



**New Era Begins
for Galt High Basketball
Under Coach Johnson**

PAGE 12

**Liberty Ranch
Falls Short 70-65 After
Erasing 17-Point Deficit**

PAGE 11



The Galt Herald

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DECEMBER 26, 2025

**SEE
INSIDE**

**BOXING DAY
WITH CANDY CANES**



PAGE 9

**BUDGET GAP HAS
ROOTS IN PANDEMIC
AID ENDING**



PAGE 5

**THE VETERANS
CAME TO WIN!**



PAGE 5

Merry Christmas!



**City Approves
Council Raise,
18 Full-Time
Positions**



By Idaly Valencia

GALT, CA (MPG) - At its final meeting of the year on Dec. 16, the Galt City Council reviewed a new community outreach project, considered updates to council compensation and approved full-time positions for part-time city employees.

The Parks and Recreation Department opened the meeting with a presentation on a new activity guide magazine highlighting year-round local resources and events. Staff said the guide was created to encourage greater community engagement. Four magazines will be released throughout the year and can be accessed at cityofgalt.org/government/parks-recreation/activity-guide.

Following the presentation, the Human Resources Department recommended two actions: amending the city council salary ordinance and approving the transition of 18 part-time city employees to full-time status.

Addressing council compensation first, Human Resources Director Tricia Cobey explained that Senate Bill 329 increased the allowable compensation for council members based on city population, raising Galt's maximum from \$300 per month to \$950.

Staff proposed increasing council salaries to \$902.50 per month, consistent with the council's philosophy of paying 5 percent below the state maximum, Cobey said. She noted the change would take effect with the next council term beginning in November 2026.

Councilmember Paul Sandhu asked about the percentage increase, which Cobey said would be roughly three times the current pay.

"So about 300%, right?" Sandhu said, requesting comparisons with nearby cities.

Staff reported Elk Grove, population 182,000, pays \$2,550 per month; Lodi, population 67,000, pays \$1,666; and Dixon, population 66,000, pays \$1,366.

Councilmember Shawn Farmer expressed support for the proposal while acknowledging concerns about public perception.

"Nobody wants to look like we're voting to give ourselves raises..." he

A Century of Craft and Community

*St. Luke's
Christmas Bazaar
Marks 112 Years*

Story and photos by
Idaly Valencia

GALT, CA (MPG) - In one of Galt's oldest congregations, a centuries-long tradition continues each holiday season as St. Luke's Episcopal Church opens its doors for its annual Christmas bazaar.

Held for the 112th consecutive year on Dec. 6 and Dec. 7, the event reflects the church's history of commitment to fellowship, craftsmanship and community connection.

St. Luke's remains one of the oldest buildings in the area, preserving Galt's history both in its infrastructure and through traditions that have been passed down for generations.

Each year, tables inside the church's community



Pictured is St. Luke's Episcopal Church Senior Warden Mark McMillen, center back, with parishioners during the 112th Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 6.

space fill with one-of-a-kind handmade goods created by parishioners and friends. Knitted beanies, scarves, quilts, baby blankets and pillows add color throughout the room, alongside baked and

preserved goods such as jams, honey, cookies and cakes.

Among the most recognizable items are hand-embroidered tea towels, a longtime favorite that has been sold since

the bazaar's earliest days.

The event is the church's primary fundraiser, with proceeds supporting the St. Mary's Guild of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, which provides scholarships to

Continued on Page 3



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From The Hangout to The Chopping Block: Local Favorite Reimagined

City of Galt News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Chopping Block Deli, owned by mother-and-son duo Bobbi and Nathaniel, is bringing a fresh twist to the classic mom-and-pop deli experience in Galt.

Formerly known as The Hangout, the location has been transformed into a deli focused on scratch-made sandwiches, soups and baked goods.

Located at 905 C St., Unit 140, The Chopping Block Deli aims to be a gathering space for all ages, with a mission to bring creativity and community together through high-quality meals, personal service and locally sourced ingredients.

Nathaniel shares, "We make our own sauces, get fresh-baked local bread delivered nearly every day, and source local produce daily; you'll never see yesterday's produce on your sandwich. Every dish is made with love, inspected by us and if I wouldn't serve it to my 15-month-old baby boy, I wouldn't serve it to you."

Each morning, Bobbi and Nathaniel arrive hours before service to roast tomatoes for soup, caramelize onions for Lockeford sausages, bake brownies from scratch and prep the day's fresh produce.

The menu features a variety of sandwiches, with signature items like the French dip with caramelized onions and house-made garlic sauce. Cold options include the turkey cranberry or the



Pictured is the exterior of the Chopping Block Deli, located at 905 C St. Unit 140. Herald photo

Talk About Bruno, which features Bruno peppers from Bruno Farms in Lodi and house-whipped cream cheese.

Nathaniel adds, "Honestly, I recommend the garlic sauce and Chopping sauce on pretty much everything."

Being a business owner in Galt has a special meaning for the duo.

Nathaniel explains, "We love providing a concept in the city we live in. It's unique to see people you've known since childhood bring in their families, meet their kids and enjoy our food. It's a truly Galt experience."

