



**Liberty Ranch Alumni
Return as Co-Head
Volleyball Coaches**

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**Former Galt Coach
Takes Experience to
Florin Football**

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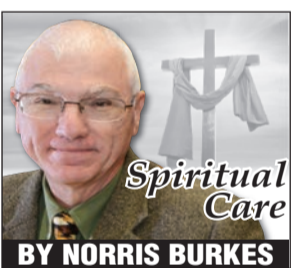
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**ATTITUDE IS 90%
OF EVERYTHING**



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**CHAPLAIN FINDS
HIS REAL CHURCH**



PAGE 4

Best of the Breeds

Junior Wins Grand Champion Lamb at State Fair



Pictured is Paige Otto, 12, with her award-winning lamb, Tank, at the 2025 California State Fair on July 12. Courtesy photo

By Idaly Valencia

HERALD, CA (MPG) - Local 4H member Paige Otto, 12, took home the highest recognition for her show lamb during the California State Fair on July 12 at Cal Expo.

With this being only her third year showing sheep, Paige has already demonstrated success in livestock exhibition with Tank the lamb winning the title of Grand Champion Market Lamb (the best market lamb

of all breeds).

The next step for the local ag standout: heading to the California Youth Agricultural Exposition in Tulare, happening the first weekend in August, to compete to be within the top five and sell her award-winning lamb in a premium auction.

If Tank makes it in the top five, Paige will also have the opportunity to take him to a national show this fall held in either Kansas City or Louisville.

Paige told The Galt Herald that she was initially having troubles with Tank cooperating but was determined to take control, which worked in her favor.

"Tank was not feeling his best at state fair and was not cooperating at all during the Grand Drive," said Paige. "I started to get frustrated and thought that I really needed to calm down and keep working at it. He finally started to calm down when

Continued on Page 3

Council Approves Liberty Ranch Bond Issuance



By John McCallum

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Galt City Council devoted much of its July 15 meeting to financial matters, including unanimously approving a resolution authorizing the issuance of special tax parity bonds for a subdivision development known as Liberty Ranch.

The documents approved by the council authorize the issuance of \$14.295 million of 2025 Special Tax Bonds, Series B. That's to help pay for additional public facilities within Liberty Ranch under what was designated by council in 2020 as "Improvement Area No. 1" when it voted to form Community Facilities District (CFD) No. 2020-2. An "Improvement Area No. 2" was also created.

It's the second bond issuance for Area No. 1, which includes phases one to three of Liberty Ranch and includes 699 single-family residential lots and proposed 250 multi-family units. The first bond issuance was for \$11.005 million in Special Tax Bonds, Series A in 2023.

The 150-acre Liberty Ranch is projected upon final build-out to include 1,393 residential units, an elementary school, 41.4 acres of open space/landscaped areas, 16.3 acres of rights of way and 11.1 acres of parks.

The city reached a development agreement with the developer, 510 LR Development, LLC, in 2016 whereby the developer agreed to construct all needed infrastructure and public facilities for the subdivision, with the Community Facilities District providing for infrastructure financing along with operation and maintenance costs. In an October 2020 election, Area No. 1 landowners approved a bonding maximum not to exceed \$83 million.

In his presentation to council at the July 15 meeting, the city's bond consultant, NHA Advisors principal Eric Scriven, said that repayment of the 30-year 2025 bonds would be through a "Special Tax A" levied on property

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Hume Highlights County Progress at Annual Address

By Idaly Valencia

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County District 5 Supervisor Patrick Hume delivered his State of the County address July 18, updating local leaders and community partners on infrastructure, public safety and regional development.

The event, held at the Elk Grove Pavilion on Elk Grove Florin Road, was sponsored by Hume and supported by the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce. Chamber chairwoman Amy Labowitch introduced Hume and highlighted his long-standing commitment to public service.

Labowitch noted that Hume grew up in Elk Grove, having completed middle and high school locally before earning a bachelor's degree from San Diego State University and a master's in ethical leadership from Claremont Lincoln University. Hume returned to Elk Grove to serve on the city's Planning Commission following its



Sacramento County Supervisor Patrick Hume spoke about improvements at Sacramento International Airport, including a new pedestrian walkway and expanded terminal services, on July 18. Photo by Idaly Valencia

incorporation in 2000 and later spent 16 years on its City Council.

Elected in 2022 to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, Hume now represents Elk Grove, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova and southern rural communities in the county and Delta region.

Labowitch also mentioned his continued community involvement, including volunteering as an auctioneer for local nonprofits.

In his address, Hume began by discussing the county's efforts on a multi-benefit project along the Cosumnes River focused on

flood control and habitat restoration.

He referenced the damage and loss of life during the severe storms of winter 2022-23 and thanked U.S. Representatives Doris Matsui and Ami Bera for their support in pushing the project forward.

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Hume Highlights County Progress at Annual Address

Continued from page 1

“It will allow some of that water to get back down into the ground, so we have it here for future use,” Hume said. “And then hopefully a little bit of that for a habitat opportunity for salmon to migrate up the Cosumnes.”

He also announced that the district received \$650,000 for the Wilton Area Roadway Resiliency Project, which will strengthen evacuation routes in flood-prone areas.

“My goal is a PIG, which is a project in the ground,” Hume said. “We’re trying to get something out that actually changes the landscape, that improves the situation.”

Hume then addressed ambulance patient offload time (APOT); an issue he said he hadn’t fully realized the scope of until taking office.

Ambulance patient offload time refers to how long it takes after an ambulance arrives at a hospital for a patient to be admitted. The county once ranked among the worst in the state, with average delays exceeding 70 minutes, according to Hume.

“That’s over an hour somebody is laying in a gurney in a hallway,” said Hume.

Funding was allocated during his first budget cycle to reduce that time. Since then, working with hospitals, first responders and county services, the county has cut the average ambulance patient offload time to 30 minutes.

Hume credited the improvement with helping



Community members and local officials gathered at the Elk Grove Pavilion on July 18 for Supervisor Patrick Hume’s annual update on county initiatives. Photo by Idaly Valencia

leaders such as county Medical Director Dr. Gregory Kann and former EMS Administrator Davis Magnino to earn statewide recognition.

“That’s one of those rare opportunities where you can see the difference being made,” Hume said.

Another key issue, Hume said, is the proposed Delta Conveyance Project, known as the Delta tunnel, which would divert water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to Southern California. He warned of the environmental and economic impact on the region.

“It affects the livelihood of individuals who live here: the environment, flywatts, fisheries and farmers,” Hume said.

As chair of the Delta Counties Coalition, Hume said that the group is shifting the conversation from

opposition to collaboration.

“I’m not here to fight,” he said. “Just respect what we have.”

Hume criticized the tunnel’s estimated \$20-billion cost and pointed to water loss through evaporation, arguing that funds would be better spent upgrading existing infrastructure such as levees.

Moving onto transportation, Hume highlighted improvements happening at the Sacramento Metropolitan Airport.

“We’re doing about \$1.3-million worth of upgrades, the first of which is set to open this year, and that is a pedestrian walkway,” Hume said.

This walkway will replace the tram that is used to transport passengers between terminals that has been costing the county millions of dollars a year to maintain.

In addition to terminal expansions and new flight destinations, including nonstop routes to Mexico, Alaska and soon, Germany, airport upgrades will include a new parking structure near Terminal B and a relocated rental car pickup area to improve accessibility for arriving passengers. Dining options across the airport are also being updated, with new restaurants, bars and cafes planned.

He acknowledged Sacramento Regional Transit General Manager Henry Li, who was in attendance, and their joint work on a systemwide operational analysis. Long-term plans include a transit connection, either via light rail or bus transit, from downtown Sacramento and to the airport.

Hume also cited traffic safety efforts,

including 933 complaint investigations and 36 new speed bumps on 17 residential streets. Road and bridge work is underway throughout the district, including projects on Grand Island, Grant Line, River, Bradshaw, Isleton and Twin Cities roads, as well as Franklin Boulevard and Clay Station Road.

He addressed unique rural concerns, including animal-related complaints ranging from noisy fish farms to an influx of roosters on residential properties. In response, Hume said that the county has worked with agricultural businesses to address noise levels and updated zoning codes to strengthen enforcement.

On public safety, Hume credited Proposition 36, the Homelessness, Drug Addiction and Theft Reduction Act, with helping hold offenders accountable and enhance community safety. He also noted intensified efforts to address the fentanyl crisis.

Turning to the county jail, Hume called the situation a “big hurdle,” with the increasing numbers of inmates experiencing illness.

Hume said the facility failed to meet Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) standards due to overcrowding and insufficient medical care, resulting in a lawsuit loss. He said the county must either build a new facility or invest in preventive services.

“I don’t think that’s right,” he said of the current approach. “There’s a better way to do it.”

On homelessness, Hume reported that the county currently funds more than 1,200 beds, with another 370 under construction.

Safe Stay communities have opened in Florin and East Parkway on Stockton Boulevard, and a major new facility in the works is set to become Northern California’s largest shelter with a safe parking site and space for treatment and classes.

Hume also discussed state Sen. Angelique Ashby’s proposed legislation that would create a joint powers authority among all county cities and restructure the Sacramento Area Housing and Homelessness Agency into a regional oversight entity.

