailbox.

4:09 p.m., Theft reported, Silverado Way: Camera taken from the driveway. ★

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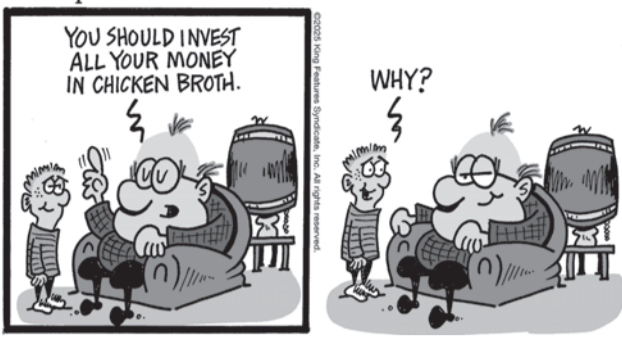
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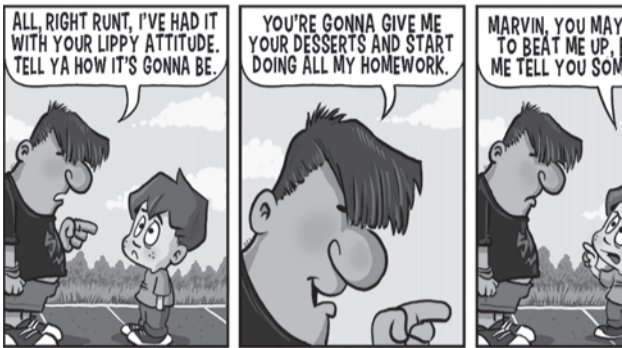
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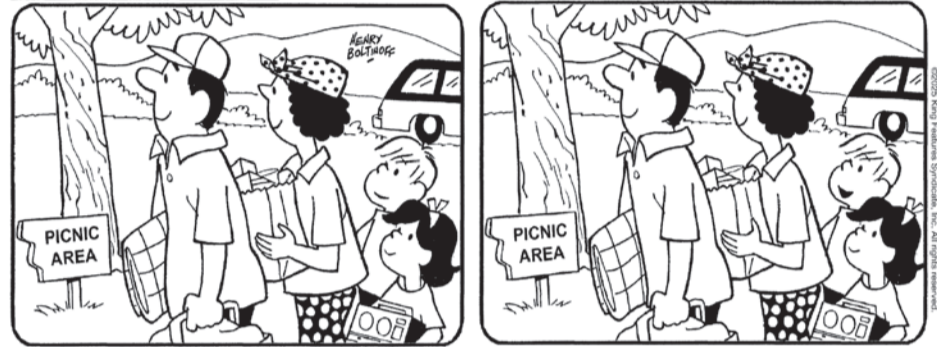
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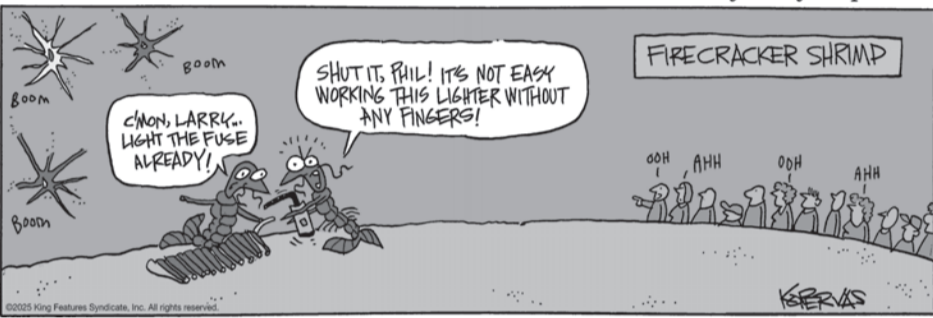


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Rising Star: Blevins Named Liberty Ranch Male Athlete of the Year



Quarterback Wyatt Blevins in his senior football photo. Photo by Paige Lampson



A freshman Wyatt Blevins just starting out in basketball. Photo by Paige Lampson



A freshman Wyatt Blevins in his football uniform. Photo by Paige Lampson

By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Wyatt Blevins has carved his name into school history as this year's Male Athlete of the Year. His journey from an energetic outdoor kid to a dual-sport varsity athlete showcases not just athletic prowess, but the heart of a true competitor. Wyatt's athletic journey began long before he donned the Liberty Ranch uniform.

