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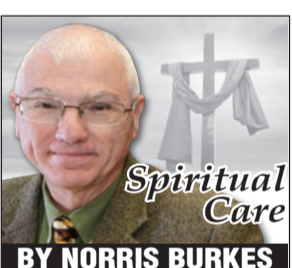
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SYNCHRONIZING OUR HEART WITH OUR ACTIONS



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State of the City Spotlights Progress

By Idaly Valencia

GALT, CA (MPG) - Business owners, community members and agency officials gathered July 31 at Papas & Wings for the Galt Chamber of Commerce's annual State of the City event, where local leaders discussed the city's progress and priorities.

City officials spoke about their departments, provided updates on ongoing projects and goals and addressed community issues.

Chamber board president Kari Markel delivered the welcome remarks and noted that this year's event had the highest attendance on record. She thanked event sponsors California Resources Corporation, Carbon Terravault, the City of Galt and SMUD (Sacramento Municipal Utility District).

Markel acknowledged dignitaries in attendance, which included representatives of lawmakers, county officials and Cosumnes Community Services District board members.

"From public safety and infrastructure to business development and quality of life, today's conversations will shape the road ahead for Galt," said Markel.

SMUD board member Rosanna Herber was first to address the audience.

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Mayor Shawn Farmer reflected on Galt's challenges and progress during his six-and-a-half years on the City Council, including his tenure as mayor. Photo by Fell Together Photography

New Program Delivers Care Beyond 9-1-1



The Mobile Integrated Healthcare unit is staffed by a licensed Advanced Practice Provider and a Retired Annuitant Paramedic. Photo courtesy of Cosumnes Community Services District

Cosumnes Community Services District News Release

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - Residents in southern Sacramento County who have trouble accessing regular care will soon receive timely, in-home support through a mobile healthcare program designed to improve health outcomes and reduce unnecessary trips to the emergency room.

Launched by the Cosumnes Fire Department on Aug. 5, the Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) Pilot Program will focus on individuals managing chronic illnesses, recovering from hospital stays, or facing barriers to traditional medical services; bringing care directly to those who need it most.

Operating three days a week, the Mobile Integrated Healthcare unit is staffed by a licensed Advanced Practice Provider and a Retired Annuitant Paramedic. The program extends care beyond traditional 9-1-1 responses by focusing on non-emergency, preventive and follow-up services. Initially, the team will assist frequent 9-1-1 callers, visit individuals recently discharged from the hospital, and respond to behavioral health concerns or medical issues that can be safely managed without a trip to the emergency room.

This initiative builds on countywide efforts to improve ambulance patient offload times and emergency response efficiency. Cosumnes Fire's Mobile Integrated Healthcare program is the latest step in that work, aimed at delivering care directly to patients, reducing unnecessary transports and keeping emergency services available for critical calls.

"Mobile Integrated Healthcare represents the future of community-based care," said Cosumnes Fire Chief Felipe Rodríguez.

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Galt High Senior Becomes 4H State Ambassador



Elia Rodriguez, pictured in the first row second from right, was pinned during the 4H State Leadership conference closing ceremony on July 27, where she and seven other 4H leaders from throughout California were established as state ambassadors. Courtesy photos

By Idaly Valencia

GALT, CA (MPG) - On July 27, incoming Galt High School senior and local 4H President Elia Rodriguez, 17, was established as one of eight 4H 2025-26 California state ambassadors.

Elia was pinned during the 4H State Leadership Conference closing ceremony, where she and seven

other 4H leaders from throughout California were established as state ambassadors.

Elia's mother, Susana Rodriguez, also the Galt 4H club leader, explained to The Galt Herald that earning this achievement involves a lengthy and competitive application process.

Members create a resume with all

of their experiences that show their qualifications to hold this leadership role.

According to Rodriguez, more than 40,000 California 4H members apply for the State of California 4H ambassador title.

The application process is followed by a six-hour interview

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Army Corps Concludes Physical Levee Inspections

By Gail Bullen
MPG Staff

WILTON, CA (MPG) - When Reclamation District 800 (RD 800) was selected as one of only four private levee districts nationwide to take part in a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pilot study in late 2022, it was already a major win.

The program promised expert inspection, risk analysis and long-term data, all at no cost to the district. But what may be even more rewarding, district leaders say, is that it also brought long-sought recognition and support from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR): the most likely source for future funding.

Reclamation District 800 maintains and repairs 34 miles of privately owned, mostly dirt levees along the Cosumnes River between Rancho Murieta and Freeman Road off Dillard Road in Wilton and Freeman Road off Grant Line Road in the Sheldon community.

The funding to maintain the levees at a 10-year flood standard is provided by an assessment district that generates just over \$500,000 annually. The district currently owes more than \$7 million to the Bank of Stockton but is awaiting two FEMA payments of nearly \$5 million in reimbursement for the 2023 storm repairs.

Levee Inspections

The pilot project began in earnest on Feb. 13, 2024, when Army Corps engineers conducted their first levee tour on the north side of the Cosumnes River. Top DWR officials from the Division of Flood



A photo taken after the 2023 flooding shows the most severe of three levee breaks. Located at the end of Bradley Ranch Road in the Sheldon community, the break stretched the length of a football field. Courtesy photo

Management joined that tour: an unusual show of support for a rural district long accustomed to going it alone.

The mutual respect grew stronger as the Corps continued its inspections this year on April 7 and June 23.

All three inspections were followed by classroom work, in which federal, state and local stakeholders reviewed levee conditions, modeled breach scenarios and identified weak spots.

Patrick Ervin, the district's contract engineer, explained the process.

"We basically sit in the classroom for three days and go over the risks and kind of assign values of what we think the highest risks are, and then the Corps comes up with a report," he said.

Board Trustee Leland Schneider participated in the first levee inspection and described the interactive nature of the classroom work.

"They're asking you numbers the whole time, like, 'So what should we plug in here?' And you're like, 'Plug this in. No, that's not it. Plug this in,'" he said.

Schneider was especially



Engineer Patrick Ervin said federal and state officials were amazed that the reclamation district managed to protect its infrastructure during the 2023 flooding. Photo by Gail Bullen

impressed by the 3D simulations used to model potential flood paths, calling the laptop visualizations "cool."

Ervin said the Corps prioritized higher-risk levees.

"Levees that pose a significant threat to life and structures when breached received the full levee review, including a physical inspection and full risk analysis," Ervin said.

Other levees with lower risk received a "baseline assessment," which still involved data collection and modeling, but without a field inspection. Hydraulic modeling also considered stretches along the Cosumnes River with no formal levees, known as "high banks."

One remaining segment – a levee south of Wilton Road on the river right side – will be assessed remotely due to the absence of nearby buildings, Ervin reported at the July board meeting.

Reclamation District 800 hasn't been out of pocket for its study participation. "If we were paying for this ourselves, it would be extremely expensive," said Rebecca Smith, the district's contract attorney.

Nor did the district pay Ervin and Smith for their involvement, even though they customarily bill the district for their work. Their participation was covered by a \$500,000 planning grant secured by state Sen. Roger Niello in 2023.

DWR Recognition

The district's response after the 2023 storm, which broke three levees and caused massive erosion, hasn't gone unnoticed, including a recognition that the district borrowed more than \$6.5 million to make the emergency repairs.

At the district's Feb. 15, 2024, board meeting, board members and staff recounted how Water Resources officials expressed surprise

and admiration at what they saw during the initial Corps levee inspection.

"I've got a whole new respect for your district. We didn't really understand what went on out here until today," Water Resources Division of Flood Management Manager Jeremy Arrich told Schneider during a break in the Feb. 13, 2024, inspection.

"DWR will have involvement. All you have to do is ask. We need to get you guys so it is not just your board members and your employees who are flood-fighting out here," Arrich told Schneider.

The Corps and DWR officials were especially struck by the volume of water the system withstood: around 75,000 cubic feet per second (CFS), compared to 9,000 CFS in some other areas.

Levee patrol efforts during the high water also raised eyebrows. Schneider recalled being asked, "You guys patrol this when the water's right here; are you guys goofy?"

The night patrols through rain and darkness also included close encounters with swimming rattlesnakes, Trustee Dave Utterback said.

The district's work continued to receive admiration at subsequent inspections.

"They kept saying, 'We don't know how you've held this system together as long as you have,'" Ervin said at the July meeting.

Ervin also reported that Mike Mierzwa, State Floodplain manager at the Department of Water Resources, has taken a strong interest in the district's situation

and is pushing for a new cost-sharing maintenance program for high-risk levees outside the Delta region.

It would be similar to the Delta Levees Subventions Program, which reimburses up to 75% of maintenance costs.

What Happens Next

Ervin expects the Corps to deliver a draft report of its findings from the June inspection in about three months. They will send a draft review before anything goes public, and they are open to comments or clarifications, Ervin said. "The Army Corps does not take criticism poorly and will make revisions if needed."

The Corps also prepared draft reports after the first two inspections, but they aren't yet available for public review.

Smith said the value of the work goes far beyond internal planning.

The process has given Reclamation District 800 something in never had before: robust, third-party documentation.

"We walked away with a big old packet of information from trusted engineers," she said. "Now we can say, 'Here's the problem. Come help us find a solution.'"

Ervin added: "Our hope is that this work helps us to better understand our flood system, and to plan for future improvements that will keep our communities and properties safe. We are also hopeful that this information translates to access to funding and better data about where funds can be most effective at meeting the district's flood control goals." ★

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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		12:25 PM	12:45 PM	1:20 PM	1:45 PM	1:50 PM	1:55 PM	2:00 PM	
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State of the City Spotlights Progress



Galt Chamber of Commerce board President Kari Markel, left, with Jim Alves of SMUD, delivered the welcome remarks at the State of the City, noting that this year's event had the highest attendance on record. Photo by Fell Together Photography

Business owners, community members and agency officials gathered July 31 at Papas & Wings for the Galt Chamber of Commerce's annual State of the City event. Photos by Fell Together Photography

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"Although I don't represent Galt, I feel like I represent everyone in the SMUD service territory," Herber said.