He expressed concern that the proposal could complicate efforts and spoke with Ashby with a colleague. Hume described having a “heated exchange” at times, yet he praised the respectful dialogue that followed, saying Ashby agreed to allow more time to work toward shared solutions.

Before concluding, Hume introduced and thanked his chief of staff, Stephanie Kauss, for her continued support. He then shared reflections from a recent trip to Machu Picchu with his wife, Lisa, to end his address on an optimistic note.

Standing at the ancient site, Hume said, he was reminded of the fleeting nature of life and the importance of purpose.

“All the battles we wage, all the wars, all the conquests and things we face every day amount to variable when you look at things in that amount of timeline,” he said. “So if I can just say one thing to you, it’s this: Do that thing that scares you. Take that risk that offers great reward ... and if you fail, learn from it, get up, dust off and keep going, because we’re here for just a flash of light. Let’s do it right.” ★

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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	12:25 PM	12:45 PM	1:20 PM	1:45 PM	1:50 PM	1:55 PM	2:00 PM	2:25 PM	
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Former Booster Club Treasurer Arrested in Embezzlement Case

By Idaly Valencia

GALT, CA (MPG) - Former Liberty Ranch High School Athletics Booster Club Treasurer Carmela Cuadrado Baker was arrested by Galt Police officers on July 25 following a months-long investigation into unauthorized purchases totaling nearly \$200,000 from the organization's account.

The Liberty Ranch Athletics Booster Club supports school sports programs and activities,

servicing hundreds of student-athletes and their families.

According to a statement posted by the Galt Police Department on social media July 25, Baker was identified as the primary suspect in a theft report submitted on March 8 involving significant financial loss.

The missing funds were discovered by a Booster Club board member during a routine audit.

On March 26, The Galt Herald reported that the

organization filed a civil lawsuit against Baker on March 20, accusing her of "buying, receiving, concealing, selling or withholding stolen property, concealment and breach of fiduciary duties." The lawsuit also named her husband, Paul Baker.

The civil complaint cited \$53,231 on Instacart purchases, \$44,412 at Amazon, \$27,466 at Walmart, \$17,910 at Costco, \$12,776 on PayPal, \$7,731 at "College," \$4,604 at Disneyland and

another almost \$85,000 on other miscellaneous expenses.

Detectives served multiple search warrants at those businesses where unauthorized purchases were suspected, which also included the City of Galt Utilities.

Search warrants were executed at Baker's residence, where various electronic devices and financial records related to the case were seized, according to detectives.

After reviewing the

evidence, the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office issued a felony arrest warrant for embezzlement with bail set at \$10,000 on July 23.

On the morning of July 25, Galt Police officers attempted to serve the warrant at Baker's residence but learned she was not home, according to police. Around 2:30 p.m., according to police, officers located her at a business in Elk Grove, where she was taken into custody without incident.

She was booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail on felony embezzlement charges.

The Galt Police Department thanked the community and individuals who came forward to provide information throughout the investigation, as well as authorities who worked on the case:

"This case is particularly troubling because the impact reaches far beyond the theft itself. It represents a betrayal of trust against an entire community devoted to supporting our Galt youth.

"We are proud of the diligent work by our officers and detectives in bringing this case to resolution and ensuring accountability," the department news release said. ★

Hot Jazz Jubilee Releases Lineup



Five venues will offer music for the Hot Jazz Jubilee at the Doubletree by Hilton Sacramento. Photo courtesy of the Hot Jazz Jubilee

Hot Jazz Jubilee News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Hot Jazz Jubilee will once again feature four days of music and entertainment over Labor Day weekend from Aug. 29 to Sept. 1.

Five venues will offer music at the Doubletree by Hilton Sacramento, ranging from the large Grand Ballroom to the more intimate Garden Terrace and RJs. Dancers will want to hang out in the three ballrooms, which offer dance floors.

"We are excited to offer some new music genres and some great bands new to the festival," said Hot Jazz Jubilee Director Pat Jones. "Plus, some fabulous guest artists. The variety at this festival can't be beat. We have jazz, swing, gypsy jazz, zydeco, blues, old time rock 'n' roll, western swing and R&B. Something for everyone."

This year's band lineup includes Black Market Trust, Crescent Katz, Swingin' West, Steve Lucky & the

Rhumba Bums, Dave Bennett Quartet, Katie Cavera & the Lost Boys, Two Tone Steiny & The Cadillacs, Tom Rigney & Flambeau, Todd Morgan & The Emblems, Stephanie & Paolo, San Lyon, Groovus, The Summer Groove Band (formerly High Street Band) and Yve Evans & Company. Joining them will be Sax Gordon, Adrian Cunningham, Dan Barrett, Jason Wanner, Bill Dendle and jazz vocalist Meloney Collins.

This family-friendly event is in air-conditioned comfort at the newly remodeled DoubleTree by Hilton Sacramento on Point West Way in Sacramento. There is free admission for youth 18 and under. The Sacramento Jazz Education Foundation will sponsor youth clinics where young musicians can perform with the pros.

Food and drinks as well as a jazz vendor fair will also be on site. Get tickets at hotjazzjubilee.com. For special group rates, inquire at info@hotjazzjubilee.com. ★

Best of the Breeds

Continued from page 1
it really counted and it all worked out."

According to show lamb standards, ideal show lambs need to be sound in terms of their structure, eye appeal and muscle. Many other factors also go into consideration, such as stoutness of skeleton, shallowness of body, rib shape and neck length.

"Paige's lamb excels in stoutness, eye appeal, soundness and show ring presence. Tank, her lamb's name, just wants to be a show lamb and it's evident when he's in motion in the show ring," said Brady Otto, Paige's father, who helps with the Herald 4H Club.

All the animals are shown by breed and by weight class within their respective breeds and are judged among contemporaries at shows.

On July 12, Paige and her lamb, Tank, first claimed first place in their weight class within the natural breed division. From



Paige Otto, 12, is currently attending the seventh grade at Arcohe Elementary School and is already making a name for herself in the scene of sheep showmanship. Courtesy photos

there, they went on to win Champion Natural Market Lamb, competing against all other class winners

within that division.

Later that evening, all breed champions and reserve champions

returned to the ring for the final round of competition. Paige and Tank stood out once again, ultimately



Herald 4H member Paige Otto has already demonstrated success in livestock exhibition with Tank the lamb winning the title of Grand Champion Market Lamb (the best market lamb of all breeds).

earning the title of Grand Champion Market Lamb.

Paige, an Arcohe Elementary School seventh-grader, is quickly making a name for herself in sheep showmanship.

Paige's ability to guide Tank, even when he wasn't at his best, and Paige's awareness of how her own emotions affected their performance, helped to set the pair apart. ★

Council Approves Liberty Ranch Bond Issuance

Continued from page 1

owners, initially the developer but eventually the homeowners. Special Tax A pays debt service on Community Facilities District bonds or annually funds infrastructure costs.

Debt service on the 2025 bonds is estimated at \$812,382 in 2026 and escalates to \$2,447,063 at maturity in 2055.

Scriven said in approving issuance of the bonds that the city assumes no liability for their payments. All the city has to do is levy, collect and enforce the special tax.

Councilmembers had a number of questions about the bonds, including if there was any incentive to pay them off early. Hypothetically, Scriven said, the landowners could pursue such a course if they chose to do so.

"There's no reason for the city to do it. It's not the city's debt," he added.

After some public comment questioning the issuance, Galt Mayor Shawn Farmer

explained that whether people agree or not, the bond issuance is part of the original developer agreement.

"This is formality, more or less," Farmer said. "We are legally bound by the original development agreement."

In May 2024, the project developer entered into a purchase and sale agreement with homebuilder Meritage Homes of California whereby Meritage purchased 173 single-family residential lots in Area No. 1. Meritage is currently constructing those homes on lots in three separate "villages."

Council also approved the annual assessments for residents in three Landscaping and Lighting Districts, two of which were formed in 1990 and one, City of Galt LLD No. 3, in 2005. The districts were formed to provide for public facility needs within their respective areas, including landscaping of medians and corridors, street lighting and park and open

space improvements.

Assessments for two districts, Westside and Northeast, are fixed and have not changed since 1990. Assessments for the 1,075 parcels in Westside run from \$36.62 to \$221.80 while assessments for the 3,283 parcels in Northside range from \$51.70 to \$301.85. Assessment amounts are determined by which of the several benefit zones in each district the parcel lies in and whether improvements have been made in that zone.

The staff report noted that because assessments are fixed, both districts' expenses are exceeding revenues and require subsidies from Measure Q in order to maintain service levels: \$393,494 for Westside and more than \$1.494 million for Northeast.

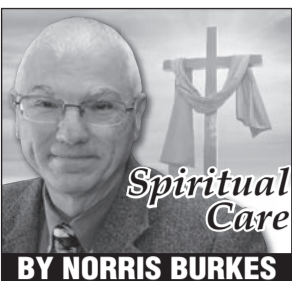
LLD No. 3 was formed to serve parcels in the city west of State Highway 99, excluding Westside LLD, with maximum assessments able to be adjusted for annual

inflation based upon the greater of 1.5% or the change in the Consumer Price Index, CPI. The assessment for the 307 parcels in LLD No. 3 is \$427.04 for each single-family dwelling, a \$10.01 increase over the previous assessment and based upon a Consumer Price Index of 2.4% between January 2024 and January 2025.