"I grew up being an outdoor kid," Blevins reflects. "Since my mom played sports in high school, she pushed me to be athletic and try out as many things as possible." That early encouragement planted seeds that would eventually blossom into a remarkable high school athletic career.

The defining moment came during his freshman year when he stepped onto the court and field for his first basketball and football games. Those initial contests sparked what would become a four-year commitment to excellence in both sports.

Blevins' athletic resume speaks volumes: two years each of JV and varsity experience in both football and basketball. As the varsity quarterback during his junior and senior campaigns, he demonstrated versatility that kept opponents guessing. His senior year statistics tell the story of a complete player: rushing for 203 yards, scoring six touchdowns and accumulating 844 passing yards.

On the basketball court, Blevins was equally impactful, averaging 10.6 points and 5.3 rebounds per game during his senior season. This consistent performance across two demanding sports earned him All-League honors in both basketball and football: a rare distinction that highlights his exceptional athletic ability.

When asked about his most memorable game, Wyatt doesn't hesitate: "When I rushed over 100 yards and passed over 100 yards against Galt at the Dairy Bowl." The crosstown rivals' game became a showcase for his dual-threat capabilities and cemented his legacy in the storied local matchup.

What separates Blevins from many athletes is his understanding that leadership extends beyond statistical achievements.

"On the court as well as off, I like to make sure that my teammates have a positive mindset whether it is before the game, during or at practice," he explains.

This leadership philosophy manifests in his approach to high-pressure situations.

"I make sure to stop and take a deep breath and communicate with my teammates as well as coaches," says Blevins, demonstrating maturity beyond his years.

His pregame ritual – listening to hype music – may seem simple, but it represents the focused preparation that has become his trademark.

Blevins recognizes that individual success stems from collective effort.

"We pushed each other to improve by making sure we worked harder each day," he says of his teammates. This mutual accountability created a culture of excellence that elevated everyone's performance.

He also credits his coaches with



Wyatt Blevins dribbles the basketball during his senior year. Photo courtesy of Josh Garcia



Wyatt Blevins runs a touchdown in at the Dairy Bowl. Photo by Paige Lampson



A freshman Wyatt Blevins guards the basket with his family sitting behind him. Photo by Paige Lampson

providing crucial guidance: "The role my coaches played during my development was critical due to making sure that I did everything that I could, building it step by step." This methodical approach to improvement has prepared him for the next chapter of his athletic journey.

Beyond his accomplishments in school athletics, Blevins has leveraged his position to give back to the community.

"I used my platform as a student-athlete by coaching and refereeing youth flag football games," he shares, helping nurture the next generation of local athletes.

Looking ahead, Wyatt's competitive fire continues to burn bright.

"My athletic goals are to continue to play and pursue college football," he states confidently. Blevins will be playing at American River College.

For Liberty Ranch, Blevins leaves behind big shoes to fill, but also a blueprint for success: Push yourself daily, lift up your teammates and remember that being an athlete means being a leader in all aspects of life.

The final chapter of Wyatt Blevins' high school athletic career may be closing, but his impact on Liberty Ranch will resonate, and his journey is far from over. ★



Wyatt Blevins dribbles the ball during a JV game. Photo by Paige Lampson

The Unstoppable Journey: Gonzalez Named Galt High Male Athlete of Year



A freshman Kitto Gonzalez in his cross-country uniform. Photo by Paige Lampson



A young Kitto Gonzalez wears a first-place soccer medal. Courtesy photo

By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - In our small community of Galt, California, where agricultural roots run deep and determination runs deeper, a remarkable story of perseverance and athletic excellence has unfolded. Kitto Gonzalez, Galt High School's Male Athlete of the Year, has redefined what's possible for a Warrior athlete, blazing trails from local competitions all the way to the prestigious State meet not once, but an astonishing three times.

Gonzalez's journey to athletic greatness began with a simple nudge from his brother during his freshman year.

"Going into high school I only ever intended to play soccer and possibly track," Gonzalez recalled. "However, with my brother's influence, I tried cross country and found my passion in running."

That fateful decision set in motion a high school career marked by broken records, championship appearances and a legacy that will inspire Galt athletes for generations to come.

The defining moment came during his freshman year when he outpaced upperclassmen he had long admired.

"In my last race of freshman year, I beat a majority of the seniors I saw as role models," Gonzalez shared. "This led me to realize that in my next three years of high school, I could improve through hard training and serve as a role model myself."