The deli also has exciting plans for the community. House-made clam chowder will be offered on weekends, featuring Bobbi's family recipe, and a second Lockeford sausage flavor will rotate one to two times a month. Delivery options are coming soon, making it even easier for locals to enjoy their fresh, scratch-made

meals.

Open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., the owners are exploring extended hours based on demand.

The response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Our hearts are full with the support we've received since opening," Nathaniel said. "We started here in Galt and now get to live our dream by expanding our family of restaurants from Lodi to Sacramento. Through the community's support, we hope to put Galt on the map and inspire other owners to invest here. And just because The Hangout is gone doesn't mean it's gone forever; we hope to return someday with another concept to serve all sides of town."

At The Chopping Block Deli, every sandwich, soup and pastry reflects the passion, care and commitment of a family who loves both food and community. It's not just a meal; it's a Galt tradition in the making. ★

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Business License Renewals Due

Business licenses issued by the City of Galt will expire Dec. 31. Individual renewal notices have been sent to all businesses via email. Local businesses can renew online at CityofGalt.org.

Your business license is due and payable annually on the first day of January.

If payment is not received within 30 days from due date, a penalty will be incurred per Galt Municipal Code Title 5.

'True Believers Finding Peace and Love' Meeting

The discussion is offered at 3 p.m. every first Saturday of the month at Calvary Life Tabernacle, 446 Third St. For more information, contact Sue Ellen Williams at 818-290-4093.

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.

Recycle Household Batteries

City of Galt residents can recycle their household batteries in one of two green household-battery recycling bins: on the west side at the front entrance to the Galt Police Department or on the east side at Galt Community Park, just west of the fire station. The green bin is only for dry-cell household batteries.

For additional information, contact the Public Works Department at 209-366-7260.

Sunshine Food Pantry Donations

Sunshine Food Pantry is a food closet that helps provide for residents.

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

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

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.

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, call 209-294-3308 and leave a message or inquire in person.

Nominate Your Neighbor

The Galt Beautification Committee wants you to "nominate your neighbor." Has your neighbor recently completed a yard project? Does your neighbor have the best flowers in town or the best-looking yard? The Galt Beautification Committee wants to know.

Send an email with pictures and why you are nominating your neighbor to planningdivision@cityofgalt.org. The best submissions will be included in future newsletters and City Manager Updates

Senior Bingo Weekly at Chabolla

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

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

Library Offers Older Adults Computer Time

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

Those 65 and older who want computer time can call the library at 916-264-2920. Staff will help set up the computer or tablet. The library is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 1000 Caroline Ave. ★

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8:20 AM	8:45 AM	8:50 AM	8:55 AM	9:00 AM	9:25 AM	9:45 AM	8:25 AM	8:45 AM	9:20 AM	9:45 AM	9:50 AM	9:55 AM	10:00 AM
10:20 AM	10:45 AM	10:50 AM	10:55 AM	11:00 AM	11:25 AM	11:45 AM	10:25 AM	10:45 AM	11:20 AM	11:45 AM	11:50 AM	11:55 AM	12:00 PM
12:20 PM	12:45 PM	12:50 PM	12:55 PM	1:00 PM	1:25 PM	1:45 PM	12:25 PM	12:45 PM	1:20 PM	1:45 PM	1:50 PM	1:55 PM	2:00 PM
2:20 PM	2:45 PM	2:50 PM	2:55 PM	3:00 PM	3:25 PM	3:45 PM	2:25 PM	2:45 PM	3:20 PM	3:45 PM	3:50 PM	3:55 PM	4:00 PM



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A Century of Craft and Community



Each year, tables inside the St. Luke's Episcopal Church's community space fill with handmade goods such as knitted beanies, scarves, quilts and baby blankets created by parishioners and friends.

Continued from page 1
local high school students, among other charitable efforts.

Amanda Jackson, a congregation member, said the bazaar has always been about more than shopping. She explained that visitors are welcome to sit, enjoy a cup of coffee or snacks without any expectation to make a purchase, a tradition rooted in hospitality.



Here are some of the baked goods sold at the annual Christmas Bazaar, which includes homemade cakes, jams and cookies.

"We're doing refreshments because it gives people a place to sit and have holiday cheer," Jackson said. "With fellowship being a really big part of Episcopal culture, it's very important for us to keep that tradition alive."

President of the St. Mary's Guild Hannah Flaherty said most of the crafts and baked goods are made by parishioners themselves, with some donated by friends and local nonprofit L'Chayim.

She added that the personal connection behind each item is part of what makes the bazaar special, noting that both she and her grandmother contributed handmade crafts to the event.

More recent additions include novelty items such as hand-painted earrings designed to resemble miniature brand-name products, including Jell-O earrings and a Tabasco necklace. With the growing variety of items, Flaherty said, preparation for the bazaar is a yearlong effort.

"It has expanded greatly over the last 10, 15 years," she said. "...the baby blankets we make in the summertime. Like we work all year long to get ready for this because it funds all of our charity for the year."

Funds also support the church's other initiatives such as Project (Re)Start, which assists with disaster resilience in Northern California, and Shepherd's Love, a children's home in Uganda. Locally, St. Luke's donates to the Sunshine Food Pantry and aids foster youth through Stanford Sierra Youth and Families.