Finally, council approved annexation of 57.29 acres of land within the Summerfield territory into Community Facilities District 2020-1 for the purpose of collecting special taxes needed to pay for required services such as fire protection from Consumnes Community Services District and other services required of the city.

There was no public comment during the hearing held on the annexation. Deputy Public Works Director Trung Trinh told council they had received no protests and there were no registered voters living in the area to vote in a special election. ★

Chaplain Finds His Real Church



the 90's asked members to give their entire charity dollar to the church. In my new pastor role, I remind folks of our duty to also clothe the poor, feed the hungry and bring justice to the oppressed.

My wife says I became a preacher because I couldn't sit still in the pew. Therefore, my third change has been to redesign nearly everything about the Sunday service around people who need movement to learn.

I preach interactive sermons where people can respond or even disagree. We've injected movement and response into the Lord's Supper, using individual stations where people experience the sounds, smells and tastes of Jesus' teaching.

I've done away with the loud music that isolates worshippers and keeps them from acknowledging those around them.

We still use some hymns, but I challenge folks to understand their meaning. I've even inserted a few secular songs that encourage people to extend God's work outside the church.

Finally, my biggest change is trying to preach R-E-A-L sermons.

R – relevant. I still preach the traditional stories of Samson, Moses, and the virgin birth, but I try to make those stories relevant to today's life. I'll compare Samson's failure of strength to times my strength has failed me. I tell how Moses dealt with the rejection of his own people. And I talk about a young couple who must have been scared to death with their first child.

E – empathetic. I try to demonstrate that I not only

understand the people but feel their hurt. As I return to preaching again, I tell modern stories that show an appreciation for the pain that life can put us through and the thrills it can immerse us in.

A – authentic. Pastoring again challenges me to share more of my own failures and heartbreaks. I try to admit the contradiction I feel between personal fear and the Scriptural admonition for us not to be afraid.

I even share the defeat I feel over unanswered prayers and my frustration in loving the unlovable.

L – language. A friend of my mine told me he would recognize a real church if he heard the pastor say "damn" once in a while.

OK, no, I haven't started cussing from the pulpit, but I do work harder to communicate in everyday language. I avoid trying to prove I graduated from seminary with words like Christology, eschatology and ecclesiology.

If my old friend ever reads this, he'll likely regret his offer to help me find a new church. But for now, my real church is growing a bit as we all gather for a safe place to explore our faith.

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. ★

Golden 1 Center Hosts Special Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses



Sacramento is to host thousands for an international spiritual event at the Golden 1 Center from Aug. 1 through Aug. 3. Photo courtesy of Jehovah's Witnesses

Jehovah's Witnesses News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - In the weeks leading up to the highly anticipated Special Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses, local Witnesses from across Northern California are warmly inviting their neighbors to attend this unique international event at the Golden 1 Center from Aug. 1 through Aug. 3.

More than 3,000 international delegates from 14 countries, including Australasia, Canada, Ecuador, Fiji, France, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, Scandinavia, Tahiti and Taiwan, will join thousands of local attendees to experience the uplifting "Pure Worship" convention program.

This special gathering highlights the global unity and joy of shared worship, transcending language and culture.

"We are thrilled to welcome so many

international friends to Sacramento," said Adrian Barnes, regional spokesman for Jehovah's Witnesses. "It will be an unforgettable experience, not just for our visiting delegates, but for our entire community. We hope our neighbors will take this opportunity to attend and enjoy the positive and encouraging program."

An estimated 10,000 volunteers are working diligently to prepare for the event and more than 15,000 attendees are expected to fill the Golden 1 Center across the three days. The program will feature Bible-based talks, dramatic presentations, a live baptism ceremony and a high-quality audiovisual production highlighting the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

All sessions will be presented in English. The public is warmly invited to attend. Admission is free and no collections will be taken.

Please visit www.jw.org. ★

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Attitude is everything or can we say 90% of everything. No one takes the last shot thinking there's a 10% chance it's going in. No, you believe with all your heart you can make the shot and when it actually goes in, it simply confirms what you knew all along. That you are excellent at what you do, and success just naturally follows.

That's the way it is with athletes, coaches, and it certainly pertains to fans as well.

During the Sacramento Kings eye popping wins during summer league that left them a gnat's eyelash of winning the title for the third time, fans were more than buoyant. Four players stood out, beginning with the Kings heralded rookies Maxime Raynaud and Nique Clifford. Second year players Isaac Jones and Devin Carter also made a splash, and gave every Kings fan a reason to start shopping for good seats in the upcoming season.

Could next season be something special and once again return the Sactown boys to the playoffs? Not if you listen to the morning show on 1140 am or the talking heads on ESPN. Sadly, even some Kings fans are seeing the glass half full, and instead of extenuating the positive, are finding reasons why the Kings won't have a winning season.

I grew up in San Jose as a youngster, where the Warriors were the only NBA team in Northern California, but sadly were perennial losers. Right up until the team drafted a guy by the name of Rick Barry. A power forward who not only won rookie of the year honors, but lead the team to their first ever championship in San Francisco in 1976. With only one star on the team, and a cast of characters that probably couldn't crack the lineup of any other NBA team, all the Warriors did was sweep the Washington Bullets 4-0 in the NBA finals. It would ultimately be Rick Barry's only championship of his career, but like Jerry West who also had but one championship, Rick would see his jersey retired and enter the NBA hall of fame with great pride.

Entering the 1976 season, although there was no ESPN at the time, basketball pundits scoffed at the idea that the Warriors would even make the playoffs, let alone win a championship.

So, for all the naysayers out there, I say get a life. Domantas Sabonis is not window dressing, and neither is sharpshooter Zach Lavine who was second in the NBA in 3-point percentage last season.

Truly DeMar DeRozan doesn't get his due, but if used effectively DeMar can make opposing teams weep. His mid-range shooting is something to admire, so capitalize on his strength and let DeMar show fans how he can fill the scoring column and stretch the floor.

Everyone is waiting to see how Nique Clifford's summer league success will translate to the NBA regular season, but there is no reason to believe that he can't duplicate the double faceted scoring and rebounding that he has been known for during his college career.

Are people watching big man Isaac Jones? Jones has a knack around the rim that few players can duplicate, and he loves drawing fouls and converting 3-point plays. Jones isn't just NBA ready, he is ready to make a difference, and he will do just that if coach Christie is smart enough to give this talented forward 20 plus minutes every game.

The same can be said for Devin Carter and newcomer Nique Clifford. These young players will make their share of mistakes, but they also get fans on their feet. All of these players are extremely athletic, and their best NBA years are ahead of them.

Scott Perry is no rookie, and thus far he has shown a measure of restraint as it relates to making trades. I like that, and although I would like to see things come together quickly, it simply isn't the way things are done.

Let's give Perry his accolades for a noteworthy draft, and ample time to secure the last couple of moves that may very well propel this current team into the playoff's next season.

Don't be afraid to be a homer Kings fans. It feels good and just like the 1976 Warriors, anything is possible.

Keep faith Kings fans and start buying tickets. You won't be sorry!

All the best!

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

Social Security Matters

I'm Turning 70. When Should I Apply for Social Security?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I have a very simple question: I will turn 70 on September 20th and want to start my Social Security benefits in September. What month should I file my claim? Have there been delays with the reductions in SSA staff? Thank you for your help. **Signed: Ready to Claim.**

Dear Ready to Claim: Social Security allows you to submit your application for benefits up to 4 months prior to the month you wish benefits to start (you will specify your desired benefit-start-month on the application). Thus, to have your benefits begin in September (the month you turn 70), you can submit your application as early as May 2025. That will give SS plenty of time to get your benefits started on time. Remember, though, that SS pays benefits in the month following the month earned, so if you start benefits in September,

you will receive your first SS payment in October (on the 3rd Wednesday). And, since you will be turning 70 in September you are entitled to full benefits effective from the first of that month. Congratulations on choosing a strategy which maximizes your monthly payment. By claiming at age 70, your monthly SS benefit will be about 31% more than it would have been at your full retirement age, and you will get that higher monthly amount for the rest of your life.

Re your question about possible delays, Social Security staff reductions have not included "front line" agents (those who handle applications), so the SS recent staff adjustments should not likely delay processing your application. Although some back-office staffing turmoil currently exists at SSA, they have been moving more people to front-line positions to try to improve their service. Just be aware, however, that it normally takes the SSA about 2 to 3 months to process new applications, which is why they allow applications up to 4 months in advance. You will specify the month you wish benefits to start on your application. In any case, although your

application should be fine if you submit it this month, rest assured that they will pay you starting with the month you requested, even if they must do so retroactively.