While SMUD is valued at nearly \$2 billion, Herber said, it remains a community-owned company. Herber shared that the SMUD board committed to ensuring at least 20% of all contracting goes to local businesses within its service territory in Sacramento County.

"So we made that commitment, we followed it and I'm proud to say that last year we did 30%," Herber said. "That means more than \$200 million went to local SMUD businesses."

Herber also discussed SMUD's zero-carbon emissions program, which offers rebates to residents replacing gas-powered appliances such as water heaters, lighting and HVAC systems.

Mayor Shawn Farmer followed, reflecting on Galt's challenges and progress during his six-and-a-half years on the City Council, including his tenure as mayor. Farmer cited issues such as the 2018 wastewater spill, contract complications and the city finance director's abrupt departure, which led to a financial crisis.

Farmer mentioned that the 2019 cyberattack disrupted the police department and several other city departments. Then came the COVID-19 pandemic, which had a lasting impact on the community in all aspects. The tragic passing of Galt Police Officer Harinder Grewal in 2021 left an emotional hit on the police department and neighbors.

"I think all of you get the



City officials spoke about their departments, provided updates on ongoing projects and goals and addressed community issues during the State of the City event July 31, hosted by the Galt Chamber of Commerce. Photo by Idaly Valencia

understanding of the difficult path that we had to get to where we are today," Farmer said.

"Over the last couple of years, I feel like we have set ourselves on a course going in a very positive direction," Farmer said, noting the city has stabilized finances and introduced new revenue sources such as Measure Q that supports funding for parks and recreation.

Ongoing projects were highlighted, such as a new water slide, renovated skate park and beautification efforts, including the C Street completion.

Farmer commended recent upgrades to water and wastewater systems and said the Galt Police Department is at "the best it has ever been."

Next, Interim City Manager Chris Erias reported that the finance department has since recovered the city from the financial dilemma. The department was recently recognized, receiving awards for budgeting and accounting. He also credited the human resources team for helping to foster a healthy workplace culture in Galt.

Assistant City Manager

Amie Mendes followed and spoke on housing, planning and economic development. She said the department introduced a new online building permit portal and streamlined processes for accessory dwelling units (ADUs), including pre-approved designs now available online.

Mendes addressed concerns about the pace of local development, explaining that projects such as Liberty Ranch, Elliot Ranch, Greenwood Cottages, Summerfield, Fairway Oaks, Parlin Oaks and Dry Creek (a 55-plus community) have been in planning for years and are just now breaking ground.

While growth remains at a slow 0.66% annually, Mendes said, residents have expressed demand for more retail and dining, which the city is working to attract.

Mendes also highlighted a two-year agreement with the chamber of commerce that includes funding for tourism materials, small business workshops and a mural program in Old Town.

"These are really great investments in our community," Mendes said, adding

that support for downtown and local businesses remains a priority.

She emphasized the importance of living-wage jobs and noted a growing focus on industrial development. Land is being prepared for future industrial use, and plans are underway to revitalize the city's sports complex to attract more tournaments and tourism.

A major goal is improving the connectivity between Old Town and the Galt Market area through the "Old Town Visionary Plan," which includes pedestrian and bike-friendly access to and from both locations.

On the retail front, Mendes mentioned the Galt Ranch Retail Center (formerly Simmerhorn Commercial Center) located east of Highway 99 has plans under review that include a Quick Quack Car Wash, Panda Express and three other fast-food businesses to be announced later.

Public Works Director John Griffin continued with a presentation of current updates on infrastructure. Completed projects include improvements to C, D and Fourth streets as well as the

Industrial Water Treatment Plant Well and expansion project.

Upcoming work includes the Old Town water main replacement, UV disinfection system replacement and a recycled water study. Roadway safety and transportation improvements are also underway and in their design phase.

Parks and Recreation Director Armando Solis discussed the Parks Master Plan that has projects in the works, thanks to Measure Q funding. He explained that this funding, 1% sales tax residents passed in 2022, will help the department with an estimated \$4 million this year alone to help rebuild the park system.

"This process, that was started last year, will examine the community wants and needs for evaluating our current programs, facilities, services and finances to enhance our community," said Solis.

Police Chief Brian Kalinowski spoke on efforts in public safety and milestones for the police department.

"We have 39 sworn officers and 17 civilian personnel that handled nearly 15,000 calls for service annually," said Kalinowski.

He noted the emphasis on traffic enforcement in the community, which has become a priority especially with grant funding from the Office of Traffic Safety that allowed traffic stops to increase by 57% this year.

Kalinowski said that there were 112 DUI (Driving Under the Influence) arrests, which was double the number from last year.

He acknowledged the improved response times to emergencies, with 94.2% of 9-1-1 calls being answered within 10 seconds.

Lastly, Kalinowski touched on the department's use of cutting-edge technology, including drones and a virtual assistant for emergency calls, which has positioned the Galt Police Department as a leader in innovation.

As a result, the department was invited to present in San Jose to the California Police Chiefs Association as part of a national movement to reduce workload in dispatch centers.

Cosumnes Community Services District Fire Department Chief Felipe Rodriguez shared data on calls for service in Galt and surrounding areas. Over the past 12 months, Fire Stations 45 and 46 responded to 3,935 emergency incidents, an approximate 7.5% increase from the previous year, with two fire engines and ambulances handling the calls.

Rodriguez said the Cosumnes Fire Department is close to receiving accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), a milestone that has been in development for some time.

Former Mayor Paul Sandhu was the final speaker at the event. He expressed appreciation for the progress made and discussed during the event, and thanked city and local agency officials for their contributions toward making Galt a great place to live and work. ★

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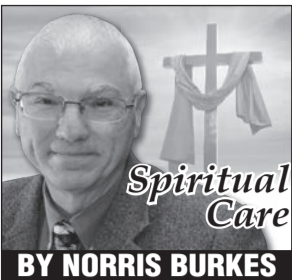
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Synchronizing Our Heart With Our Actions



BY NORRIS BURKUS

Have you ever done the right thing in a difficult situation, but your heart said, "I'm just not feeling it"? If so, then you know how hard it is to sync your feelings with your actions.

I remember such a moment in 1995 in Mountain View, California where I was stationed at Onizuka Air Station. It was memorable because it was the very first time I shared a chaplain's assignment with a Catholic priest.

His name was Richard Regan.

Father Regan was a winsome and gregarious guy who was adored by his parishioners. We became fast friends, and he encouraged me to call him Richard, but around his parishioners, I had to call him "Father."

One weekday morning, Richard and I arrived in uniform for a meeting in our chapel office. As we walked toward the entryway, we met two contractors hired to refurbish the steps.

The two men scrambled to their feet. They looked past me and greeted Richard in a deep Irish brogue.

"Top o' the morning to ya', Father."

Richard returned a polished smile as we walked past them to enter our office suite.

Inside, I noted how the

men barely glanced at me. Richard explained.

"I met them a few days ago and they asked about the Christian cross we both wear on our uniforms. I told them that I was a Catholic priest and you are a Protestant minister."

Richard described how the men looked down at their work in an awkward pause. "Is that so?" they asked.

"I hope that won't stop you from greeting him each morning too," Richard said.

"We'll greet him if you insist," one admitted, "but I'm afraid we'll be giving him a rather frosty 'top-o'-the-morning.'"

Richard laughed. The men didn't.

I had much in common with those men. We both were having trouble syncing our feelings with doing what we knew was right.

It was a stretch for me to call my friend "Father" because I was raised with the literal interpretation of Jesus' words in Mathew 23:9: "Do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven." Yet I learned to do it because it was a professional courtesy of clerical protocol.

The catholic men, likely raised in the Northern Ireland conflict, probably found it difficult not to spit on Protestants, but the good Father's insistence encouraged them to do what was right.

Today, in the current political climate, I'm aware that there are many issues that work to separate us, such as gun control, immigration and

abortion. These topics are difficult to decide, but we choose our views for various reasons based on our upbringing, personalities and experiences.

Yet as people of faith, we do know what is right between each other. Our faith demands we do unto others, as we would have them do unto us. We know for certain that we must love God with all our heart and our neighbor as our self.

So, even during these days of political madness and uncertainty, I hope we will pledge to ourselves and to our faith, to do the right thing between each other. We will remain civil and kind and will synchronize our faith with our actions.

As for the Irishmen, I told Richard that they'd warmed a bit, but still hadn't wished me, "Top-o'-the-morning."

"Sounds like progress," he said.

"How so?"

"If they really didn't like you, they'd insult you with something like, 'May the cat eat you, and may the devil eat the cat.'"

I grinned. I suppose sometimes you take what you can get.

Discounted versions of all my books can be found on Amazon by searching for "Norris Burkus." Autographed copies can be obtained on my website www.thechaplain.netor by sending a check for \$20 for each book to 10566 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602.

Sign up to receive this weekly column by email at www.thechaplain.net/newsletter/ or send me your email address to comment@thechaplain.net. ★

Galt High Senior Becomes 4H State Ambassador

Continued from page 1

and a presentation, which examine the member's 4H experience, community involvement and leadership skills.

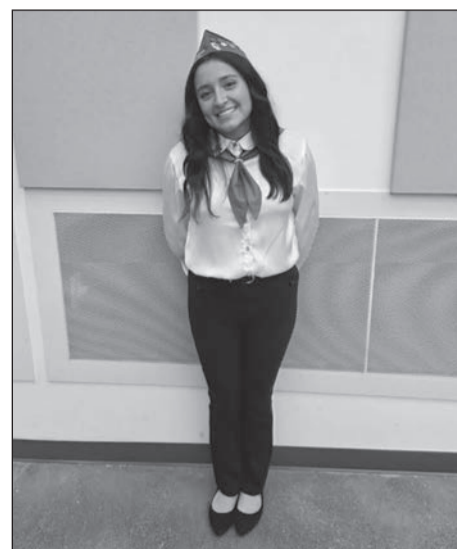
"Elia felt that this process was more like a life-altering experience and just getting to the interview was an accomplishment in itself since there had been hundreds of applicants and only 15 to 20 spots for the interview," Rodriguez said.