That early success propelled him from JV to varsity in both cross country and track during his freshman year. From sophomore year onward, Gonzalez competed exclusively at the varsity level, setting a standard of excellence in every race.

Gonzalez's athletic resume reads like a record book, because much of it is. He currently holds the Galt High School record for the cross country 5K with a blistering time of 16:00.5 and the 2000m at 6:31.1. He also claims the second-fastest time in school history for the 3200m (9:45.01) and the third-fastest for the 3 mile (16:25).

Galt Athletic Director John Van Den Raadt speaks of Kitto's character.

"Kitto Gonzalez was our male athlete of the year and was a great young man," explained Van Den Raadt. "He also devoted his time to FFA, community service and finished with a high GPA. Kitto was not only great on the field/sporting arena, earning his share of awards and accolades, but he was also a great person on the Galt High campus and around the community, which is why he was selected as our athlete of the year."

But beyond the numbers, it's his championship pedigree that truly sets him apart. Gonzalez qualified for the California State Cross Country Championships three times: a feat unprecedented in Galt High School history. He also earned the title of Sierra Valley Conference Champion,



Kitto Gonzalez in his senior soccer photo. Photo by Paige Lampson



An anchor Kitto Gonzalez crosses the finish line in the 4x800 relay, winning sections. Courtesy photo



The 4x800 relay team shows off its all-league patches. Courtesy photo



Kitto Gonzalez runs his freshman year in a home track meet. Photo by Paige Lampson

establishing himself as the premier distance runner in the league.

"The achievement I am most proud of is making it to cross country state championships three times and being the Sierra Valley champion," Gonzalez stated with well-earned pride.

His most memorable competition came during his sophomore year at the Division IV Cross Country Sections meet.

"This was my most memorable race

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A senior Kitto Gonzalez guards Galt's goal. Photo by Paige Lampson

Young Aces Overcome Odds to Claim Galt Youth Farm Baseball Championship

By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - In a remarkable display of perseverance and teamwork, the Aces Baseball team captured the Galt Youth Farm Baseball championship last month, completing an unlikely journey that began with a randomly assembled group of 7-to-9-year-olds with varying levels of experience.

The championship squad, comprising first-time players and youngsters with several seasons under their belts, demonstrated early promise with strong communication and cohesion both on and off the field. However, their path to victory was nearly derailed mid-season when vacations and injuries left the team with just 10 available players during a crucial stretch.

“These kids never stopped believing in



The Aces celebrate their victory.

themselves,” said Aces head coach Jed McNamara. “Even when we were shorthanded, they showed up ready to compete every single game.”

The championship weekend proved to be the ultimate test of the team’s resilience. Facing River Delta – the only team to

defeat them during the playoffs – the Aces entered Saturday morning knowing elimination was just one loss away.

With their full roster of 12 players finally reunited, the Aces rose to the challenge in dramatic fashion. The semifinal victory against River Delta forced



The Aces, holding up their championship rings, are coaches Jed McNamara, Max Deegan, Chris Alvarez and Noemi Alvarez; and players Andrew Upton, Ayden Alvarez, Brady McNamara, Collin Harris, Connor Deegan, Giovanni Osvaldo Rivera, Jacob Chase, Liam Elliot, Nash Nelson, Ruben Herrejon, Vinny Andrade and Zaydrian Gonzales. Courtesy photos

a winner-take-all championship game, setting up an epic double-header that stretched across 12 grueling innings.

Both teams exhausted their primary pitchers due to pitch count limitations, forcing coaches to call upon less experienced players to take the mound in crucial situations.

“We had kids stepping

up to pitch who hadn’t been in those pressure situations before,” the coach explained. “The way they handled themselves showed incredible maturity.”

The championship victory represented the culmination of a season-long journey that saw the Aces defeat formidable opponents including All

American, Trash Pandas, Majewski, Castle, Pirates, Savage, Margullis and Campos.

As the final out was recorded against River Delta, the Aces celebrated not just a championship, but the valuable lessons of perseverance and teamwork that will serve these young athletes well beyond the baseball diamond. ★

Galt Gators Edge Out Sacramento Stingrays in Thrilling Swim Meet



By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

Photos courtesy of Tom Santillan

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Galt Gators swim team claimed a narrow victory over the Sacramento Stingrays in a nail-biting competition last Saturday, finishing with a final score of 414-396.