FYI, you can apply for Social Security in person by making a telephone appointment to do so at 1.800.772.1213, or you can apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply. To apply online, you need to have first created your "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Here is a video which explains the online application process: www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim_r01.htm.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. ★

Why California's Agricultural Industry Is at Odds Over Solar Farms



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

The Imperial Irrigation District, which provides water to farmers in the southeastern corner of California, drew a figurative line in the sand earlier this month, calling for a halt to the conversion of agricultural fields into solar panel farms.

Noting that more than 13,000 acres of fertile land had already been converted, the water district asked the Imperial County Board of Supervisors to protect productive farmland.

"Our identity and economy in the Imperial Valley are rooted in agriculture," Gina Dockstader, who chairs the district board, said in a statement. "Solar energy has a role in our region's future, but it cannot come at the cost of our farmland, food supply, or the families who depend on agriculture. This resolution is about protecting our way of life."

The Imperial Valley conflict is one manifestation of an increasingly sharp debate within California's \$60 billion agricultural sector — the largest of any state — over what should happen as the acreage devoted to crops and livestock shrinks.

The state Department of Conservation says that agricultural lands declined by more than 1.6 million acres between 1984 and 2018, averaging 47,000 acres a

year. The most productive land experienced the largest decline. Urbanization — the conversion of fields into homes and businesses — accounted for most of the decline, but residential development has slowed in recent years, contributing to a chronic housing shortage.

Other factors, such as labor shortages, production costs and uncertain water supplies, have created what industry leaders say is a crisis. The Public Policy Institute of California has estimated that the recently imposed limits on tapping underground aquifers to irrigate crops will result in 500,000 acres of farmland being taken out of production.

More recently, President Donald Trump's imposition of tariffs and a crackdown on undocumented immigrants have put more pressure on the agricultural industry.

As farmers, particularly the larger corporate growers, take land out of production, many believe that their economic salvation lies in solar panel arrays that generate the emission-free electricity that the state wants, as it phases out power fueled by hydrocarbons.

However, that doesn't sit well with farmers who want to continue production, as the Imperial Irrigation District's call for a solar moratorium implies.

Like many conflicts, this one has landed in the Capitol in the form of legislation. Assembly Bill 1156 would make it easier for farmers whose lands are contractually obligated to remain open space under the Williamson Act to avoid paying the heavy penalties required by law.

The Williamson Act, enacted six decades ago to

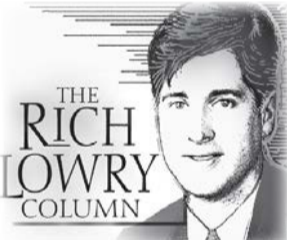
slow the sprawl of urban development into farmlands, gives farmers hefty breaks on property taxes on land they maintain as open space. AB 1156 would specifically declare that farmers can replace crops with solar farms without incurring penalties if the owner is experiencing water shortages. The bill is backed by the solar power industry, environmentalists, labor unions and many large farmers.

The California Farm Bureau and family farm groups oppose it, arguing that it will undermine the Williamson Act because almost any farmer can declare a water shortage, given the chronic uncertainty of California water supplies. Emulating the Imperial Irrigation District's stance, opponents say wholesale conversion of farmland into solar farms will devastate rural communities that depend on agriculture for jobs.

Politically, it's a David vs. Goliath conflict. AB 1156, carried by Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks, an Oakland Democrat, has been moving briskly through the legislative process. It's already cleared the Assembly and is likely to hit the Senate floor soon.

The solar farm displacement issue is only one of many factors that will determine the future of agriculture in California. The larger existential issue deserves more political attention than it's getting.

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 Mossad Canard

It's almost conventional wisdom in certain quarters that Jeffrey Epstein must have been working for the Israeli intelligence service Mossad.

"It's extremely obvious to anyone who watches that this guy," Tucker Carlson said of Epstein the other day, "had direct connections to a foreign government. No one is allowed to say that that foreign government is Israel because we've been somehow cowed into thinking that that's naughty."

Steve Bannon, covering all his bases, says Epstein was working for Mossad, MI6, Saudi intelligence and the CIA, while Charlie Kirk of Charlie Port USA only says that Epstein may have been working for Mossad.

The first question to ask about this purported relationship is, Why would Mossad want to associate itself with Epstein? He was under investigation for his sexual crimes going back to 2005 and convicted of a few of them (as part of a sweetheart plea deal) in 2008, and would be under federal investigation again about a decade later.

Clearly, it would risk an enormous black eye for the State of Israel to connect itself to a known sex offender whose lifestyle was flamboyant and an on-going crime scene.

What would be the supposed upside? Compromising information on the

rich and powerful? Presumably, there'd be much easier ways to honey-trap men with untoward sexual appetites than hope they become friendly with Jeffrey Epstein and compromise themselves on his private island.

If the notion of Epstein as an Israeli spy seems implausible, if not farcical, it's gotten some superficial plausibility from parts of the record that have been exaggerated or misinterpreted.

Perhaps most important, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida who worked out the plea deal with Epstein, Alex Acosta, supposedly said that he was told to go easy on Epstein by higher-ups in the Bush administration at the time because Epstein was with intelligence. Acosta allegedly said this as part of his vetting process to become Trump's first secretary of labor in the first term.

But this didn't come directly from Acosta; rather an unnamed source told the story to a reporter. Acosta denies he ever said it. Asked about the matter at a press conference as labor secretary when the Epstein story reemerged, Acosta seemed to deny it, although, admittedly, in a halting and indirect fashion.

As part of an extensive 2020 Justice Department Office of Professional Responsibility report into the handling of the case by Acosta and the Southern District, Acosta told the investigators that he had no information about Epstein being an intelligence asset and that his answer at the press conference was meant to be a "no." The

report related that "OPR found no evidence suggesting that Epstein was such a cooperating witness or 'intelligence asset,' or that anyone --including any of the subjects of OPR's investigation -- believed that to be the case."

What about Epstein's well-documented relationship with former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak? One assumes that a Mossad asset wouldn't spend inordinate time with a former high-ranking Israeli official.

Alan Dershowitz, who represented Epstein, maintains that he asked his client if he had contacts with intelligence agencies, and Epstein said "no," even though it would have been in his legal interest to disclose any relationships.

Regarding Epstein's death, which many believe was really a murder, the Mossad accusations get more fantastic: Israeli intelligence had to clean up after itself by killing an American citizen on U.S. soil, while he was held in a U.S. jail?

By the way, if Mossad killed Epstein, and was capable of pulling off a no-fingerprints operation in extremely difficult circumstances on U.S. soil, surely they would have killed his close associate Ghislaine Maxwell before she went to trial with an incentive to spill her guts.

All of this so beggars belief that it's almost not worth addressing, except that influential voices on the right believe Israel might be behind one of the most hideous scandals in recent American life.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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As American as

Pie! (You Fill in the Blank!)



as “pies.” Common pies were filled with meat from animals and birds and spiced up with currants, dates and pepper. The crust was called a “coffin.”

Pies were brought to the Americas by English colonists. Some pie crusts were not eaten at this time, either. Fruit pies were first made in the 1500s, and most of the pie recipes brought across the Atlantic Ocean were for meat pies. As the nineteenth century progressed, more and more fruit pies were being made. This reflected the regional and local foods of the country as it expanded across the continent.

Pie is one of the most important American desserts today. The most common fruit pies are apple, cherry, peach, rhubarb, apricot and berry. Favorite custard type pies are banana cream, coconut

cream, and in autumn: pumpkin. Reginal highlighted pies: Florida, Key Lime; Mississippi, Mud Pie. And let us not forget the famous Hawaiian Hula Pie made with chocolate cookie crust, macadamia ice cream, covered in fudge and topped with whipped cream.

Celebrate today by making your favorite pie, or if you must, buy a pie. There are some very good frozen pies, too. My favorite pie is Rhubarb (just rhubarb; no strawberries) and the local bakery makes the best. And shout out to the Midwest transplants who have made California their home; they make great crust just like my mom’s. I will eat their crust any time. Otherwise, I just eat the filling and toss the crust. I tell myself I am saving the calories from the crust for the scoop of vanilla ice cream on the side of my warm slice of pie.

From pie to Pi (math terminology). High school starts next Wednesday, followed by the elementary schools on Thursday. Please keep an eye out for the

students biking, walking, skateboarding and scootering to school. Most are attached to their cell phones and unfortunately, they forget to watch where they are going. And yes, it is up to us to help them. They are young and careless and we are supposed to be wise and helpful.

Let us not fail our responsibilities to come alongside these young people and give them the benefit of our knowledge ... even if they don’t want it. Remember: We were young once and these young people will soon be voting and running the country. They need all the help they can get.

Big day for our town of Herald tomorrow. Hopefully, I will see you at Herald Day. I am looking forward to the parade, and I will take a stroll through the crafting booths to find a Christmas gift or two. And definitely stop at a jam and jelly booth and get stocked up for the year. Looking forward to eating a couple of carnitas tacos for lunch.

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

ABOUT TOWN

Saturday, Aug. 2

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!

American Steel Car Club, 28th Annual “Stuck in Lodi” car show – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Downtown Lodi, entrance at Lodi Avenue and School Street. For more information, call 209-365-9600.