State ambassador is the highest rank of leadership that a member can achieve within 4H. Prior to this, Elia was a Sacramento 4H county ambassador for the past two years. She has also served as the Galt 4H president for six years.

"Getting this position has truly reminded me that life is not coming at me but it is coming from within me. I don't deserve anything; I earn everything," Elia said. "It has never been easy but my hard work is paying off. The mission is to never stop inspiring others; 4H has put me in the perfect position to do so."

Rodriguez noted that 4H is most recognized for its reputation in fairs and animal showing, although Galt 4H has not had animal projects for the past eight years. Despite this, members still participate in the fair with indoor exhibits during the state and county presentation days.

"We hope that more people learn 4H is not just animals. Besides local clubs, they have a YES program (Youth Engineering



Pictured is Galt 4H President and State Ambassador Elia Rodriguez. Courtesy photos

and Stem)," she said. "The 4H program helps children develop many skills that help youth thrive in any circumstance."

Besides her community involvement with the Galt 4H club, Elia is an active volunteer at the local nonprofit L'Chayim. Entering her senior year, Elia plans to study at a four-year university and earn a business degree.

Elia also intends to continue her volunteer work with nonprofit organizations, where her mother said Elia hopes to inspire more youth to "find their spark." ★

New Program Delivers Care Beyond 9-1-1

Continued from page 1

"By meeting people where they are and addressing the root causes of repeated emergency calls, we're not just helping individuals, we're improving the system for everyone."

The pilot covers the Cosumnes Fire Department's 157-square-mile service area, which includes more than 214,000 residents in Elk Grove, Galt and unincorporated areas of south Sacramento County. The all-risk, all-hazards fire department provides fire protection, emergency medical services, rescue operations and community risk reduction across the region.

Funded by the American Rescue Plan

Act with support from Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Hume, who advocated for expanding telehealth and integrated care, the pilot will run through Dec. 31. During that time, the department will evaluate how the program operates in the field, monitor patient outcomes and explore opportunities for future expansion.

Cosumnes Community Services District is an innovative, inclusive, and intentional regional leader committed to providing exceptional emergency medical, fire protection, parks and recreation services that exceed expectations and enhance the quality of life for 214,000 south Sacramento County residents. Learn more at CosumnesCSD.gov. ★

Fireworks Enforcement Recap

City of Galt News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - While residents and visitors enjoyed Independence Day events, the City of Galt Code Enforcement Division, Galt Police Department and Cosumnes Fire Department partnered to reduce the use of illegal fireworks in our community. This year, our enforcement teams used drone technology to help identify illegal fireworks activity and respond

quickly to any violations.

Enforcement Highlights

Multiple locations identified for illegal firework activity by drone enforcement.

87 firework-related calls for service received and responded to by Galt Police.

\$310,000 in total administrative fines issued.

Under the updated ordinance, each illegal firework used, possessed or ignited is treated as a separate

violation. The fine for a first offense is \$1,000, with each additional offense also resulting in a \$1,000 fine. Penalties apply not only to those using illegal fireworks but also to property owners, renters or event hosts who allow them on their premises.

We want to thank our residents and business community for helping us spread the word about Galt's updated fireworks ordinance. Your support plays a vital role in keeping our community safe. ★

The Galt Herald

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Imagine having the confidence to forgo college basketball entirely and jump straight from high school to professional basketball. That's what Jonathan Kuminga did and so did Kobe Bryant and LeBron James. Things turned out pretty well for those two, and it may turn out well for Kuminga too. The only question is, will it be in a Sacramento Kings uniform?

Well, that's the question on the mind of every Kings fan, largely because that's the current talk of the town.

The Warriors, after surprising everyone and acquiring Jimmy Butler late last season, are apparently prepared to part ways with 22-year old Kuminga, and the Sacramento Kings are interested.

Should the two teams come to an agreement, the Kings would finally complete the missing piece they have long been looking for, front court help to compliment Keegan Murray.

The Kings have met with Kuminga and it's been reported that Kuminga is eager to join the beam team, and travel 90 miles north to unite with the Warriors closest rival.

Times in San Francisco have been tumultuous for young Kuminga, and he has fallen into disfavor with coach Steve Kerr. Stories vary as to the reason for his fall from grace, but reportedly Kerr is unhappy with Kuminga's desire to elevate his game and not play within the team style that Kerr desires.

Without question, Kuminga's beginning in the NBA could not have been any meteoric, as the Warriors captured the NBA title in Kuminga's rookie season.

Kuminga contributed nearly 10 points per game in his rookie campaign while logging just under 17 minutes per game.

Kuminga has steadily improved his game, but he has plateaued the past 2 season's averaging 15 points and just under 5 rebounds per game.

The age-old problem of minutes is the issue, and with stars Stephen Curry, Jimmy Butler, and Draymond Green, breaking into the starting lineup does not appear to be a realistic outcome for Kuminga.

The Kings are undoubtedly assuring a starting position in the negotiations, and Kuminga has expressed a real interest in joining the Sactown boys.

I can envision the first time the Warriors

come to town, with Kuminga lighting things up and showing the Warriors what they passed up on. Maybe lighting the beam with a smile to match.

This is not a done deal Kings fans, but it is not pie in the sky either. If the Warriors don't move Kuminga this season, they will run the risk of him signing elsewhere and receiving no compensation. Suffice to say, the Warriors are smarter than that, so making a good deal for Kuminga now makes loads of sense, and I believe Scott Perry is trying to help the Warriors do just that.

If reports are accurate, that means the Kings will in all probability say goodbye to Malik Monk, while including a first-round draft choice in the deal. The sticking point has been whether the pick will be unrestricted, and it's my view that in all likelihood the Kings may have to acquiesce to get this trade consummated.

Without question the NBA has yet to see the best of Kuminga, and there is no question in my mind that this talented young player could be the missing ingredient the Kings have long been looking for.

Sadly, trades that are as public as this one rarely come to fruition, so say your prayers Kings fans, because I do not see a down side to welcoming Kuminga into the Sactown family!

Summertime can be tormenting for true basketball fans, and with the summer league concluding, trade rumors that can change the landscape of the hometown team in a positive way, are just what Kings fans need to while away the hours waiting for training camp to begin.

Not to be lost in the Kuminga hype, is current Kings power forward Trey Lyles who is currently a free agent. At 6'9" and 234 lbs., Lyles represents a big body and someone that the Kings can count on off the bench. Losing him would be a critical mistake and would remind me of the faux pas made just a season ago when Davion Mitchell slipped through their fingers and was unceremoniously traded to the Toronto Raptors.

Stay positive Kings fans, because Scott Perry brings with him much needed experience in the front office, at a time when a steady hand is very much required.

All the best!

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

Social Security Matters

Why Hasn't My SS Benefit Changed Because I Am Still Working?



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am currently receiving Social Security benefits while continuing to work full time. There are no restrictions on my wage earnings because I waited until full retirement age before beginning benefits. However, I was also told that my benefit amount would be reviewed each year if my current earnings were higher than past earnings. That held true for the first two years but has yet to be adjusted for 2025. I thought it might be because of HR 82, which does not impact me directly, but I think it may be the reason my payment has not yet been changed. Has enough time passed so I should contact SSA now to see if this is the case? **Signed: Waiting Anxiously.**

Dear Waiting: If you are already collecting benefits, Social Security reviews your earnings each year to see if your more recent earnings are high enough to warrant an increase in your monthly

benefit. They do this automatically, after they get your most recent earnings data from the IRS, and they typically do that review by the end of the 3rd quarter of each year. If a higher benefit is indicated, they will increase your monthly amount and pay you retroactively to the beginning of the year for any difference in your benefit.

SSA has, indeed, been vigorously working on changes resulting from HR82 (the Social Security Fairness Act), which may have affected the timeliness of their review of your recent earnings. However, I suspect that is not why your SS benefit has not yet changed. More likely, it has to do with the fact that your past earnings have been adjusted for inflation (which is a normal part of Social Security's process when calculating your benefit amount). Your earnings for each year in your lifetime (up to age 60) were adjusted for inflation when you originally claimed SS, and your recent earnings would need to be higher than the inflation-adjusted amounts used by SS when you claimed. They use the 35 highest earnings years (adjusted for inflation) over your lifetime to calculate your benefit, and inflation has a substantial effect. For example, \$50,000 earned

in 1990 would require over \$100,000 in earnings today to cause an increase in your benefit. Thus, you cannot go by the actual dollars you earned in earlier years, because SS uses inflated amounts to calculate your benefit.

In any case, if you believe that the Social Security Administration neglected reviewing your earnings from last year, or in any year since you claimed, you can make an appointment to review that with them by calling 1.800.772.1213. SSA typically does such appointments over the phone, so you likely won't need to make a personal visit to your local SSA office to investigate this.

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. ★

California Is Finally Adopting Phonics

Fulfilling A Grandmother's Dream



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

Marion Joseph died in 2022 and therefore cannot celebrate what at long last is happening in California to improve children's abysmal levels of reading comprehension.

Joseph, a renowned expert on reading instruction, came out of retirement in the 1980s to wage a personal crusade for the adoption of phonics, doing battle with educators who stubbornly supported a rival system called "whole language" that was failing to raise reading scores.

Phonics stresses fundamental instruction in the letters and letter combinations that make up sounds, thus allowing children to "sound out" words and later whole sentences and passages. The whole language approach assumes that reading is a naturally learned skill, much like speaking, and that exposing children to reading material will allow it to emerge.

Having realized that her own grandson, then a first-grader, was having difficulty with reading, Joseph began pestering the state's politicians to adopt phonics, persuading then-Gov. Pete Wilson in the 1990s to appoint her to a commission on reading instruction and then the state Board of

Education, platforms from which she could pursue her mission.

However, she achieved only modest success in what were dubbed "reading wars," and after she left the school board the whole language approach re-emerged as dominant.

Reading scores on state and national academic tests continued to languish, with fewer than half of fourth-graders reading at an acceptable level.

School districts that had voluntarily adopted phonics demonstrated remarkable gains. They recognized that the ability to read is fundamental to succeeding in other academic skills, such as mathematics.