Flaherty encouraged those who have never attended the bazaar to experience it

firsthand and explore gifts that are made with care.

"You will find something that you never thought you needed and something unique that you really enjoy," Flaherty said.

Senior Warden Mark McMillen told The Galt Herald that the longevity of the bazaar speaks to the heart of St. Luke's mission in the community.

"It's really a core part of our identity; I think it really speaks to who we are as a congregation, which is a group of people who really want to give back to our community and do it in a joyful way," McMillen said.

He added that the annual event serves as a time to reconvene with longtime attendees as well as an opportunity to meet new ones.

"There are some people that have been coming to this bazaar for decades now," McMillen said. "It's wonderful seeing new faces every year, of course, but it's just a delight to see old friends, people that have been coming in every year... it's a great community connection."

Beyond the holiday season, St. Luke's Episcopal Church hosts events throughout the year that welcome the broader community, including an Easter celebration with an egg hunt during spring, a blessing of the animals' service around fall, a community rummage sale in the summer and a weekly Sunday coffee hour open to all.

To learn more about its upcoming events and services, visit stlukesgalt.org. ★



The annual Christmas Bazaar serves as St. Luke's Episcopal Church's primary fundraiser for its charitable outreach, with proceeds going directly toward scholarships for local students, food bank donations, foster youth and regional disaster aid.

Galt Food Center, Radio Lazer Spread Holiday Cheer



Radio Lazer 93.9 representatives and Galt Food Center owners pictured with a raffle winner, second from left, and her prize on Dec. 7. Photo courtesy of Galt Food Center

By MPG Staff

GALT, CA (MPG) - Families lined up early Dec. 7 as the Galt Food Center, in partnership with Radio Lazer 93.9, hosted a toy and gift drive celebrating the spirit of the holiday season by giving back to local youth and residents.

The event featured live music and free

tacos, creating a lively atmosphere offering the community a way to celebrate together. As part of the giveaway, about 1,000 free gifts were distributed, including dolls, toy dinosaurs and stuffed animals.

In addition to children's gifts, the event included a raffle for adults with prizes such as bicycles, large-screen televisions and various home appliances. ★

Cal-Waste Holiday Collection Schedule

2026 Collection Schedule Calendar
CITY OF GALT

Organics Cart is serviced **EVERY WEEK**

Recycle (R) weeks are marked **BLUE**

Trash Cart is serviced **EVERY WEEK**

Days with a red border will have **SERVICE DELAYED ONE DAY** due to holidays. Including the week of December 25, 2025 and 2026. Example: Wednesday service will occur on Thursday for only that week.

DECEMBER 25 JANUARY 26						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
R	28	29	30	31	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
R	11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
R	25	26	27	28	29	30

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Pictured is the Cal-Waste 2026 collection schedule calendar for Galt. Days with a red border will have service delayed one day due to the holidays. Photo courtesy of Cal-Waste

City of Galt News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - As we move into the holiday season, we want to ensure that all Galt residents are aware of temporary changes to their waste collection schedule.

Due to the Christmas and New Year holidays, collection will be delayed by one day during the following weeks: the week of Dec. 25 and the week of Jan. 1.

Days outlined in red on the calendar indicate the adjusted service days. For these weeks, each regular collection day will shift forward by one day.

Example: Wednesday service will take place on Thursday for that week only.

Organics and trash carts will continue to be serviced every week; Recycle (R) weeks are marked in blue on the calendar; place carts out by 5 a.m. on your adjusted service day. ★



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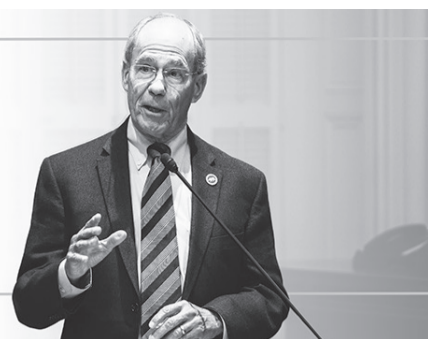
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Roger's Review

By State Senator Roger Niello



Prioritizing the New Budget

As the state prepares to hear from the governor on his budget proposal in January, I led the effort for the California State Senate Republicans to send our budget priorities request to the governor and legislative leadership.

Fully Fund Proposition 36. In November 2024, over 68 percent of voters approved Proposition 36's treatment-focused approach to reduce crime, but the 2025-26 budget failed to fully fund Prop. 36's implementation.

Prevent Catastrophic Fires. Avoiding wildfires is critical for the environment as well as public safety. Senate Republicans call for a minimum of \$2 billion annually toward fire prevention efforts. \$1 billion should come from redirecting Cap-and-Invest funds that would otherwise support High Speed Rail.

Prevent Fraud in Health and Human Services Programs. California previously conducted Medi-Cal error assessments every other year, which in some cases showed widespread fraud among certain providers. California needs to renew this audit to identify and prevent fraud that is costing taxpayers billions of dollars each year.

Preserve Health Care Access. The state should adequately fund the Distressed Hospital Loan program to ensure that at-risk hospitals can continue to operate. The state funded the loan program at \$300 million in 2023-24 and should restore the program to at least that level.