Stretch, Purr and Pose, Cat Yoga

– 11 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at PALS Haven, Lodi. This yoga class invites you to flow through a beginner-friendly practice while adoptable cats roam freely, stretch beside you, or maybe just curl up in your lap. All proceeds go toward helping PALS care for local animals in need. Contact PALS Haven at 209-333-9963 for more information or to sign up for one of the three sessions available. 5113 W. Sargent Road.

Wilton Bingo

– Doors open at 5 p.m. with food available for sale, and bingo starts at 6 p.m. in the Wilton Community Center. All proceeds go to two non-profits: the local Park Council and the Wilton History Group. Colony Road at Dillard Road.

Astronomy in the Park

– 8 p.m. at Oak Grove Regional Park, Stockton. 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.

Sunday, Aug. 3

Rio Vista and Isleton 2025 Holy Ghost Portuguese Festa, Rio Vista – 10:30 a.m. parade, 11:30 a.m. Mass. Open to the public; first feeding 11

a.m. and auction at 2 p.m. More information at rvi-chg1899@gmail.com. 295 S. 7th St.

Tuesday, Aug. 5

National Night Out – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Be part of Galt’s biggest community event of the year at one of three locations: Community Park, 1000 Walnut Ave.; Meadowview Park, 1128 Meadowview Drive; or Sports Complex, 1022 Caroline Ave. More information at nngalt.org.

Thursday, Aug. 7

Lodi Farmers Market – 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., every Thursday evening through Aug. 28 on School Street in Downtown Lodi.

Friday, Aug. 8

Friday Night Movies at Veterans Field – Gates open at 6 p.m. and the movie starts at dusk. This month, we’ll be watching “Cars,” 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, Aug. 9 and Sunday, Aug. 10

“Straight Up Dubs” Car Show – Lodi Grape Festival & Event Center. This is an all-models Volkswagen-only event. Gates open at 2 p.m. Saturday for overnight camping; Sunday is a car show and swap open to the public. Schedule and information at straightupdubs.org. 413 E. Lockeford St.

Saturday, Aug. 9

Galt Café & Cars – meets every second Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at Café Latte, 1000 C St. Open to cars, trucks, bicycles, motorcycles and anything else with wheels.

Taste of the Delta – 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Delta Diamond Farm and Event Center, Isleton. Join us for the premier annual event where the best of the Delta

region comes together for an afternoon of local wine, craft beer, delicious food and artisan vendors. Tickets and more information at tasteofthedelta.com. 15175 CA-160.

Summer Concerts in the Park – presented by the City of Galt Parks and Recreation. This month’s event will be at Walker Community Park. Join us when the gates open at 6 p.m. to enjoy the B-Side Band. Bring your chairs, blankets, snacks, neighbors and friends. More information at cityofgalt.org. 380 W. Elm Ave.

James Garner: A Tribute to Johnny Cash – 7 p.m. at the Charlene Powers Lange Performing Arts Theatre, Lodi. Join us for a special fundraising concert benefiting the Lodi Arts Foundation. Tickets and more information at lodi.gov and look for Lodi Events at Hutchins Street Square. 125 S. Hutchins St.

Library Events

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

Friday, Aug. 1: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (G)

Saturday, Aug. 2: Piñatas with Patty Botello, 11 a.m. to noon. The program will be presented in English and Spanish. Materials and supplies provided. (G)

Tuesday, Aug. 5: Adult book group, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. This month we will be reading and discussing “Fault Lines” by Emily Itami. Copies available at the Circulation Desk. (WG)

Wednesday, Aug. 6: Teen space, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Meet other teens and hang out in a space dedicated to you. (WG)

Thursday, Aug. 7: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (WG) STEAM builder space – starch noodles, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (G)

MEETING MINDERS

Sunday, Aug. 3

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, Aug. 4

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.

Tuesday, Aug. 5

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

Wednesday, Aug. 6

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

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

Sacramento LAFCo,

5:30 p.m., County Administration Center boardroom, 700 H St., Sacramento.

Friday, Aug. 8

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

Saturday, Aug. 9

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, visit k13878.site. kiwanis.org/contact. ★

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Celebrating Polish Culture

Polish American Club of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Have you danced the Polka, ate Pierogi and had your picture taken with a "Polish Princess?"

Never, you say? Well, it's about time you did.

Join the Polish American Club of Sacramento, Inc. at the 34th annual Polish Festival. Come celebrate and learn about the Polish culture through traditional food, drink and song from noon to 5 p.m. Sept. 6 at 327 Main St., Roseville.

The best part of the festival is the food and entertainment. There are no Polish restaurants in the greater Sacramento area, so the Polish Festival is the only time when people can enjoy authentic Polish food while listening to traditional Polish music, performed by professional musicians.

The Polish American Club of Sacramento, Inc preserves and perpetuates Polish traditions, customs, culture and heritage through social events and activities. Since the club's forming in 1959, membership and the festival have grown. For more information about the performers and vendors, visit the website at <https://sacpolishclub.com/annual-polish-festival>.

More than 1,500 festivalgoers are expected to attend this year's festival. But don't worry, there will be plenty of food. Come fill up on home-made Polish delicacies with more than 5,000 Pierogi (potato-cheese filled, meat filled or mushroom and sauerkraut filled dumplings); 1,000 Golabki (cabbage rolls); 700 pounds of Kielbasa (Polish sausage), hundreds of servings of placki (potato pancakes) and a variety of Polish pastries.

Beside all the wonderful food and entertainment, several vendors will sell Baltic Amber, handmade crafts, Polish souvenirs and Polish sausages.



Dance the polka or, while you eat, enjoy the music of Chet Chwalik Polmuz Polka Band and Nicolai Prisacar's accordion music, are sure to impress. Photos courtesy of the Polish American Club of Sacramento



Volunteers work on baking the paczki (Polish donuts).

Don't forget to visit the Polish marketplace.

If you're in a bidding mood, there is also the silent auction. For those who wish to try their luck, tickets for the raffle will be available. You can commemorate your visit with a picture



Polish sausage sandwiches are another big draw for festivalgoers.

with a "Polish Princess" at the photo booth.

Dance the polka or, while you eat, enjoy the music of Chet Chwalik Polmuz Polka Band and Nicolai Prisacar's accordion music, are sure to impress.



Dance the polka or, while you eat, enjoy the music.

There is something for everyone at the 34th annual Polish Festival.

Admission and parking are free. The event will have wheelchair access and credit cards will be accepted. The event is for all ages. ★



Potato pancakes are another popular offering at the annual festival honoring the Polish culture. ★

Sacramento Superior Court Executive Officer Retires



Sacramento Superior Court Executive Officer Lee Seale was appointed Court Executive Officer in June 2021 following a unanimous vote by the court's judges. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Superior Court

Sacramento Superior Court News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- Sacramento Superior Court Executive Officer Lee Seale will retire on Aug. 1, following a career dedicated to law and justice.

Presiding Judge Bunni O. Awoniyi made the announcement on July 25 and praised Seale's leadership and contributions to the court.

"Lee Seale has been an exceptional leader, providing clear direction, meaningful support and fostering collaboration with our justice and labor partners," said Awoniyi. "Under his guidance, the court expanded its capabilities, embraced innovation and improved access to justice for our community. It has been an honor to work alongside him and we wish him the very best in this next chapter."

Seale was appointed Court Executive Officer in June 2021 following

a unanimous vote by the court's judges.

During Seale's tenure, the Sacramento Superior Court saw both operational and service improvements, including a 30-percent increase in the court's budget, providing new resources for expanded operations, staffing increase by approximately 100 employees and strengthening court services across all divisions.

Seale saw the launch of eCourt and electronic filing for Civil, Probate, Small Claims and Unlawful Detainer cases.

He saw the introduction of postcard jury summons and jury service text message updates to improve communication with jurors, restructuring of the Probate Division and expanded hours at the Carol Miller Justice Center to reduce case backlogs and improve public access.

Seale saw the creation of the Guardianship Assistance Program, in partnership with local law schools, to support self-represented litigants and the launch of a civil home court model, leading to a reduction in civil case backlogs.

He saw continued delivery of grant-funded mediation services in Unlawful Detainer and Small Claims cases during his tenure and the celebration of two milestones: the 10th anniversary of the court's unique One Day Divorce program and the fifth anniversary of Civil Self-Help

Services, as well as significant progress on the new Tani Cantil-Sakaue Sacramento County Courthouse construction.

"Lee has demonstrated strong leadership in overseeing and developing the court executive team," added Awoniyi. "His steady and supportive guidance has had a lasting impact on our 700-plus court employees."

Before joining the court, Seale served as Sacramento County's Chief Probation Officer and held positions in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation under Governors Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jerry Brown. He also served as a Special Assistant Inspector General, overseeing investigations and legal staff in California's prison system, and worked as a Deputy Attorney General in the criminal division of the California Department of Justice, handling cases throughout the state and appearing before the California Courts of Appeal and Supreme Court.

"Serving as Court Executive Officer has been a rewarding role," said Seale. "I am proud of what this court has accomplished and thankful for the extraordinary judges, staff, and justice partners who have made our progress possible."