Finally substantial numbers of legislators decided to intervene, and a pro-phonics contingent began pushing measures that would compel school districts to adopt what has been dubbed the "science of reading," backed by a phalanx of education reformers.

Gov. Gavin Newsom, who has struggled with dyslexia, a disorder affecting his ability to read, supported the efforts and included \$200 million in the 2025-26 state budget to train teachers in phonics.

Meanwhile Assembly Bill 1454 is moving quickly through the legislative process. Sponsored by pro-phonics legislators including Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, it would require the state Board of Education to adopt phonics-based instructional materials and include phonics in reading teacher credential programs.

The pro-phonics moves are drawing praise from

EdVoice and dozens of other educational reform groups.

"When a child learns to read, they don't just decode letters on a page, they begin to dream bigger, think more critically, and imagine a future beyond what they can see. Today's committee approval brings us one step closer to all California children reading at grade level," said Marshall Tuck, CEO of Ed Voice, after the bill cleared the Senate Education Committee last week.

Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, a West Covina Democrat who has become the Legislature's top phonics advocate, said, "After months of hard work and collaboration, we are making steady progress toward delivering on our promise to teach all California children to read. The support we saw today in the Senate Education Committee moves us closer to ensuring that no child falls through the cracks because they weren't taught to read using scientifically proven reading methods. The continued bipartisan support on this bill tells us that California is ready and motivated to lead on literacy."

The actions fall a bit short of requiring local school districts to adopt phonics, but they go a long way toward achieving Marion Joseph's goal.

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. ★



Hamas is to Blame for Gaza's Woes

Hamas started a war, rejected a ceasefire and stole and profited from humanitarian aid, and we are supposed to believe that it's all Israel's fault.

International attention is focused on food shortages in Gaza, with the blame and the pressure -- as always -- on Israel to do something about it.

It is always difficult to get to the ground truth in Gaza, which is shrouded in the fog of war, of Hamas propaganda and of slanted media coverage, but there appears indeed to be a brewing humanitarian crisis.

Israel stopped shipments of aid into Gaza in March after a temporary ceasefire expired, and then started them up again in May, using the so-called Israel- and U.S.-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) as the conduit. The stoppage in aid, coupled with inadequate GHF operations, has led to the current situation.

It's necessary to understand the larger context, though. Israel halted food shipments as a means to deny Hamas revenue, not to target the general population.

The terror group had perfected the art of exploiting humanitarian aid (and commercial transactions) for its own purposes via

theft and taxes, plowing the proceeds into its military operations.

Although there is now an effort by Israel's critics to portray the concern over Hamas profiteering as fabricated or exaggerated, there is no doubt that this business model was crucial to the terror group. Both The Wall Street Journal ("A Depleted Hamas Is So Low on Cash That It Can't Pay Its Fighters") and The Washington Post ("Hamas Facing Financial and Administrative Crisis as Revenue Dries Up") have run reports on the squeeze felt by Hamas.

The Journal article back in April noted that the cash crunch with the cut off in aid was "making it harder for Hamas to bring in new recruits and maintain cohesion." The Washington Post reported about a week ago: "With its coffers depleted, Hamas's military wing can no longer adequately pay the salaries of its fighters, though it is still able to recruit teenage boys for missions like keeping lookout or placing explosives along Israeli military routes."

Making it harder for your enemy to pay its fighters and secure new ones is an important and legitimate military goal. The problem is the potential cost to people in Gaza who aren't combatants.

The shortages are just another consequence of how deeply embedded Hamas is in Gaza society. This isn't a group of terrorists who moved into territory adjacent to Israel to launch the Oct. 7 attacks and could be quickly extricated by an intense military

operation. Hamas has been the government of Gaza for a couple of decades, and has used every instrument of political and social influence at its disposal -- including the distribution of food -- to build its military capacity.

It's important to remember that Israel didn't start this war, that it'd much rather be fighting a conventional military force that abided by the rules of war, and that Hamas still holds Israeli hostages and has taken a rejectionist attitude to ceasefire talks.

Even Emperor Hirohito thought his people had suffered enough at the conclusion of World War II, but Hamas considers the agony of Gazans a useful weapon in the narrative war. From this perverted point of view, a famine would be welcome news, perhaps forcing Israel to stay its hand and leave Hamas to fight another day.

Clearly, Israel needs to find better ways to get aid into Gaza. The GHF hasn't gotten the support that it needed from the U.N. and other agencies (they are too invested in the corrupt status quo), while the distribution points for aid are chaotic and dangerous.

The best thing that could happen would be an end to the war with a decent political authority -- more invested in the general welfare than in tunnels and rockets-- finally in charge of Gaza. But Hamas would rather see the population starve than give up on the war, or its grip on power.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Tennis, Ping Pong or Badminton? No; It's Pickleball!



North America and even all over the globe. National Pickleball Day was established in 2021 by pickleball instructor Dierdre Morris.

The purpose of the day is to raise awareness of the game and encourage more people, young and old, to consider playing this amazing sport.

In the United States this day is celebrated on Aug. 8, while it takes place in Canada a few days later, on Aug. 12. In the month of April, fans can celebrate National Pickleball Month. Sounds like fun.

And it is another 2 for 1. According to Nationaltoday.com, today is also International Beer Day. And for some,

an ice cold one would taste really good right now. Since I am not a beer drinker, it would be a lime margarita for me. But I digress; however, for those who enjoy beer, today is a day to celebrate.

Beer is one of the oldest drinks the world has ever known. International Beer Day gives fans worldwide just one more excuse to have a round on the first Friday in August. Beer has a reputation as the drink of choice for the ordinary working man or woman. Whether it's served up cold and frothy, mild or strong, we celebrate International Beer Day on the first Friday in August every year when summer's end begins to loom large. The start of another weekend beckons us to put aside our work, we set aside differences and come together to celebrate our shared love of beer.

Beer somehow manages to do what politicians have tried to do for centuries: unite people in a common cause for good. Our insatiable thirst for beer gives us reason to pause: to stop what we're doing, sit down and converse with one another over a pint or two. The conversation may be pleasant or not, calm or animated, but

somehow beer makes it possible to agree to disagree and still walk away friends. Plenty of us have no doubt solved many of the world's problems over a few pints of beer. So, raise an ice-cold glass, tankard, bottle or can and toast the day.

There you have it. Play a match of pickleball and celebrate your win with a frosty cold one. Can it get any better than that? Oh yes it can! Add salsa and chips and you, my friend, have a winning trio.

On another note: School started this week for the high schools and most of the elementary schools. A reminder to please be mindful of our students walking, biking, skateboarding, etc., to school because more than likely they will be deep into their cell phones and not paying attention to the traffic. Yes, they need to be aware of what is happening around them. Let us come alongside and talk, not yell and scream at their neglect. We are the adults and we need to set the example. Give them a good memory to remember.

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

ABOUT TOWN

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.

Habitat Restoration Workday – 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Cosumnes River Preserve, The Barn. Anyone 18 or older who wants to be truly involved with environmental stewardship at the Preserve is invited to join the Habitat Restoration Team (HRT). This team assists Preserve Staff with focused conservation projects that allow members to contribute to Preserve success. Contact 916-826-0927 to sign up or for more information. 6500 Desmond Road.

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.

Sunday, Aug. 10
Lodi Yoga Fest – 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oak Farm Vineyards. Immerse yourself in a full day of yoga, meditation, breath work, sound healing, and transformative workshops designed to uplift your mind, body, and spirit. This event is suitable for all levels. Bring your own mat, water bottle, and bag for shopping. More information at www.lodiyogafest.com. 23627 N. Devries Road.

Saturday, Aug. 16
Lodi Art Hop – 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Idol Beer Works.

This free, family-friendly event brings together artists, art lovers, and the community to celebrate creativity and local talent. The Art Hop transforms the town into an open gallery where visitors can immerse themselves in the local art scene. More information at www.lodiarts.com. 100 S. Sacramento St.

Veterans Meetings 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 Aug. 27. 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, Aug. 28.

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, Elk Grove. For more info, call 916-684-3849. 8230 Civic Center Drive. ★

MEETING MINDERS

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

Thursday, Aug. 14
Lockeford Community Services District Board of Directors meets at 9 a.m. the second Thursday of each month at the Old School House, 19456 N. Jack Tone Road.

Tuesday, Aug. 19
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, Aug. 20
Cosumnes CSD, 5 p.m., Elk Grove CSD boardroom, 8820 Elk Grove Blvd.
Galt Elementary School Board, 7 p.m., City Hall, 380 Civic Drive, 209-745-4545.

Thursday, Aug. 21
Galt Beautification Committee, 9 a.m., Community Development Dept., 495 Industrial Drive, 209-366-7130.
Galt High School Board, 6 p.m., Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive.
Herald Fire Protection District, 6 p.m., Station 87, 12746 Ivie Road, 209-748-2322.

Friday, Aug. 22
Galt Sunrise Rotary, 7 a.m., Comfort Inn & Suites, 10380 Twin Cities Road, 209-745-6617.

Monday, Aug. 25
Arcohe School Board, 7 p.m., Media Center (East Campus), 11715 Ivie Road, Herald, 209-748-2313. ★

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ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
#25CV017814
Rosalva Suarez has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Rosalva Suarez to Rosy Gonzalez Suarez.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on December 10, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 53, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: July 29, 2025
Richard K. Sueyoshi, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: August 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025 8-29-25 SUAREZ

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UC Davis Among Nation's Best

UC Davis Medical Center Ranked as Top Hospital in the Sacramento Region

UC Davis Health News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - UC Davis Medical Center has been ranked the No. 1 hospital in the Sacramento region, according to the 2025-2026 U.S. News & World Report prestigious Best Hospitals ranking.

This marks the 14th consecutive year that UC Davis Medical Center has earned the top spot locally. The medical center was also named the No. 7 hospital in California, continuing an 11-year streak of being ranked in the state's Top 10.

"This year's rankings are a testament to our unwavering commitment to delivering the highest quality care across California, transforming lives and strengthening communities," said Michael Condrin, interim chief executive officer for UC Davis Health. "Our success is driven by the exceptional dedication of the entire UC Davis Health team, who consistently go above and beyond to provide patient-centered care without parallel."