Reduce Costs for Renters. Expanding the state's renter's tax credit will help ease Californians' housing costs in the short term. The current level of \$60 for individuals should increase to \$250 for those

without dependents and to \$500 for those with dependents.

Focus on Building More Housing for Ownership. The CalHome program helps produce housing units that lower-income Californians can afford. The state could better optimize its housing support programs by funding CalHome in the range of \$500 million, prioritizing homeownership for lower-income Californians.

Support Education by Reversing Cuts to Public Universities. The 2025-26 budget slashed \$305 million from the UC and CSU. Senate Republicans call for restoration of these cuts to help avoid tuition increases for students and cuts to university programs.

Reduce Government-Imposed Unemployment Debt for Job Creators. The state has a \$21 billion unemployment insurance debt following pandemic-related business shutdowns and the more recent increase in state unemployment. Job creators began to bear the costs of repaying it through higher taxes in 2023. Setting out a repayment plan to eliminate the debt would reduce costs for employers and help clear the path for more employment opportunities.

Increase Access to Justice by Speeding Up Court Decisions. California still has not adequately funded enough judgeships to give people timely access to the justice system. California still has a shortfall of 98 judges statewide, which is a glaring deficiency in one of the longstanding and fundamental areas of government service.

Improve Water Storage to Prepare for Fire Response and Rain

Variability. To prevent water systems from decline and to avoid the much higher costs that come with failures, the state needs to continue providing significant General Fund or Cap-and-Invest resources, rather than assuming the bond can meet needs of this magnitude.

Fund Critical Air Ambulance Services. Air ambulances connect the sick or injured with emergency, trauma or specialty care, but recent state budgets have shortchanged these crucial providers. The state must fully fund the Medi-Cal base reimbursement rate for air ambulance services to reaffirm emergency preparedness.

Care for Medically Fragile Children. Unfortunately, the state has underfunded pediatric day health centers. Senate Republicans call for \$4 million General Fund in 2026-27 and \$8 million annually to increase the Medi-Cal provider reimbursement rates to a sustainable level for these essential services.

You can read my full letter on sen.ca.gov/niello.

State Sen. Roger Niello represents District 6, which includes Antelope, Arden-Arcade, Carmichael, Citrus Heights, Clay, Fair Oaks, Folsom, Foothill Farms, Franklin, Galt, Gold River, Herald, Mather, Orangevale, Rancho Cordova, Rancho Murietta and Wilton in Sacramento County. The district also includes Auburn, Granite Bay, Lincoln, Loomis, Newcastle, Penryn, Rocklin, Roseville and Sheridan in Placer County. To reach the senator, call 916-772-0571 or email senator.niello@senate.ca.gov. ★

ABOUT TOWN

Continuing through Tuesday, Dec. 30

Christmas at the Fair – at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

This year's spectacular Christmas production is your ticket to creating unforgettable memories with your loved ones. We're transforming the fairgrounds into a Christmas paradise, including carnival rides, photos with Santa, games and play zone, face painting, a synthetic ice-skating rink and more.

Tickets available at Eventbrite.com. 1658 S. Airport Way, Stockton.

Continuing through Dec. 31

2025 Galt Community Toy Drive – The Galt Police Department and Cosumnes Fire Department are proud to host this year's Toy Drive, and we're inviting our community to help make the season brighter for local children. Drop a new, unwrapped toy at any of our convenient donation stations, including the Police Department lobby, Fire Stations 45 and 46, and L'Chayim of Galt/Barsetti Vineyards tasting room. Hours may vary by location. Donation map at toydrive.galtca.org.

American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program Applications Accepted – Elk Grove American Legion Post 233 will sponsor an American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – A Constitutional Speech Contest on Jan. 10 at 1 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Hall, District 56, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove 95757.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest started in 1938 to encourage high school students to develop a deeper knowledge of the U.S. Constitution. It is a progressive contest that starts at a Post level with winners advancing up to a national competition. The first place National Competition

winner receives more than \$25,000.

We encourage high school students to look into this scholarship opportunity. Your high school counselors may have been provided contest information. The public is welcome to join us and observe the contest. Contact Susan Mason, chair, Post 233 Oratorical, at freedom9115@1791.com for more information. Applications accepted until Dec. 31.

Saturday, Jan. 3

Stocktons Kings vs. Wisconsin Herd: Collide – 5 p.m. at Golden 1 Center. Join us for this exciting game and grab discounted tickets from the link on City of Galt's Facebook page. You'll help give our youth basketball players a memorable opportunity to step onto the court for a special game-day experience. This event supports the City of Galt Parks & Recreation in partnership with the Youth Basketball Program. A special thank you to Papas and Wings for supporting our programs and sponsoring tickets for our amazing volunteer coaches. For more information, contact Jewel Smith at 209-360-2228. 500 David J. Stern Walk, Sacramento.

Sunday, Jan. 4

Winter Wonder Walk – 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Shumway Oak Grove Regional Park. Meet at the Yokuts Trailhead for a walk through ancient oaks. Let's "wonder" what's going on with some of the plants and animals in winter. Free event; \$6 cash parking fee; no pets. Severe weather cancels. For more information, call the Oak Grove Nature Center at 209-953-8814. 4520 W. Eight Mile Road, Stockton.