The court has begun a competitive recruitment process for its next Court Executive Officer. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/SacCourtCEO>. ★

County Connects Veterans and Families to Benefits

Sacramento County Health and Social Services News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County's Veterans Services Office plays a vital role in helping veterans and their dependents access life-changing benefits. For Elyse Ehlert, that support meant a full college education at UC Davis—without the burden of student debt—and a future filled with purpose and opportunity.

As the daughter of a U.S. military veteran, Elyse qualified for both the CalVet Tuition Fee Waiver and Chapter 35 education benefits, support made possible through programs facilitated by the Sacramento County Veterans Services Office. These benefits covered her tuition, eased the financial burden of college, and opened doors that might have otherwise been closed.

"The impact of the tuition waiver and stipend on my time at college cannot be understated," Elyse shared. "It has prevented me from having any college debt and has allowed me to plan for my future with optimism."

Throughout her time at UC Davis, Elyse didn't just focus on academics—she thrived. She took on meaningful internships, unpaid educational roles and even contributed to a research study on hearing loss in military veterans. These experiences, made possible by the financial freedom her benefits allowed, helped shape her passion for community education and outreach.

Her achievements were recognized with the Outstanding Senior Award and a Department Citation for Academic Distinction. This summer, she plans to apply for her California substitute teaching credential, with dreams of one day teaching science and environmental education in schools or working with non-profit and state organizations to make a difference.

"I will forever be thankful to my father who served, and without whom I could not have received these benefits," she said.

Elyse's success story is just one example of how Sacramento County is making a real difference in the lives of veterans and their dependents.



Sacramento County's Veterans Services Office plays a vital role in helping veterans and their dependents access life-changing benefits. Photo by Mike Jones pexels

The Department of Veterans Services is committed to helping individuals access the benefits they've earned through military service—whether it's for education, healthcare, housing or financial support.

"As a veteran and mother, I understand firsthand how life-changing these benefits can be. Our team is deeply committed to honoring that service by making sure every veteran and their family have access to the resources they've earned. Elyse's story reminds us why this work matters," said Rochelle Arnold, Sacramento County Veterans Service Officer.

If you are a veteran, active service member or a dependent, you may be eligible for a wide range of state and federal benefits.

Our knowledgeable staff is here to guide you through the process and help you apply.

Don't leave your benefits unclaimed. Visit <https://ha.saccounty.gov/benefits/VeteransServices/Pages/VeteranHome.aspx> or call us to speak with a Veterans Services Specialist today.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-04718
Side Roads LLC, 140 Pheasant Drive, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Side Roads" 140 Pheasant Drive, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County June 26, 2025
Publish: July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2025
ROADS 8-1-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-05309
Alejandro Guerrero, 913 Lake Canyon Avenue, Galt, CA 95632

is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "All Grit" 913 Lake Canyon Avenue, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County July 18, 2025
Publish: July 25, August 1, 8, 15, 2025
GRIT 8-15-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2023-04986
Regina Curry, 12050 Borden Road, Herald, CA 95638 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Curry Strategic Consulting" 12050 Borden Road, Herald, CA 95638. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County July 8, 2025
Publish: August 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025
CURRY 8-22-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2023-05012
Derrick Thomas Santiago, 932 Chisholm Trail, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Far Out Graphic Goods" 932 Chisholm Trail, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County July 9, 2025
Publish: August 1, 8, 15, 22, 2025
FAR 8-22-25



On Saturday, Aug. 2, the group Inner Soul will perform at the Brewster's Bar & Grill patio area from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Photo courtesy of Inner Soul

By MPG Staff

GALT, CA (MPG) - Get ready for two nights of sizzling steakhouse dinners, handcrafted cocktails and free live music at Brewster's Bar & Grill, 201 Fourth St., on Aug. 1 and Aug. 2.

The Marquis' Motown Plus Group will kick off the weekend by performing from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 1.

The group features Motown, Latin, country and rock ('60s and '80s) music and hits.

On Saturday, Aug. 2, the group Inner Soul will perform at the Brewster's Bar & Grill patio area from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Inner Soul is an R&B and Sacramento Old School dance band that plays renditions of classic dance songs.

The live music is complimentary with the purchase of dinner and drinks. Reservations are recommended and can be made at brewstersbargrillgalt.com or by calling 209-251-7355. ★



The Marquis' Motown Plus Group will kick off the weekend by performing from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1, at Brewster's Bar & Grill (201 Fourth St.) Photo courtesy of Marquis' Motown Plus Group

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DESIGN REVIEW (PROJECT ARCHITECTURE) FOR FAIRWAY OAKS

Notice is hereby given that the Galt Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the date and time indicated below, or as soon thereafter that the matter can be heard, to receive and consider all evidence, testimony, and reports relative to the application described herein. The Planning Commission will act on the design review application for the project.

PROJECT TITLE: Fairway Oaks Design Review (Project Architecture)

PROJECT LOCATION: Fairway Oaks is north of Dry Creek and the Sacramento-San Joaquin County line; east of South Lincoln Way, west of SR 99, and south of Glendale Ave (APNs 150-0101-019, -021, -050, and -059).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: K. Hovnanian Homes is proposing Design Review (project architecture) for the Fairway Oaks project which comprises 162 single family homes. There will be two different product lines: Cypress and Ironwood. The Cypress product line offers four (4) floor plans ranging in size from 2,274 square feet to 3,247 square feet. Both one- and two-story floor plans will be offered. Each floor plan will offer three (3) elevation options: Spanish Modern, Craftsman, and Contemporary. The Cypress product line will be built on 95 lots that are 65 feet wide with lot sizes ranging in size from 5,500 square feet to 14,255 square feet. The Ironwood product line offers three (3) floor plans ranging in size from 1,923 square feet to 2,588 square feet. Both one- and two-story floor plans will be offered. Each floor plan will offer three (3) elevation options: Spanish Modern, Craftsman, and Contemporary. Ironwood will be built on 67 lots that are 55 feet wide ranging in size from 5,500 square feet to 14,255 square feet.

OWNER/APPLICANT: K. Hovnanian Homes
3721 Douglas Blvd, Ste. 150, Roseville, CA 95661

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Date and Time: The Planning Commission for the City of Galt will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 6:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter that the matter can be heard. The meeting will be in person at the Galt City Council Chambers at City Hall, 380 Civic Drive, Galt.

The agenda packet will be published on August 7, 2025, and will be available for review on the City's website and in person at the Galt City Planning Department, 495 Industrial Drive, Galt, CA 95632. Please contact Stacy Schafer, Associate Planner at 209-366-7230 or sschafer@cityofgalt.org with questions.

NOTICE REGARDING CHALLENGES TO DECISIONS

Pursuant to all applicable laws and regulations, including without limitation, California Government Sections 65009, 66020, and/or California Public Resources Code Section 21177, if you wish to challenge in court any of the above decisions (regarding planning, zoning and/or environmental decisions), you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing(s) described in this notice/agenda, or in written correspondence delivered to the city at, or prior to, this public hearing.

Dated: July 25, 2025
 Stacy Schafer, Associate Planner
 Tina Hubert, City Clerk
 The Galt Herald 8-1-2025

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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.

Nar-Anon Family Group Meetings

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

AA 24-Hour Hotline

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Senior Bingo Weekly at Chabolla

The Galt Commission on Aging is hosting free Senior Bingo games at the Chabolla Community Center at 600 Chabolla Ave. from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays (except holidays and when required by the city).

Seniors of Galt and its immediate vicinity are invited to have fun and play bingo together and socialize.

Library Offers Older Adults Computer Time

In cooperation with the Galt Commission on Aging, the Galt-Marian O. Lawrence Library will schedule a set time for older adults to use its computers, upon request.

Those 65 and older who want computer time can call the library at 916-264-2920. Staff will help set up the computer or tablet.

The library is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 1000 Caroline Ave.

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. ★

POLICE LOGS

During the time period of July 22 to July 28, Galt Police received and responded to a variety of calls, resulting in 12 arrests.

July 22

7:50 a.m., Narcotics Violation/ Adult Arrest, Dry Creek Ranch Golf Course, Crystal Way.

7:50 a.m., Narcotics Violation/ Adult Arrest, Fourth Street/E Street.

8:11 p.m., Domestic Violence/Adult Arrest, Real Life Church Of Galt on Industrial Drive.

11:19 p.m., Burglary-Auto reported, Well Care Homes III on Simmerhorn Road.

July 23

9:03 a.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Little Caesars Pizza, C Street.

12:52 p.m., Theft reported, Galt Post Office on North Lincoln Way: Mail stolen from the post office bin drive-thru.

1:12 p.m., Theft reported, Hamel Way: Front plate stolen.

July 24

12:02 a.m., Domestic Violence/Adult Arrest, Olive Canyon Drive.

07:44 a.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Meladee Lane/Glendale Avenue.

11:06 a.m., Theft reported, Galt Police Department, Industrial Drive.

11:32 a.m., Fraud reported, Walmart on

Twin Cities Road. 12:08 p.m., Battery/Adult Arrest, Prairie Court.

6:54 p.m., Hit and Run/Non-Injury, North Lincoln Way/Simmerhorn Road.

10:01 p.m., Battery/Adult Arrest, Sunset Drive.

July 25

10:20 a.m. Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, AJ's Towing, LCC, Live Oak Avenue.