UC Davis Medical Center is at 4301 X St, Sacramento.

UC Davis Medical Center ranked among the Top 50 hospitals nationwide in six specialties: Ear, Nose and Throat (number 27), Geriatrics (number 27), Neurology and Neurosurgery (number 27), Pulmonology and Lung Surgery (number 27), Cardiology, Heart and Vascular Surgery (number 46)



This year, UC Davis Medical Center was one of only 76 hospitals nationwide to receive recognition as one of best regional hospitals for community access. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Health

and Diabetes and Endocrinology (number 48).

U.S. News also rated the medical center's services in Cancer, Gastroenterology and GI Surgery, Orthopedics and Urology as "high performing." That means the hospital scored in the Top 10 percent of all hospitals rated for those specialty areas.

UC Davis Medical Center was rated as "high performing," the highest rating possible, for its quality of care in 16 common adult procedures and conditions: acute kidney failure; aortic valve surgery; back surgery (spinal fusion); chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); colon cancer surgery; diabetes;



UC Davis Medical Center ranked among the top 50 hospitals nationwide in six specialties: Ear, Nose & Throat (#27), Geriatrics (#27), Neurology & Neurosurgery (#27), Pulmonology & Lung Surgery (#27), Cardiology, Heart & Vascular Surgery (#46) and Diabetes & Endocrinology (#48). Photo courtesy of UC Davis Health

gynecological cancer surgery; heart arrhythmia; heart failure; Leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma; lung cancer surgery; pacemaker implantation; pneumonia; prostate cancer surgery; stroke; and transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR).

Last year, U.S. News & World Report introduced a "Community Access" badge to recognize hospitals that serve vulnerable and historically underserved populations, particularly those facing socioeconomic challenges.

This year, UC Davis Medical Center was one of only 76 hospitals nationwide to receive recognition as a best regional hospital for community access.

"We believe the ability to live a healthy life should be a right enjoyed by every person. That's why we're committed to inspiring better health for all," said Condrin. "Research shows that health is shaped by more than medical care; it's influenced by access to jobs, housing, healthy food and clean air. We're working to address these factors and move our community closer to true health equity."

The U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals rankings, published annually since 1990, enable consumers and their physicians to determine which hospitals provide the best care for the most serious or complicated medical conditions and procedures.

The full list of hospital rankings can be viewed on the U.S. News website at [health.usnews.com/best-hospitals](https://www.usnews.com/best-hospitals). ★

Philanthropy Summit Challenges Old Ideas and Sparks New Ones

SRCF News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Region Community Foundation will hold the second annual Philanthropy Summit on Monday, Sept. 15 at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West.

Bringing together donors, nonprofit organization leaders, volunteers and changemakers, the collaborate event's theme this year is "Mission: Possible, showing how local philanthropy continues to drive positive change even in uncertain times."

To kick off the high-energy motivational event, award-winning author, TEDx speaker, social entrepreneur and founder of 916 Ink Katie McCleary will deliver a "Because if Dinosaurs Can Fly, So Can We" keynote address.

McCleary will explore how philanthropy can help communities move from silos to solidarity and from cynicism to curiosity so we can tackle our biggest challenges together.

Following the keynote address will be nine educational sessions offering practical insights about building stronger nonprofit organization boards, trends in giving and fundraising, and new ways to grow impact and connections.

The Philanthropy Summit will conclude with the Sacramento Region Community



The second annual Philanthropy Summit set for Sept. 15 is expected to sell out. This year's theme is "Mission: Possible, showing how local philanthropy continues to drive positive change even in uncertain times." Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation

Foundation's Celebration of Generosity, a spirited evening of food, drinks and community that honors the shared impact of those who champion causes across the region.

"The Philanthropy Summit is about rethinking the powerful relationship between nonprofits and donors and the collective impact they can create,"

said Sacramento Region Community Foundation CEO Kerry Wood. "We believe everyone has something to give to their community and the summit is a chance to come together, learn from each other and lead with heart to create real change right here in the Sacramento region."

The upbeat event ties directly to its

mission of growing local giving across El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties through popular programs such as Big Day of Giving and philanthropic services that help individuals, families and businesses support the causes they care about.

Similar to its inaugural year in 2024, organizers said, the summit is expected to sell out. In fact, a portion of the event, Association of Fundraising Professionals California Capital Chapter's National Philanthropy Day, is already sold out but plenty of other options are still available.

More information about the 2025 Philanthropy Summit and advance registration is available at www.sacregcf.org/summit.

Since 1983, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation has awarded more than \$275 million in grants and scholarships on behalf of local individuals, families, and businesses, and through its flagship program to grow charitable giving with the Big Day of Giving. The foundation's mission is to lead, serve and inspire enduring philanthropy for a just and vibrant Sacramento region.

For more information about the Sacramento Region Community Foundation and ways to learn more about charitable giving, visit online www.sacregcf.org. ★

California Sees 13% Reduction in Stolen Vehicles Statewide

From the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

SACRAMENTO - California continues to lead the way out of the COVID-induced crime surge, as the number of vehicles stolen statewide has dropped by 13% from 2023 to 2024 – the first year-over-year decrease since 2019.

Of those vehicles stolen, nearly 92% of cars, trucks and SUVs successfully recovered.

"We continue to put the safety of California communities first. Through strategic funding and partnerships with local and state law enforcement partners, we are putting a brake on lawlessness and criminals disrupting our way of life."

Governor Gavin Newsom said.

Of the stolen vehicles in California, nearly 94% cars and 90% personal trucks and SUVs were recovered.

Through expanded regional efforts with the California Highway Patrol and local law

enforcement agencies, Governor Newsom sought to strengthen efforts to fight vehicle theft through crime suppression operations in key areas, including Oakland, Bakersfield and San Bernardino.

These ongoing regional operations have shown positive results throughout the broader communities in Alameda, Kern and San Bernardino counties. Working closely with local law enforcement agencies, auto thieves, repeat offenders and organized crime groups have been disrupted, and their activities have been thwarted.

As a result of these public safety collaborations, each of these counties saw a significant drop in vehicle thefts in 2024. Alameda:



the number of vehicles stolen statewide has dropped by 13% from 2023 to 2024 – the first year-over-year decrease since 2019. Image by Dayron Villaverde from Pixabay

down 18% from 2023, Kern: down 28% from 2023 and San Bernardino: down 11% from 2023.

Other notable drops by county in stolen vehicles from 2023 include Imperial: down 13%, Orange: down 16%, Riverside: down 24%, Sacramento: down 23%, San Diego: down 11%, San Francisco: down 17%, Santa Barbara: down 29%, Tulare: down 22% and Yolo: down 24%.

"We are proud to see fewer vehicles being stolen across the

state," said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. "The CHP and our law enforcement partners are working hard every day to stop these crimes, protect California's communities and hold criminals responsible."

Automobiles are a vital part of daily life for work, school and family. When a vehicle is stolen, it impacts more than just property—it can take away a person's freedom and sense of security. View the 2024 report on stolen vehicles and their recoveries at <https://www.chp.ca.gov/siteassets/forms/recruiting/2024-ca-vehicle-theft-facts.pdf>.

Stronger enforcement. Serious penalties. Real consequences.

California has invested \$1.6 billion since 2019 to fight crime,

help local governments hire more police, and improve public safety. In 2023, as part of California's Public Safety Plan, the governor announced the largest-ever investment to combat organized retail crime in state history, an annual 310% increase in proactive operations targeting organized retail crime, and special operations across the state to fight crime and improve public safety.

Last August, Newsom signed into law the most significant bipartisan legislation to crack down on property crime in modern California history. Building on the state's robust laws and record public safety funding, these bipartisan bills offer new tools to bolster ongoing efforts to hold criminals accountable for smash-and-grab robberies, property crime, retail theft, and auto burglaries. While California's crime rate remains near historic lows, these laws help California adapt to evolving criminal tactics to ensure perpetrators are effectively held accountable. ★

Senate Bill 54 the So-Called Values Act



By John McGinness

Much attention has been directed at immigration enforcement in California this year. Donald Trump made several campaign promises in his 2024 presidential campaign. Chief among those were commitments to improve the economy (reduce inflation) and enforce the existing immigration laws. He even went so far as to suggest the possibility of mass deportations. The result of his clearly expressed promises was a decisive win on November 5, 2024. In fact, to the surprise of many, Donald Trump not only prevailed in the electoral college, he won the popular vote and became the forty-seventh president of the United States. Among the first actions of the new president was the appointment of a no-nonsense border czar, Tom Homan who has been unequivocal in his commitment to relentlessly enforce immigration laws in this country. The United States of America is often referred to as a democracy, when in fact, it is a constitutional republic. However, the method through which we elect candidates for office is through a democratic process. In the case of President Donald Trump, the

voters spoke clearly through the democratic process and chose the candidate who committed to strict immigration enforcement. That development put the state of California, and other blue states at odds with the new administration and the will of most Americans, as evidenced by the 2024 election outcome.

To develop a better understanding of how California got where it is today, we revisit history. In 2017 the California Legislature passed Senate Bill 54, the so-called Values Act which prohibited the practice of state and local law enforcement officers from interacting with personnel from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This action by the legislature was taken without voter approval and against vocal opposition from law enforcement executives and rank and file law enforcement practitioners. It was signed into law by Governor Edmond G Brown, Jr and became law on January 1, 2018. Prior to that time, ICE personnel regularly visited, and in many cases were stationed in, major jails throughout the state of California for the purpose of monitoring the immigration status of criminal suspects booked into the facilities. That practice allowed for the peaceful transfer of jurisdiction from California peace officers - to immigration enforcement personnel. Additionally, when ICE had identified a person that was wanted and subject to arrest under their jurisdiction, they would routinely contact local law enforcement agencies for the purpose of ensuring local police were aware of the presence of armed plain clothes personnel engaged in dynamic law enforcement operations. That course of action ensured effective communication

in the spirit of maximum public and officer safety.