Ongoing Events

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

Jan. 10. 1000 C St.

Wilton Bingo – First Saturday each month. The next bingo will be on Saturday, Jan. 3 in the Wilton Community Center. Doors open at 5 p.m. with food available for sale and bingo starts at 6 p.m. All proceeds go to two nonprofits: the local Park Council and the Wilton History Group. 9717 Colony Road at Dillard Road, Wilton.

Library Events

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

Friday, Dec. 26: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 31: English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Veterans Meetings

American Legion Post 55, Veterans and Auxiliary Units – fourth Wednesdays; dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove. Breakfast: second Saturday, 8-10 a.m., 8830 Sharkey Ave., Elk Grove.

American Legion Post 233 and Auxiliary Unit 233 – fourth Thursdays, 7 p.m., Elks Lodge, 9240 Survey Road, Elk Grove. Dinner at 6 p.m. Next January 2026.

Post 233 Family Breakfast – first Saturdays, 9 a.m., Mimi's Café

Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 233 – first Mondays, 5:45 p.m., Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove.

Marine Corps League Detachment #1238 – first Thursdays; dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., District 56 Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove.

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

MEETING MINDERS

Sunday, Jan. 4

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

Monday, Jan. 5

Lodi Parkinson's Support Group, 10 a.m., GracePoint Church, 801 Lower Sacramento Road (enter off Tokay Street), Lodi; 209-269-1080 or 209-329-1185. Galt Youth Commission, 6:30 p.m.,

Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive.

Tuesday, Jan. 6

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

Wednesday, Jan. 7

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

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

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

Friday, Jan. 9

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

Saturday, Jan. 10

Kiwanis Club of Galt meets at 8:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the Comfort Inn, 10380 Twin Cities Road.

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

Thursday, Jan. 15

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.

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. ★

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Spelling Bee Showcases Talent at Valley Oaks

By MPG Staff

GALT, CA (MPG) - Valley Oaks Elementary held its annual spelling bee on Wednesday, Dec. 17.

A new winner was awarded the Spelling Bee Champion: sixth grader Alexa Meza. The championship word was “deferential,” which she spelled correctly in the 14th round after going three rounds head-to-head with runner-up Clarissa Contreras.

Eleven other students from third to sixth grade participated in the 14-round spelling bee before Alexa Meza was crowned the champion.

Third-grader Clarissa Contreras earned second



Valley Oaks Elementary Principal David Nelson takes the podium during the 2025-26 Spelling Bee on Dec. 17.

place, and third-grader Sophia Cueva earned third.

The participants included Clarissa Contreras (third grade), Sophia Cueva (third grade), Aleena Ali (third grade), Zuleyka Cervantes (fourth grade), Sofia Vera (fourth grade), Beatriz Angeles Juarez (fifth grade), Valeria Tamez

(fifth grade), Sebastian Castellanos (sixth grade), Elijah Gaona (sixth grade), Riley Hutchason (sixth grade) and Alexa Meza (sixth grade).

Guest judges included Valley Oaks teacher Tiffany Lourence and District Superintendent Lois Yount. ★



Pictured from left are Valley Oaks Elementary Principal David Nelson, spelling bee champion Alexa Meza (sixth grade), third-place finisher Sophia Cueva (third grade) and runner-up Clarissa Contreras (third grade). Photos courtesy of Valley Oaks Elementary

City Approves Council Raise, 18 Full-Time Positions

Continued from page 1

said. “But what we have to realize is that this job takes a lot of work.”

Farmer said the increase could encourage working-class residents to run for office by accounting for time away from work and family. He also noted that council pay has not been raised in 25 years.

“I don’t think anybody would say you could expect someone to do a good job and put 100% effort into their work for 25 years without a raise. It’s just not fair; it’s not practical,” Farmer said, adding that no current council members would benefit from the increase.

Mayor Bonnie Rodriguez agreed, drawing on her 20 years covering local government.

“I’ve watched sacrifices of family time, vacations; they’re taking time off of work... I think that it’s a little naive to

think that it’s simply just a couple of meetings here and there. So, I wholeheartedly agree,” she said.

Sandhu expressed reservations, stating, “It’s very hard for me to empathize with this kind of increase.”

While acknowledging the views of fellow councilmembers, Sandhu argued that serving on the city council should be considered voluntary public service.

Farmer requested adding a provision requiring future councils to revisit the issue every five years to avoid long gaps between reviews. Rodriguez agreed, noting the amount could change based on future cost-of-living increases. Vice Mayor Tim Reed supported adding the provision, as did Councilmember Mathew Pratton.

“If you’re uncomfortable taking the money, you can donate it...” Pratton said.

“You can do that publicly; you don’t have to do it publicly, but I believe people should get paid for their time.”

The council approved the ordinance 4-1, with Sandhu voting no.

Following the vote, the council turned to the transition of 18 part-time employees to full-time status within the Parks and Recreation and Finance departments effective January 2026. Cobey said the change would ensure compliance with the Affordable Care Act after an internal analysis found some city employees were not being properly covered.