1:14 p.m., Vandalism reported, Farmers & Merchants Bank on C Street: Vehicle scratched.

July 26

3:10 p.m., Theft reported, Park Avenue: Male adult, shirtless, stole two chainsaws.

July 27

7:16 p.m., Animal Cruelty reported, Squeeze Burger on Twin Cities Road: Distressed dog inside vehicle.

July 28

7:45 a.m., Narcotics Violation/Adult Arrest, 7-Eleven, Pine Street.

10:14 a.m., Child Neglect/Abuse/Adult Arrest, Driscoll Drive.

10:24 a.m., Theft reported, Galt 24HR Storage on Industrial Drive: Miscellaneous items taken from unit.

8:24 p.m., Hit and Run Non-Injury, F Street/South Lincoln Way. ★

Pitch to Win at Herald Day

By MPG Staff

GALT/HERALD, CA (MPG) - The Galt Lions Club is calling on families and friends to meet at Herald Day for its Pitch to Win Bingo booth on Saturday, Aug. 2. The booth will begin its activity after the parade, which starts at 9 a.m.

There will be fabulous prizes available

and unforgettable memories to be made.

All proceeds will go toward the 8U Cal Ripken Team, which recently qualified for the Cal Ripken World Series taking place from Aug. 15 to Aug. 24 in New Jersey.

Each bingo card costs \$1, and a blackout option is at 1:30 p.m. for \$5 per card. Cash and Venmo payment options will be available at the Galt Lions Club booth. ★



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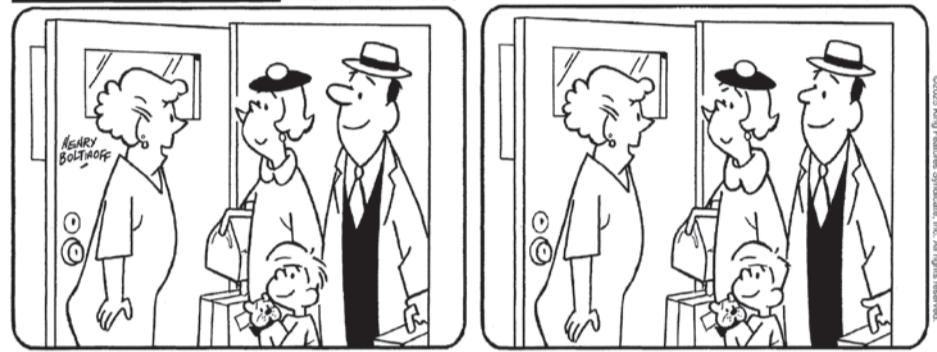
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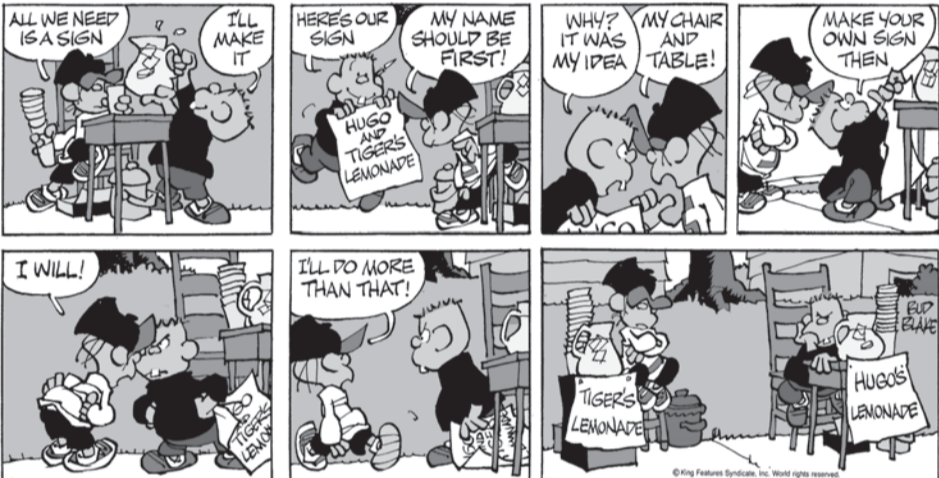


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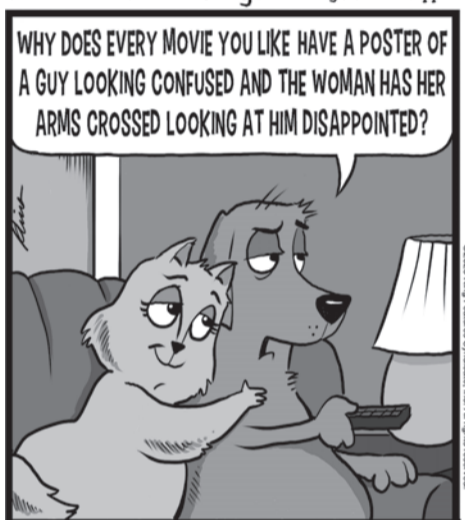


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LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE

PRESENTED BY THE GALT HERALD

Former Galt Coach Takes Experience to Florin Football

Story and photos
by Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - After 22 years of coaching football, track and wrestling at various high schools throughout the region, Galt native and farmer Tim Cobleigh is embarking on his newest challenge as head football coach at Florin High School.

Cobleigh, who brings a wealth of experience from programs across the Central Valley, sees coaching as more than just X's and O's on a whiteboard.

"For me, the desire to coach is to help and encourage kids to strive to be their best, to challenge themselves to be better people of character, to learn how to overcome obstacles through competition," Cobleigh said. "It's something that has helped me in life, and I think it's really important for students at every school that I've coached at to become better contributors to our society."

The opportunity at Florin came about in an unexpected way. After two successful seasons improving the program at Franklin High in Stockton, Cobleigh was exploring other head coaching opportunities when Florin Athletic Director Scott Keplinger reached out.

"I had put some feelers out and interviewed at different places," Cobleigh explained. "I was just getting ready to go into the off-season with Franklin when I got a phone call from Scott. He said he had heard some good things about me and was encouraged to give me a call."

The meeting went better than expected. "I went in for a meeting and before I left the school that day, I was the new head football coach," Cobleigh said. "It was a really unique opportunity to go to a school that I did not anticipate would have all of the amazing things already in place to help create a winning program."

Keplinger, in his second year as athletic director, was impressed with how Cobleigh's vision aligned with his own goals for the program.



On equipment day, Tim Cobleigh fits the pads to an incoming freshman.

"Before I even let Tim talk, I shared with him my vision of what I'm trying to change here," Keplinger said. "That was basically just changing the culture, making kids want to be here and play sports at Florin and not say, 'Florin sucks; I'm going somewhere else.'"

"All I've seen so far from Tim is that we're not too concerned about wins and losses right now," Keplinger continued. "We are both on the same page that we just have to change the culture here. Once you change the culture, the wins can come later."

This season marks a significant transition for Florin as they join the inaugural season of eight-man football in the San Joaquin Section. The format, which has been used in Southern California and other regions for smaller schools, allows programs struggling with numbers to continue to offer competitive football.

"The idea is to continue to get kids playing competitive contact football that are

struggling with their numbers," Cobleigh explained. "For some schools, the concept is to grow your program and possibly move back into 11-man football, but for others that are traditionally small programs, it can be a strong venue for kids to continue to compete."

With 27 players on the roster, Florin will field one varsity team comprising all grade levels. The eight-man game is notably faster-paced than traditional 11-man football, requiring different strategies and conditioning.

Cobleigh has assembled a coaching staff that includes several familiar faces. Cesar Candido, who coached with him at Franklin and previously played for him at Galt, joins as an assistant. Two other former Galt players, Marcelo Lopez and David Candido, are also on staff, along with Jason Burgin, who previously served as JV head coach, Varsity head coach and wrestling assistant at Galt.

When he's not on the football field or



New Florin High Football Head Coach Tim Cobleigh: "It was a really unique opportunity to go to a school that I did not anticipate would have all of the amazing things already in place to help create a winning program."

in the classroom, Cobleigh maintains the family farm that his father started 47 years ago, raising hogs and goats.

"Some people are still surprised that we still do it, sometimes myself," he said with a laugh. "But I think raising livestock is just like coaching football and sports: You're still striving for those champions, like we always like to say, hanging banners."

Cobleigh also works as a behavior management technician at Estrellita High School, helping students who need extra classroom support. After retiring from coaching wrestling at the end of 2024, he's found that football and his other commitments keep him plenty busy.

"I miss it, but I always seem to find time to fill in the blanks and make myself even busier," Cobleigh said.

As Florin High School, with its 1,700 students and renowned culinary program, prepares for this new chapter in its football history, both Cobleigh and Keplinger are focused on building something sustainable.

"We feel like we have a long-term opportunity at Florin High School," Cobleigh said. "It's about making kids want to be here and creating a culture where they can grow both as players and as people."

The Falcons begin their first season of eight-man football this fall, with hopes that Cobleigh's experience and vision will set a foundation for years to come. ★



Coaches Tim Cobleigh and Cesar Candido talk to Florin players at practice.



Tim Cobleigh and Cesar Candido wrestle with a helmet to get the grill on.