Senate Bill 54 outlawed each of those practices, foreseeably increasing the risk to the public, law enforcement personnel and even the suspects themselves. It is impossible to imagine a safer environment in which to effectuate the arrest of a criminal suspect than simply transferring that person from the jurisdiction of one law enforcement agency to another within the confines of a secure jail, a setting in which no one is armed, and escape is virtually impossible. Similarly, the capture of a fugitive with the presence of uniformed law enforcement personnel present in marked patrol cars, with ready communication capabilities with their federal colleagues, facilitated optimum elements for a safe outcome.

Nonetheless, the California legislature and governors, past and present, embraced this extraordinarily ill-conceived law and in so doing, hampered the safety of legitimate, statutorily, and constitutionally sanctioned law enforcement operations.

Effective January 1, 2018. ICE personnel were removed from the jails forthwith. No communication between and among state and local law enforcement personnel could take place. This eliminated the potential of an illegal immigrant with an egregiously violent criminal history, freshly arrested for a violation of state law to be properly referred to ICE.

For those of us who closely watch the actions of the California legislature, there was specific frustration with this course of conduct. Because the US Constitution (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4) clearly delegates immigration enforcement power to the

Federal Government, preventing individual states from having their own processes for naturalization. Additionally, the US Supreme Court decided in Arizona v United States (2012), that immigration enforcement and naturalization is the sole prerogative of the federal government.

In addition to the Constitutionally enumerated duty of the federal government to enforce immigration law, the U.S. Congress has codified specific laws in statute, i.e.: 8 U.S.C.1325 which makes it a crime for an alien to enter or even attempt to enter the U.S. at a time or place not designated by immigration officials, or to elude inspection. It is a misdemeanor for the first offense, but it can become a felony if the person has been previously deported and re-enters without authorization, or if that person commits other violations of law. Congress has also funded ICE, and the Executive Branch has given clear direction to personnel in ICE to enforce the law. The foregoing represents the law of the land in the United States of America in 2025. A person with a modicum of sixth-grade civics knowledge should understand that if there is dissatisfaction with the law, there are means by which laws can be changed. However, the notion of duly elected members of the legislative and executive branch of any state government simply and overtly defying the law is unconscionable.

The common refrain from Governor Newsom includes an assertion that the actions of the federal government in immigration law enforcement is a denial of democracy. Every Californian should know that federal immigration personnel enforcing the laws created and funded by a duly

elected Congress, and directed by the Executive Branch of the government, in a manner consistent with the language expressed in the U.S. Constitution, is the essence of democracy. Citizens who oppose the law have a right and arguably a duty to endeavor to change the law. Defiance of the law is not the answer.

Apropos of nothing above, but consistent with Governor Newsom's lack of understanding or willful defiance of the fundamentals of democracy is evidenced by another development of last November's election, Proposition 36. Nearly seventy percent of the California electorate passed Proposition 36; it passed in each of the very diverse fifty-eight counties in California. A significant portion of that proposition was the demand for treatment of chronic drug offenders. The people spoke clearly through that democratic act. Yet, Governor Newsom refuses to ensure funding for that critical treatment. It appears Governor Newsom is resistant democracy when he does not like the decisions of the voters.

To be clear, there is room for improvement on both sides of the divide. Constitutional officers should never waiver from their oath to the Constitution, and dignified communication facilitates the optimal outcomes.

Perhaps we heed President Abraham Lincoln and invoke our *Better Angels*.

California and the nation deserve better.

John McGinness, MS is the retired sheriff of Sacramento County, an adjunct professor of criminal justice and host of the John McGinness Show on KFBK. He can be reached at 916-924-3901 or at john.jpm.solutions@gmailcom. ★

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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.

Church Hosts Discussion for Singles

Calvary Life Tabernacle hosts a "Finding Love Session" at 6 p.m. the first Saturday of each month at the church, 446 Third St. in Galt.

For more information about this group discussion, call Sue Ellen Williams, 818-290-4093.

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.

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.

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. ★

POLICE LOGS

During the time period of July 29 to Aug. 5, Galt Police received and responded to a variety of calls, resulting in nine arrests.

July 29

8:43 a.m., Fraud reported, Olive Canyon Drive.

10:05 a.m., Narcotics Violation/Adult Arrest, East Stockton Boulevard/Twin Cities Road.

10:11 a.m., Theft reported, Fourth Avenue: 10-speed mountain bike stolen.

11:30 a.m., Robbery reported, Glendale Avenue.

2:37 p.m., Theft reported, Elk Hills Drive: Items stolen and damaged by previous tenant.

4:44 p.m., Hit and Run/Injury, skate park on Chabolla Avenue.

July 30

9:11 a.m., Theft reported, Fairway Drive: Backpack, ID, cards and money taken.

11 a.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Trailridge Apartments, North Lincoln Way.

12:24 p.m., Hit and Run/Non-Injury, South Lincoln Way/B Street.

12:33 p.m., Narcotics Violation/Adult Arrest, E Street/Sixth Street.

2:02 p.m., Vandalism reported, Galt Market on Meladee Lane: Vehicle door lock removed.

6:17 p.m., Theft reported, Lorna Way: Vehicle break-in; registration and insurance taken. Reporting party declined report.

July 31

10:24 a.m. Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Millson Court.

11:19 a.m., Hit and Run/Non-Injury, Tacos Romero on North Lincoln Way.

5:48 p.m., Theft reported, Stormwood Avenue: Cell phone was lost; now pinging at location.

Aug. 1

1:51 p.m., Theft reported, McIntyre Street: Electrical breakers stolen from panel.

Aug. 2

10:17 a.m., Animal Cruelty/Adult Arrest, McDonald's on Pine Street.

4:12 p.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, H Street/Almond Court.

6:58 p.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Walnut Avenue.

Aug. 3

7:49 p.m., Burglary reported, Amador Avenue: Four bikes taken.

Aug. 4

9 a.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Walmart, Twin Cities Road.

18:27 Narcotics Violation/Adult Arrest, C Street/Fifth Street.

Aug. 5

4:25 a.m., Burglary-Auto, Bay Landing Way. ★

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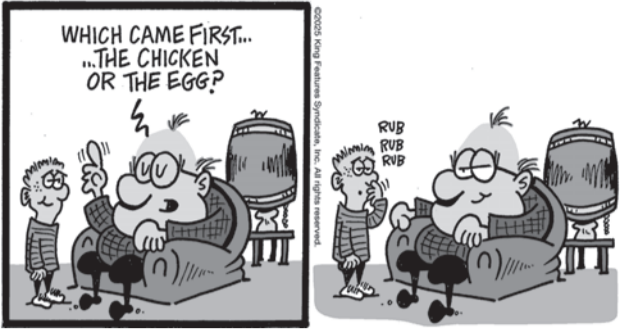
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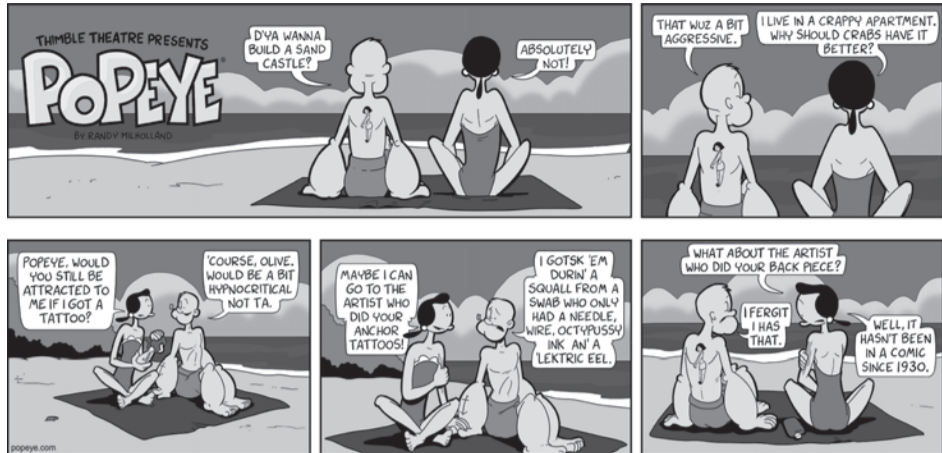