Staff recommended the transition to avoid potential penalties and achieve cost savings, as well as setting maximum weekly hour limits and reducing remaining part-time staff hours to 28 per week to stay in compliance with the Affordable Care Act.

Several councilmembers raised concerns about part-time employees who could see reduced hours as a result of the change. Vice Mayor Tim Reed said that for those facing potential reductions, there would likely be little to no change for employees already working 28 hours or fewer.

“I think yes there are going to be some that have their hours reduced, the ones that don’t unfortunately get the full-time positions, but I think there’s going to be several that do not see any change,” said Reed, noting that he agrees that those working up to 30 hours or more as part-time employees need the promotion.

Staff clarified that employees who did not transition to full-time during this time may be eligible for promotion should future vacancies become available.

The council approved the item, along with a side letter agreement with a local union, on a 5-0 vote. Staff also noted the city’s scheduled Jan. 6, 2026, meeting has been canceled. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



As the vaunted Houston Rockets entered Golden One Arena Sunday night with a gaudy 17-8 record was there anyone that could have conceived the Sacramento Kings would rebound the Rockets 55-47? You would be hard pressed to find someone, but that’s exactly what the Kings did, resulting in a hard fought 125-124 win!

Sitting just behind the Kings bench I was saddened by the number of empty seats that I gazed upon, and I found myself wondering why so many fans made the decision to stay home just days before Christmas.

Why not take the family out and celebrate the great careers of players like Russell Westbrook and DeMar DeRozan, leading the team to a holiday victory? That’s exactly what they did, and coming back from a double deficit hole in the fourth quarter the Kings ended regulation on a torrid 17-2 frenetic scoring stretch that sent the game into overtime.

Future hall of famer Russell Westbrook hit a 3-pointer with just seconds left in regulation to put a hard-fought contest into overtime, much to the delight of Golden One holiday crowd.

DeMar DeRozan led the Kings with 27 big points while teammate Russell Westbrook added 21 points of his own to go with 13 monster rebounds. Yes, Kings fans, the veterans came to play and, on this night, they came to win!

All knotted at 112 apiece the Kings would end their losing streak after suffering back-to-back losses to the Portland Trailblazers, and it was an unlikely 3-pointer from Dennis Schroder with 2.2 seconds left on the clock that would propel the Kings to victory.

Kevin Durant’s 20-footer with one second remaining would miss the mark sending home a jubilant Sacramento Kings crowd. No one seemed to mind the rain as fans made their way to their cars, because on this night, the hometown ballers put on a show.

Doug Christie’s decision to finally focus on the young players is starting to pay dividends, but his reluctance to play Devin Carter and Keon Ellis is a mystery to me.

Rather than give minutes to Devin Carter, the organization sent this 1st round draft choice to the G-league where he will get

all the minutes he wants. While I agree that court time is what Carter needs, I believe real NBA talent is what he needs to be up against.

If the Kings want to see what the team’s youth have to offer let’s put them all out there. Both Carter and Ellis represent the defensive presence that coach Christie has been barking about, so why not let them show what they can do. Finally, put together a real plan of attack and get the message out there. Let the veterans do what they do, while giving substantial minutes to the young players at the same time.

Most of all, find a rotation that makes sense and not something new every game. Putting Malik Monk of the bench for two and three games at a time makes absolutely no sense, and it belittles a talent that took considerably less money to stay in Sacramento. Malik showed where his heart is, now show Malik that you value his skills.

Once again, the inability to access talent accurately rises to the top, and this coaching staff needs to get it together.

Games like this victory over the Thunder do not have to be an aberration if this coaching staff will find rotations that make sense. It’s not rocket science, so do it!

Without question this team misses Domantas Sabonis and apparently, he is not returning anytime soon, so use your veterans wisely and play the legs off the youngsters.

Fans have their favorite players, and if the messaging coming from Kings is correct, some of your favorite players may soon be taking up residence elsewhere. I for one, hope Domantas Sabonis remains a foundation piece and Sacramento fans can witness his high intensity style of play for years to come.

In the meantime, remember this: The Sacramento Kings have proven on any given night this team can defeat any NBA team in America. The talent is here, and now is the time to come and see future hall-of-famers in action. Get out and support this team because they are playing hard!

Keep the faith Kings fans and have a very Merry Christmas!

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

Newsom’s \$18 Billion Budget Gap Has Roots in Pandemic Aid Ending



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

When Gov. Gavin Newsom unveils his first draft of the state’s 2026-27 budget next month, he’ll reveal whether he intends to deal squarely with its chronic, multi-billion-dollar deficit or punt the shortfall to his successor.

Legislative Analyst Gabe Petek, the Legislature’s independent fiscal advisor, estimates the state faces an \$18 billion gap between projected spending and likely revenues next year and, if left unaddressed, the deficit will grow to \$35 billion a year.

Meanwhile, Petek says, the state has run up \$21.6 billion in off-the-books debt to cover deficits in recent fiscal years.

Petek and others have warned about the possibility of a serious recession afflicting the national economy which would exacerbate the budget’s imbalance and strain California’s emergency reserves, which have already been tapped to cover shortfalls.