Liberty Ranch Softball Caps Historic Season with League MVP Honor

Story and photos
by Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Liberty Ranch Hawks softball team capped off its most successful season in school history by earning multiple all-league honors, led by senior Bella Granata's league MVP award.

The Hawks completed a perfect 14-0 league campaign and advanced further in the playoffs than any team in school history, finishing with a 20-6 overall record before falling in the section championship game to Calaveras.

Granata dominated league competition, leading the Hawks with seven home runs while posting impressive numbers across multiple categories. The league MVP finished with a team-high .587 on-base percentage, 36 RBIs, a

remarkable 1.043 slugging percentage and 12 doubles. Her .457 batting average ranked second on the team.

"Bella had an exceptional year and truly earned the MVP recognition," said Head Coach Vince Bunac. "Her leadership both at the plate and in the field was instrumental in our success all season long."

Joining Granata on the all-league team were teammates Gracy Graviette, Laura Quinn, Mariella Granata and Paityn Snow, giving the Hawks five total all-league selections.

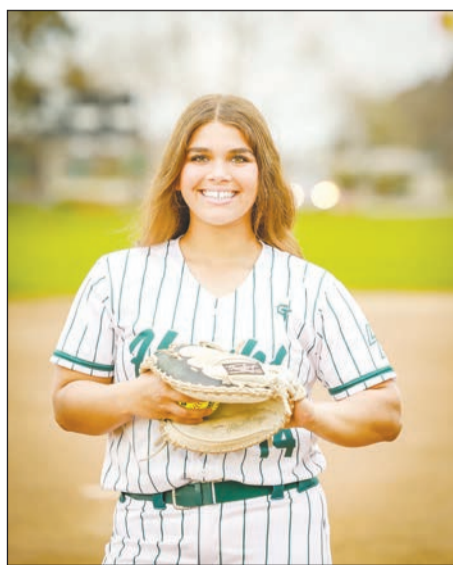
The Hawks' offensive success was built on a balanced attack. Carlie Perez led the team with a .484 batting average, while Snow contributed two home runs and Khali Barrantes and Perez each contributed one home run.

On the mound, all-league selection Quinn

anchored the pitching staff with a 2.63 ERA. Snow provided valuable depth with a 3.18 ERA while also contributing significantly at the plate with 25 RBIs: second-best on the team.

The Hawks' aggressive base-running game was led by Barrantes, who swiped a team-high 16 stolen bases, followed by Mariella Granata with 12. Mariella Granata also excelled defensively, posting a team-best .983 fielding percentage while leading the Hawks with 35 hits.

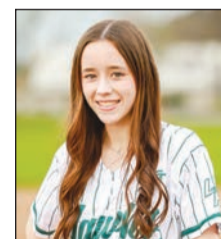
"This was truly a season for the books," Bunac reflected. "While I was disappointed we didn't capture the section title, I couldn't be prouder of the grit and determination these young women displayed throughout the year. We have several future college players on this roster."



Bella Granata-Softball league MVP.



Gracy Graviette-Softball all-league.



Laura Quinn-Softball all-league.



Mariella Granata-Softball all-league.



Paityn Snow-Softball all-league.

Beyond the impressive statistics and accolades, Bunac emphasized what made this team special.

"These are some of the most respectful and conscientious young ladies you'll find anywhere," he said. "They genuinely love and

support each other both on and off the field. As their coach, I feel truly honored to have worked with such an exceptional group of student-athletes."

The five all-league selections represent the culmination of a historic

season that has established a new standard for Liberty Ranch softball. With their perfect league record, deep playoff run and individual recognition, the Hawks have built a foundation for continued success in years to come. ★

LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE

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Liberty Ranch Alumni Return as Co-Head Volleyball Coaches



Taryn Oberly, left, and Brooklyn Young are the new Liberty Ranch volleyball coaches.

Junior Caitlynn Camacho practices her bumps.

Story and photos by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Liberty Ranch High School has found its new volleyball leadership in two familiar faces. Former Hawks players Taryn Oberle and Brooklyn Young have been named co-head coaches of the varsity volleyball program, bringing their playing experience full circle as they return to their alma mater.

Athletic Director Samantha Vitoria couldn't be more pleased with the hiring.

"I am super excited to have coaches who were once Hawks," Vitoria said. "Our two new coaches bring a lot of talent, organization and collegiate-level volleyball experience. It has always been a true dream of mine to bring coaches into our athletic programs who were once players and alumni of Liberty Ranch. I believe they have come back to give back that great experience they had as athletes here."

"What is better than one talented coach? The answer is having two!" Vitoria continued. "When both were interested in the position, we thought it would be great to create the dream team. Brooklyn and Taryn together bring a lot of energy and a new beginning for Hawks volleyball. I can't wait to see what they do in the future."

Oberle brings extensive playing experience to her new role, having competed at the collegiate level for four years.

After graduating from Liberty Ranch, she played at Cosumnes River College before transferring to Arizona Christian University, where she studied communication.

"I studied communication and learned about the many different types," Oberle said. "Communication in any sport, as well as life in general, goes so far. I'm excited that we get to coach being part of the alumni."

Oberle's volleyball journey began at age 11 and continued through college. Her versatility on the court allowed her to play multiple positions throughout her career.

"I played outside all around the rotation, shifted into middle when needed, and also played opposite," she explained. "I was front-row dominant, but I have tons of knowledge to share all around. Playing multiple positions throughout my time helped me grasp different perspectives."

After rehabilitating a torn ACL and meniscus injury, Oberle also competed in softball. Her athletic background extends beyond volleyball to playing soccer, basketball, swimming and dance.

Young's path took her to San Diego State before she transferred to the

University of Southern California to build on the foundation she established during her four years playing volleyball at Liberty Ranch.

When asked about her coaching style, Oberle describes herself as "tough yet approachable and personable."

"Some strengths I would categorize myself under would be being personable, tough yet approachable, and adaptable," she said. "I can work with players individually and as a team equally."

The decision to coach together came naturally for the pair.

"We have played together before and our personalities mesh well together," they explained.

As co-head coaches, Oberle and Young plan to maintain unified leadership through constant communication.

"We always have open communication and transparency on our side," they said. "We're also willing to get together outside of volleyball to ensure we're on the same page. We are aware of each other's strengths and weaknesses and always support each other. Our goal is to always be unified."

The new coaches inherit a program coming off its most successful season in school history, including a league championship. Rather than feeling overwhelmed by expectations, they view it as an



The new Hawk coaches talk to the aspiring players.

opportunity to build something even greater.

"Although it's amazing to have had a season as successful as it was, there is always room for improvement," they said. "We acknowledge the past success and achievements, but we still know we have work to do. We cannot rely on last season's success to be successful in the seasons to come."

Their approach involves starting fresh while respecting the program's recent achievements.

"We are new faces, coaches and voices to all of the girls. We are starting from scratch and breaking everything down when needed," they explained. "We realize last year's championship was huge for the program, but we have the future to look forward

to and work towards."

When it comes to pressure, the coaches maintain a grounded perspective.

"The only pressure I feel is from myself," Oberle said. "Titles, ranks and people come and go, but working hard is forever. As long as we work hard as a team, program and coaching staff, we will keep moving forward."

The co-coaches plan to establish their own relationships with returning players while fostering team unity.

"It is a two-way street. We are new coaches to the girls just as they are new players to us," they said. "We will work with everyone together and be looking for effort, good attitude and hard work. Nobody has a title to us."

Team building will be a

priority, with several initiatives planned to create chemistry and trust.

"We will be doing a couple different team-bonding meetings," they explained. "We want to trust the girls just as they want to trust in us coaches. We will also be having a 'buddy' or 'big sister' program where everyone has someone to treat on game days."

As Liberty Ranch prepares for the upcoming season, the Hawks volleyball program enters a new chapter with two coaches who understand the school's culture and are committed to building on its recent success. With their combined experience and shared vision, Oberle and Young are ready to lead the Hawks into their next championship pursuit. ★

Bussman, Brouwer Capture First Place, All-League



Courtney Brouwer-Galt High all-league swimming.

Mason Bussman-Liberty Ranch High all-league swimming.

Story and photos by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - In high school swimming, earning all-league recognition requires nothing short of perfection: Athletes must capture first place at the league meet to receive the honor. This season, two local swimmers achieved that elite status.

Liberty Ranch's Mason Bussman and Galt High's Courtney Brouwer were the only athletes from their respective schools to earn all-league honors, with each claiming victory in their events at the league championship meet.

Bussman's first-place finish helped to propel the Liberty Ranch boys' team to a fourth-place finish out of eight teams in league competition. Meanwhile, Brouwer's individual

success contributed to the Galt girls' team also securing fourth place in the league standings.

Both schools showed competitive depth across their programs, with the Galt boys' team finishing fifth in league and the Liberty Ranch girls' team also placing fifth overall.

While only two local athletes achieved the coveted all-league status this season, both programs demonstrated solid foundations for future success. The fourth- and fifth-place team finishes indicate strong program development and suggest there's plenty of momentum to build upon heading into next season.

As both Liberty Ranch and Galt look ahead to next year, they can take pride in their competitive showings and the individual excellence displayed by their all-league honorees. ★