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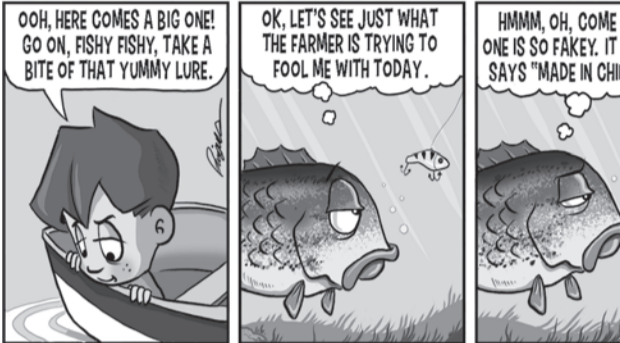
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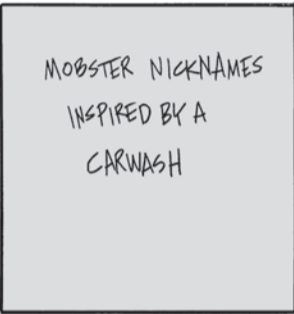
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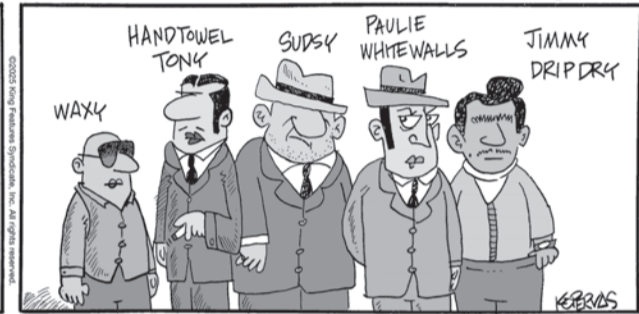
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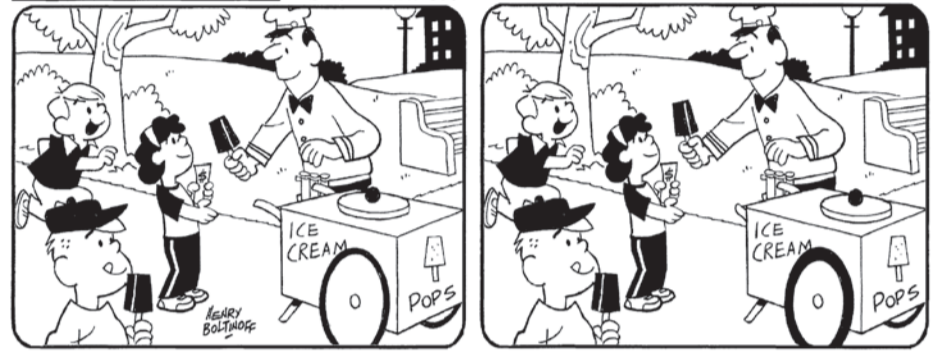
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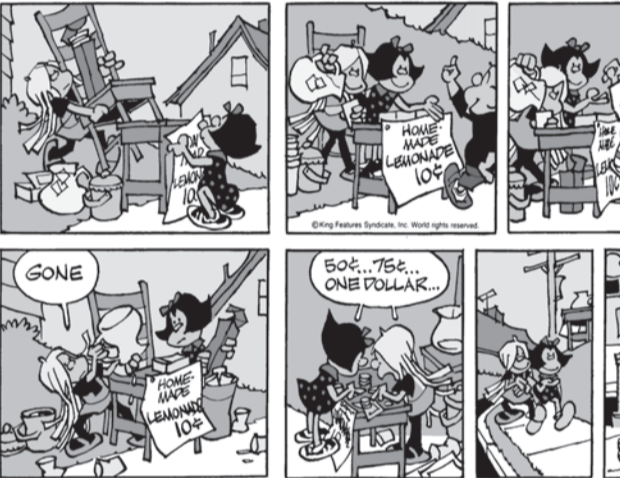
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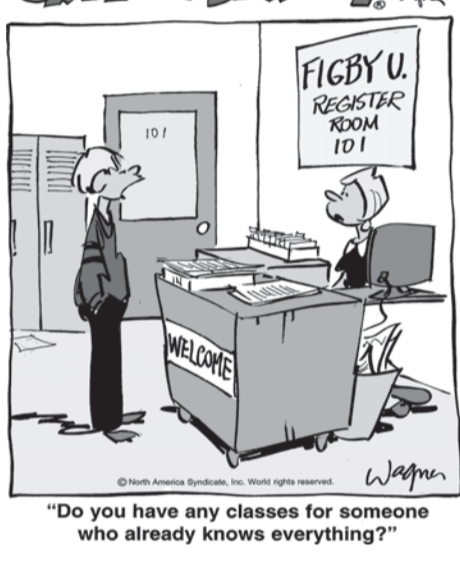


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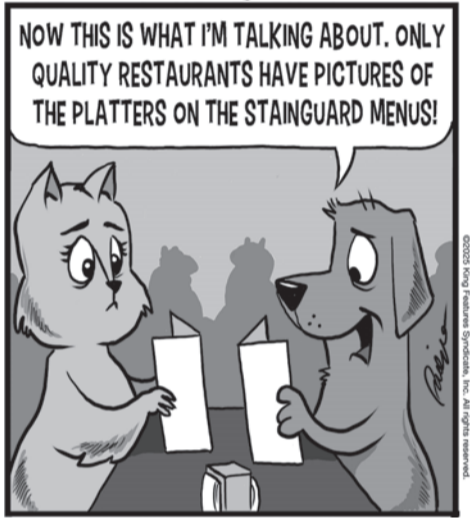


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 - Passage into a mine
 - *"Arboreal" yoga pose
 - Hitler's sidekick Rudolf
 - Highway accident
 - Extremely angry
 - "_____ show time!"
 - Nocturnal bird of prey (2 words)
 - It broke the camel's back
 - Plains tribe
 - Iron + nickel
 - *Use calories
 - a.k.a. Indian Lilac
 - Vampire of Greek mythology
 - In a cold manner
 - To the point
 - Four years for a President
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 - Premature
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Trio of Hornets Taken on Day Two of Major League Baseball Draft

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Three Sacramento State baseball players were selected on day two of the 2025 Major League Baseball Draft on Monday, as right-hander Carson Latimer (Cincinnati), infielder JP Smith (Minnesota), and right-hander Kade Brown (Athletics) were among the 615 players chosen overall during the league's two-day event.

This year's trio becomes the 30th, 31st, and 32nd Hornets either to be drafted or to sign a professional contract with a Major League club under Head Coach Reggie Christiansen since 2011 and marks the 19th consecutive season that a Sacramento State baseball player has been drafted or signed since 2007.

Taken with the 354th overall pick in the 12th round, Latimer became the highest drafted Hornet since Travis Adams (sixth round) and Scott Randall (seventh round) were top-10 round selections in 2021 and is the seventh Sacramento State player drafted by the Reds in program history, the first since infielder Ray Brown was selected in the 28th round in 1994.

In his first season with the Hornets, Latimer made 15 appearances on the mound and started seven games for Sacramento State, finishing 2-3 overall with 28 strikeouts in 36.2 innings of work. He struck out a season-high five in



The Hornets' three draftees this year mark the first time since 2019 that three Sacramento State players were selected in the same season when Austin Roberts was picked by Pittsburgh in the eighth round, Tanner Dalton was selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 17th round and Parker Brahm was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 27th round. Image courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

three innings against Abilene Christian on April 5 and had four more strikeouts in three innings against UT Arlington on March 22. Against California Baptist on April 18, he allowed just one hit over four shutout innings, striking out three Lancers.

Smith was selected with the 509th overall pick in the 17th round by Minnesota and became only the fourth Hornet to be drafted by the Twins in program history joining Tanner Mendonca (17th round in 2013), Tyler Beardsley (16th round in 2016), and the aforementioned Adams, who made his Major

League debut earlier this month and picked up his first career victory on July 12.

A first-team All-Western Athletic Conference selection for the second time in his career in 2025, Smith finished the campaign hitting .291 while starting all 58 games, scoring 42 runs, collecting 18 doubles, and slugging 12 home runs to go along with a team-high 52 RBI. He ranked in the top 15 in the WAC in hits (t12th), RBI (t8th), doubles (6th), home runs (t9th), and total bases (10th).

Brown became the third Sacramento State player selected

on Monday, taken by the Athletics in the 20th round (590th overall). It marked the second straight year that the Athletics drafted a Hornet after taking infielder Gunner Gouldsmith in the 19th round in 2024, while Brown became the ninth Sacramento State player to go from Hornet green and gold to Athletics green and gold.

A third-team All-America selection and finalist for the "Stopper of the Year" by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association, Brown was a first-team All-Western Athletic Conference selection in 2025, finishing 3-2 on the mound

with a 2.93 ERA, posted 49 strikeouts over 43 innings of work, and held opponents to a .204 average. A three-time All-WAC selection during his career and the school's all-time leader in home runs with 48 over his three seasons, Smith ranked in the top 15 in the WAC in hits (t12th), RBI (t8th), doubles (6th), home runs (t9th), and total bases (10th) this past year.

The Hornets' three draftees this year mark the first time since 2019 that three Sacramento State players were selected in the same season when Austin Roberts was picked by Pittsburgh in the eighth round, Tanner Dalton was selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 17th round and Parker Brahm was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 27th round.

It also represents the first time that three Sacramento State players were drafted in the top 20 rounds since 2003 when right-hander Chris Kinsey was selected by Arizona in the fourth round, Jesse Schmidt was taken in the 10th round by San Francisco and Mikela Olsen was taken in the 15th round by Florida (now Miami).

In all, 10 former Hornets have appeared in a Major League game in the history of the program with five of them currently active on MLB rosters (as of July 14): Rhys Hoskins (Milwaukee), Nathan Lukes (Toronto), Sam Long (Kansas City), James Outman (Los Angeles Dodgers), and Adams (Minnesota). ★

SACRAMENTO STATE BASEBALL DRAFT PICKS BY THE CINCINNATI REDS

Keith Brown, RHP, 1986 (21st round, 540th overall)
Doug Eastman, OF, 1986 (25th round, 636th overall)
Scott Selner, SS, 1987 (26th round, 643rd overall)
Bob Blankenship, RHP, 1989 (21st round, 547th overall)
Eric Bates, RHP, 1989 (31st round, 807th overall)
Ray Brown, 1B, 1994 (28th round, 772nd overall)
Carson Latimer, RHP, 2025 (12th round, 354th overall)

SACRAMENTO STATE BASEBALL DRAFT PICKS BY THE MINNESOTA TWINS

Tanner Mendonca, RHP, 2013 (17th round, 500th overall)
Tyler Beardsley, RHP, 2016 (16th round, 483rd overall)

Travis Adams, RHP, 2021 (6th round, 189th overall)
JP Smith, IF, 2025 (17th round, 509th overall)

SACRAMENTO STATE BASEBALL DRAFT PICKS BY THE ATHLETICS

Steve Necoechea, 1B/OF, 1975
Dennis Stowe, OF, 1980
John Bulleri, P, 1980
Gary Weinberger, OF, 1981 (23rd Round / 585th Overall)
Tim Doyle, LHP, 1991 (6th Round / 178th Overall)
Blake Crosby, 1B, 2009 (42nd Round / 1,263rd Overall)
Justin Higley, OF, 2013 (13th Round / 401st Overall)
Gunner Gouldsmith, IF, 2024 (19th round, 556th)
Kade Brown, RHP, 2025 (20th round, 590th overall)

Five Aggies Named FCS Football Central Preseason All-Americans

UC Davis Athletics News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - Rex Connors and Hunter Ridley took home first team honors to lead the way for UC Davis football's five members on the FCS Football Central Preseason All-American list, with Winston Williams, Jacob Psyk and Porter Connors earning the honors.

Williams and Psyk were named to the second team while Porter Connors earned a third team nod. The Aggies were tied for the third-most members on the team joining fellow Big Sky Conference member Montana State, North Dakota State and South Dakota.