Even without a recession, California’s economy is, in Petek’s words, “sluggish.” Jobs are shrinking, and at 5.6% of the labor force, California’s unemployment rate remains the highest of any state.

The recent history of papering over deficits with gimmicks and borrowed money is not an encouraging

signal of a forthright approach. However, perhaps Newsom will opt to balance California’s books before embarking on a near-certain presidential campaign.

Unfortunately, the state is not alone in being plagued by yawning gaps between income and outgo. Throughout California, school districts, cities, counties and other units of local government are facing deficits rooted in the same dynamics that led to red ink in state finances – immense injections of federal relief funds during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It’s been estimated that the feds pumped as much as \$600 billion into California through state and local governments to counteract the pandemic’s economic impacts, not counting many other billions that businesses and individuals received directly.

The federal aid gave officials cash to spend with few safeguards and fueled a short-lived jolt of taxes, particularly income taxes.

The Newsom administration interpreted the windfall as a permanent increase in revenue that led the governor to declare, in 2022, a \$97.5 billion surplus. He and the Legislature immediately ramped up spending. But the surplus never materialized, and eventually the administration acknowledged that it had over-estimated revenues by \$165 billion four years.

By then, however, the additional spending, especially for an expansion of medical care, was lodged in state law, and the state was left with what is termed a “structural deficit” in the \$20 billion range.

Meanwhile, local governments and school districts were using their pandemic

aid to satisfy the demands by employee unions for salary increases, which often could not be covered once the federal aid vanished. Inflation in living costs ratcheted up union salary demands even further.

A new report by the Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team, which monitors California school district finances, examined the chronically troubled Sacramento City Unified School District and described how federal aid led to its financial quicksand.

The report catalogued the district’s history of overspending revenues and said, “This (federal) funding masked the district’s existing structural deficit, delaying the necessary actions to be taken to address it.”

Even after the federal aid stopped, the district continued to sign union contracts calling for raises that it could not afford. And it failed to implement the cost-saving steps it had pledged to balance its budget, the analysis found.

The budget problems in other school districts – Oakland Unified is a notorious example – and in local governments such as the City of Los Angeles have a similar ring. School trustees and city council members, elected with union support, squandered federal aid. Then they approved unsustainable contracts and blamed the resulting deficits on insufficient revenue.

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. ★

Navigating Family Dynamics and Grief During the Holidays

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The holiday season is most often described as joyful, warm and full of celebration, but many people experience something more complex, like dreading gatherings knowing they can stir up stress, old patterns or emotional triggers and even intensify the grief of missing a loved one that's passed.

If this time of year feels complicated, that's perfectly normal. The holidays come with expectations, routines and memories that can heighten emotions.

Let's unpack why emotions run high in December and look at tools to deal with complex situations during the holidays.

Some factors that may contribute to complex emotions in December and getting triggered include: stepping into old family roles, feeling pressure to keep the peace, encountering conversations that feel sensitive or overwhelming, missing someone deeply during gatherings, being reminded of past losses or difficult years, old tensions, feeling judged or misunderstood, unresolved conflicts and changes in relationships

Any of these factors might lead to a triggering event where someone feels signs of irritability and withdrawing feelings. These reactions are normal. It's the body responding to a situation that feels intense.

Here are some tools to stay



Emotions may run high during holiday family gatherings. Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services provide a myriad of services to help residents navigate mental health struggles during the holidays. Photo courtesy of Anchiy via iStock

grounded in these moments.

Take pauses: A short walk, a moment outside, or even a trip for a water refill can give space for the body and mind to reset.

Set boundaries gently: Boundaries are an act of self-care, not conflict. It is okay to say, "I'd rather not talk about that right now," or "I need a moment," or "I'm going to step outside for a bit."

Reach out to someone supportive: A quick text or call can make a person feel less alone.

Practice grounding: Noticing five things, place feet firmly on the ground and take slow breaths

to regulate the nervous system.

Permission to feel: You don't have to force cheerfulness. It's okay to feel sad, tired, hopeful or anything in between.

Reflecting after the gathering: When things quiet down, take a moment to reflect and check in. What felt comforting? What felt difficult? What do I need moving forward?

Grief doesn't follow a schedule, and the holidays can magnify feelings of loss. Reminders appear everywhere – traditions, music, foods, photos and empty chairs that used to be filled.

Some ways to honor a loved

one might include lighting a candle in their memory, cooking their favorite dish, sharing stories with friends or family, writing them a letter or creating a small ritual that brings comfort.

There is no right or wrong way to grieve. Your journey is yours.

Family dynamics can be complicated and grief can feel heavy, especially during the holiday season. If this time of year brings emotional overwhelm, talking with someone can make a real difference, whether that's a friend, community member, support group or a behavioral

health professional.

Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services provide a myriad of services to help residents navigate mental health struggles during the holidays.

Sacramento County's CORE Community Wellness Centers offer drop-in centers for mental health resources. For more information or to locate centers, visit: dhs.sacounty.gov/BHS/Pages/Adult-Mental-Health/CORE%20Program.aspx

Behavioral Health Services-Screening and Coordination (BHS-SAC) offers access and coordination of services in Sacramento County. For more information, visit: dhs.sacounty.gov/BHS/Pages/BHS-SAC.aspx

Mental Health America offers a variety of mental health and crisis resources. Visit mhanational.org/crisis-services/ for more information.