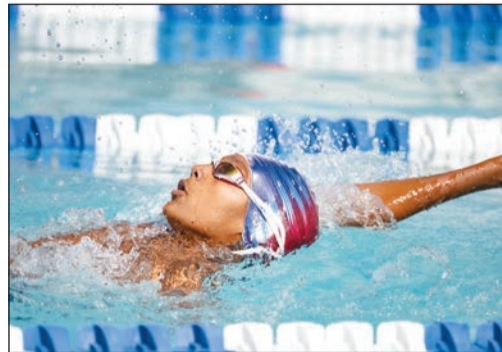
The 18-point margin showcased the depth and determination of the Gators squad, who maintained their composure throughout the closely contested meet.

“Every single point mattered today,” said a Gator parent. “Our swimmers gave everything they had in each race, and that collective effort made the difference.”

The meet featured several standout performances, including two swimmers who qualified for the prestigious Meet of Champions (MOC). John Carey secured his MOC spot with an impressive time of 31.01 seconds in the boys 13/14 50-yard backstroke, while John Pilegaard qualified with a swift 26.25 seconds in the boys 15/18 50-yard butterfly.

Five swimmers were recognized as “Gators of the Week” for their exceptional contributions: Perla Parra, Nolan Alvarez, Isaac Maldonado, Everly Penney and Raelyn Akers.

The Gators will look to build on this momentum as they prepare for their next meet, scheduled for after the Fourth of July holiday. ★



The Unstoppable Journey: Gonzalez Named Galt High Male Athlete of Year



Kitto Gonzalez is so far ahead of the pack, he often runs alone. Courtesy photo

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because I got into my first state cross country championship although the expectations were low and doubts were high,” he reflected. That breakthrough performance silenced doubters and announced his arrival as an elite competitor.

Gonzalez’s impact extends far beyond his individual accomplishments. As a team leader, he developed a straightforward yet supportive approach to helping his teammates improve.

“Whether my teammates ask for help or don’t, I always ensure to give them tips on how they can improve themselves,” he explained. “I always make sure my advice is helpful and that it’s intended to support my teammates in their journey in improving themselves.”

This leadership philosophy, combined with his remarkable performances, earned him MVP honors for the cross-country team three consecutive years and track team MVP three years running.

When facing pressure in crucial moments, Gonzalez relies on staying “calm and collected instead of panicking,” a mental approach that has served him well throughout championship competitions. His pre-race routine includes deep breathing exercises and avoiding overthinking: simple but effective techniques that have helped him perform at his best when the stakes are highest.

Despite the individual

nature of distance running, Gonzalez fostered a strong team environment.

“My teammates and I pushed each other to improve by sticking together during hard workouts and giving each other words of encouragement,” he shared.

He credits his coach with finding the delicate balance between pushing him to excel while preventing overtraining.

“My coach’s role in my development was always ensuring I worked hard but also didn’t overwork,” Gonzalez said. “If he noticed something or if I told him something was bugging me, he gave me advice on how to recover and gain strength.”

Perhaps most tellingly, Gonzalez contributed to team culture in uniquely personal ways.

“I contributed to my team culture beyond my athletic performance by starting trends such as wearing funny chicken leg-branded shorts at practices and sometimes competitions,” he said with a smile, revealing the personality behind the achievements.

Gonzalez’s influence extends beyond the track and into the community. Since his freshman year, he has participated in FFA (Future Farmers of America), engaging in multiple community service events. He also serves as a lifeguard, noting that “being a standout athlete has allowed me to be able to take physically and mentally challenging tasks, which in this case has allowed me to fit the

requirements to save others if necessary.”

His athletic journey is far from over. Gonzalez will continue his running career at the NCAA Division II level in both cross country and track, with scholarship opportunities on the horizon.

“My athletic goals for the future are to keep bettering my times and be part of a high-level running program,” he stated with characteristic determination.

Kitto Gonzalez leaves Galt High School with an impressive collection of accolades: All-League honors twice in cross country and twice in track, All-League MVP, three-time State Championship qualifier and three consecutive years as team MVP in both cross country and track.

But perhaps his greatest legacy is showing what’s possible for a Galt Warrior with passion, dedication and unwavering commitment. From a freshman trying a new sport at his brother’s suggestion to a record-breaking state qualifier headed to collegiate competition, Gonzalez’s journey embodies the transformative power of finding one’s true calling and pursuing it with everything you have.

With his final lap around the Galt High School track as a student-athlete, Kitto Gonzalez doesn’t just leave behind records in the books, he leaves a trail for others to follow, proving that from the small town of Galt, you can indeed run all the way to the state’s biggest stage. ★