Rex Connors adds to a quickly filling trophy case with this being his second Preseason All-American honor this season having earned the nod from STATS Perform. The Aggie defensive back was also named the Big Sky Preseason Defensive Player of the Year (the first Aggie to earn that honor) and earned Preseason Big Sky All-Conference honors.

His 2024 All-American season was record-breaking finishing with a program record 74 solo tackles, finishing with a total

tally of 115 on the season.

Ridley has had a busy summer of accolades, earning STATS Perform Second Team Preseason All-American honors along with being named Big Sky Preseason All-Conference. The Aggie primary kicker was also nominated for the 2025 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team. He was named a 2024 Fred Mitchell Award finalist after going 16-for-18 in field goals and hitting 56 PATs during the 2024 campaign.

Williams, who has already earned STATS Perform Second Team Preseason All-American and Big Sky Preseason All-Conference honors was also named the second-best returning tight end in the nation by HERO Sports.

He ended the 2024 season leading all Big Sky tight ends in touchdown receptions and he finished second in the nation for most receiving touchdowns by a tight end. When the year came to an end, Williams had racked up career numbers finishing with 265 receiving yards on 34 receptions, snagging six touchdowns while averaging 19.0 yards per game.

Psyk joined the Aggies during the

offseason as a transfer after four seasons at Harvard. During his senior season Psyk was named All-Ivy League first team following a year where he ranked 29th in the nation in sacks, finishing with 26 tackles, 6.5 sacks, one forced fumbled and one recovery.

Porter gained STATS Perform Third Team Preseason All-American honors to go along with a Preseason Big Sky All-Conference nod. During the 2024 season he finished with 86 total tackles, made three interceptions and scored a defensive touchdown on a scoop and score in the season opener at California. His game at Cal earned him national defensive player of the week honors as the Aggie linebacker would go on to start 13 games over the remainder of the season.

Season tickets are on sale now, and fans can visit https://ucdavisaggies.eventue.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/SEGetEventInfo?ticketCode=GS:UCD:FB25 26:FBSEA:&linkID=twucd&dataAccId=779&locale=en_US&siteId=ev_twucd to secure their spot in Shredville for the 2025 season. Tickets start as low as \$100 for new alumni and \$140 for the

general public.

Football group ticket discounts start at 10 or more tickets and provide a great opportunity for gatherings and parties to enjoy Aggie football. If you'd like to create an unforgettable experience with your group, the Aggie Ticket Office is here to help you customize your day! Fans can head to <https://ucdavisaggies.eventue.net/events/FBS> to purchase their group ticket packages.

Mini Plans are a great way for Aggie fans to save on tickets by bundling multiple games. Choose from 2 different options to get the biggest bang for your buck, and fans get to pick the games that work the best for you. The Pick Any 2 or Pick Any 3 Plans allow fans to pick and choose which games they want to attend at a discounted rate versus buying single-game tickets. Both plans can be purchased at <https://ucdavisaggies.eventue.net/events/FBPACK>.

Single game tickets are on sale now and fans can secure their spot at one five home games for as little as \$13 a ticket. Single game tickets can be purchased at <https://ucdavisaggies.eventue.net/events/FBS> ★

55th Sacramento County Women's Golf Championship

Sacramento Golf Council News Release

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)

- The 55th Sacramento County Women's Golf Championship took place on July 26 and 27, at Mather Golf Course in Rancho Cordova, drawing top female amateur golfers from around the region.

Taylor Baker of the Sacramento emerged as the 2025 Sacramento County Women's Champion, capturing the Championship Flight title with an impressive

two-day total of 131 (69/62). Her second-round score of 62 set a women's course record on the back nine, cementing her place in the tournament's history.

In the Handicap Division, Karen Biscaha of Fair Oaks claimed victory with a gross score of 184 and a net score of 134, finishing an impressive 10 under par.

The Championship Flight featured golfers with a handicap index of 6.6 or less and was played from the Navigator (silver) tees at 5,550 yards.

The Handicap Flight included players with an index of 18.4 or less and was played from the Mustang (purple) tees at 5,250 yards.

Deborah Kanner was tournament chairman, assisted by Linda Bigler of the Sacramento Golf Council.

The Sacramento County Women's Golf Championship continues to showcase outstanding talent and sportsmanship in Northern California women's golf. ★



Karen Biscaha wins Sacramento County Womens Handicap Championship. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Golf Council



Taylor Baker wins Sacramento County Womens Golf Championship. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Golf Council

LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE



Galt Teen Brings Home Gold from Korea's Elite Taekwondo Championships

By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The roar of the crowd in Gwangju, South Korea, was deafening as 18-year-old Fatima Rivera stepped onto the mat for the final round of sparring. Thousands of miles from her home training ground, the young athlete from Robinson's Taekwondo was about to make history for her Galt community.

Rivera didn't just compete at the prestigious 2025 Gwangju Open International Taekwondo Championships in July; she conquered it, bringing home gold in Olympic sparring and silver in poomsae forms competition.

Under the guidance of Master Clinton Robinson Jr. from Robinson's Taekwondo in North Highlands, Rivera has transformed from a promising local student into an international champion. Her journey to Korea culminated in a dominant performance on Saturday, July 19, where she faced elite competitors from around the globe.

"Watching Fatima compete in Korea was one of the proudest moments of my coaching career," said Master Robinson. "She didn't just represent our dojo; she represented the heart and spirit of every young athlete who dreams of competing on the world stage. Her dedication and technique were flawless under that kind of pressure."

Rivera claimed first place in the Senior B League 67kg Olympic



Fatima Rivera stands on the podium with her gold medal in South Korea. Courtesy Photos

sparring division, showcasing the lightning-fast kicks and strategic prowess that have made her a standout competitor. Her silver medal performance in the Foreign Individual 18-to-30-year-old group 2-Poomsae forms demonstrated her versatility and technical mastery.

The Gwangju Open draws elite taekwondo athletes from across Asia and beyond, making Rivera's

victory all the more impressive. Competing in two grueling rounds of sparring, she faced opponents who train at some of the world's most renowned martial arts academies.

"Standing on that mat in Korea, knowing I was representing not just myself but my coach, my dojo, and my community back home, it was incredible," Rivera said. "Every technique Master Robinson

taught me, every hour of training, it all came together in those moments. When they announced my name for first place, I couldn't believe it."

Rivera's international success has already generated buzz in the taekwondo community, with her performance in Korea opening doors to future elite competitions.

The dual-medal achievement showcases not only



Fatima Rivera takes out her opponent with a spin-hook kick to the head.



Fatima Rivera delivers a cut kick in her Korea competition.

her striking ability but also her mastery of traditional forms: a combination that makes her a complete martial artist.

The victory represents a proud moment for Galt's martial arts scene, demonstrating that world-class champions can emerge from local dojos with the right guidance and determination.

Rivera's gold medal performance in the birthplace

of taekwondo serves as inspiration for young martial artists throughout the region, proving that dreams of international competition can become reality with dedication and expert coaching.

The champion is already setting her sights on future international competitions, with plans to defend her title and continue representing her community on the world stage. ★

New Academy Brings Ancient Fighting Art to Galt

By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

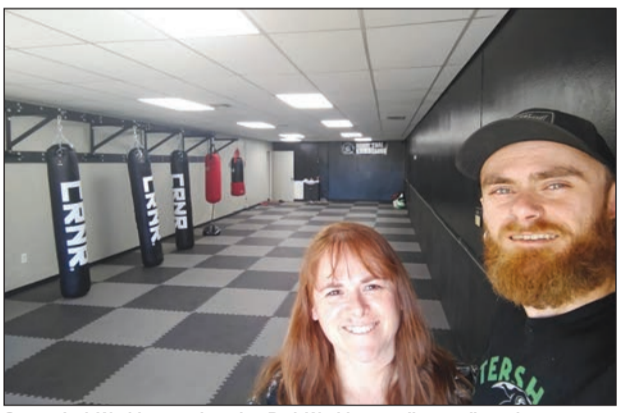
GALT, CA (MPG) - A new martial arts academy has opened its doors in Galt, bringing the ancient Thai fighting art of Muay Thai to the local community. Galt Martial Arts Academy, located at 213 S. Lincoln Way, celebrated its grand opening with approximately 100 community members in attendance.

Owner Josh Washburn, a 2017 Galt High School graduate, has been involved in martial arts for over a decade.

"I started training back in 2013," Washburn said. "I started off with karate and moved into jiu-jitsu and MMA, then transitioned to Muay Thai around 2020."

After coaching at another gym for three years, Washburn launched his own program through the city's parks and recreation department last October. The program quickly grew to about 40 students before expanding into the new dedicated facility.

The academy offers classes for students as young as 5 years old through adults of all ages. In addition to traditional Muay Thai, the facility provides cardio kickboxing and yoga classes. "Being able to do



Owner Josh Washburn and mother Beth Washburn smile proudly at the new gym.



Students spar at the new Galt Martial Arts Academy.

something where you have free range to push yourself: I think that's what really helps," Washburn explained. "A lot of the

kids end up pushing themselves to do things beyond what they think they can do." The academy is currently



Galt Martial Arts Academy students line up in their newly remodeled facility. Courtesy photos

offering special rates for students who sign up before September, along with a free week of classes for newcomers to try out the programs.

Additionally, a free women's-only Muay Thai class is held every Saturday at 9 a.m.

Washburn is passionate about sharing the history and practical nature of Muay Thai with his students.

"It came from Thailand and was originally called Muay Boran," he said. "It

was designed as a fighting style for war when soldiers lost their weapons, so it was meant to be one of the most effective martial arts."

Unlike other martial arts that focus on forms or display movements, Muay Thai emphasizes practical combat techniques.

"We use all body parts: elbows, knees, kicks and clinching, which is similar to wrestling," Washburn explained.

"We don't have fancy techniques for show; it's

about real, effective fighting skills."

The academy's focus on this traditional yet practical martial art offers Galt residents a unique opportunity to learn self-defense while getting in shape and building confidence.

For more information about classes and enrollment, interested individuals can visit the academy at 213 S. Lincoln Way, call 916-204-9229 or take advantage of the free trial week to experience the programs firsthand. ★