The NAMI Support Line offers emotional support, mental health information and resources. For more information, visit www.nami.org/support-education/nami-helpline/

Everyone deserves peace, connection and care this holiday season.

If you or someone you know is struggling with thoughts of self-harm or hopelessness, you can call or text 988 for immediate support or visit the county's Mental Health Urgent Care Clinic, 2130 Stockton Boulevard, Building 300, Sacramento, CA or call (916) 520-2460. ★

Rise In Local Salmonella Case Data Linked to Statewide Outbreak

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Salmonella cases rose above normal levels in Sacramento County this fall due to an outbreak linked to contaminated eggs from Vega Farms, Inc., a Dixon, CA based company. Case counts are anticipated to decrease following the voluntary recall by Vega Farms, Inc.

"We urge residents and businesses to check for recalled eggs and follow recall guidance to protect themselves and help prevent additional illnesses," said Dr. Olivia Kasirye, Sacramento County public health officer.

Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) are warning residents and

local businesses not to eat, sell or serve recalled in-shell eggs distributed by Vega Farms, Inc. Consumers should throw recalled eggs away or return them to the place of purchase for a refund, and businesses must not sell or serve recalled eggs.

Sacramento County Public Health is providing data to the California Department of Public Health and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to support the ongoing investigation of a Salmonella Enteritidis outbreak linked to contaminated eggs and to ensure recalled products are removed from local stores and restaurants.

California Department of Public Health has confirmed 66 cases linked to the outbreak statewide, 49 of which are reported



Pictured are sample packages of recalled Vega Farms eggs. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

cases from Sacramento County. There have been 13 hospitalizations and no deaths. The high

number of outbreak cases in Sacramento County aligns with the distribution area of Vega Farms eggs (Davis

and Sacramento).

Sacramento County recorded 39 total Salmonella cases in September, 48 total cases in October and 36 total cases in November. These case counts were all above the three-year average for each month, with the increase directly tied to the outbreak.

Consumers should not eat recalled eggs and should throw them away or return them to the place of purchase for a refund.

Businesses should not sell or serve any of the recalled eggs.

Consumers and businesses should wash and sanitize items and surfaces that may have come into contact with the recalled eggs using hot soapy water or a dishwasher.

Anyone finding these products for sale should call the California Department

of Public Health Complaint Hotline at (800) 495-3232 or submit an electronic report to California Department of Public Health's Food and Drug Branch.

Consumers who become sick after eating the recalled eggs should call their health care provider. Salmonella infection symptoms usually begin six hours to six days after exposure and include diarrhea, fever and stomach cramps.

Illness typically lasts four to seven days, and most people recover without medical treatment. But for some people, the symptoms may be so severe that treatment or hospitalization is needed. Children younger than 5 years of age, adults 65 and older and people with weakened immune systems are more likely than others to get very sick. ★

TOT Grant Program Available for Local Non-Profits

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors is continuing its commitment to supporting local non-profit organizations through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Grant Program. A total of \$1 million in grant funding will be available to eligible non-profit organizations operating in Sacramento County.

Since 2017, the Board of Supervisors has allocated Transient Occupancy Tax grant funds to organizations delivering community-based programs and services

in the areas of economic and workforce development, arts and culture, community development, and health and human services. This marks the eighth consecutive year of investment and strengthening local communities through this initiative.

The application period opens Jan. 5, 2026, at 8 a.m. and closes Feb. 6, 2026 at 5 p.m. Applications must be submitted online via the TOT Grant Portal (www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=sacco).

It's important to note that late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Applicants will receive an electronic confirmation upon successful submission.

A grant workshop will be held via Zoom (registration required) from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Jan. 20, 2026. Register at: sacounty-net.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/4yp340UwSomN-zkfyG25pw#/registration

The topics covered will be program overview and eligibility, insurance requirements, application content and guidance, a submission timeline and live Q&A.

From Feb. 9 to 20, 2026, county staff will review applications for completeness and compliance with minimum eligibility requirements. Applicants will be notified electronically if proposals do not meet the minimum qualifications and will not continue the

evaluation process.

From Feb. 23 to May 13, 2026, qualifying applications will be reviewed, evaluated, and ranked. The Board of Supervisors will establish funding allocations for each application according to its ranking. Allocations will be determined in alignment with established evaluation criteria, and the strategic priorities of the Board. This process will help demonstrate the greatest potential impact.

In June 2026, final award decisions will be made by the Board of Supervisors during a public hearing. Applicants will be notified of the hearing schedule and final decisions electronically within five business days of Board approval.

In July 2026, county staff will begin drafting and executing grant agreements with selected organizations.

The TOT Grant Program is funded by revenue generated from the County's Transient Occupancy Tax, which is collected from guests staying in hotels, motels, and other short-term lodging within unincorporated areas of Sacramento County.

For more information, including eligibility criteria and application instructions, please visit the TOT Grant Program website.

For eligibility and grant program questions, contact: SacCountyTOTAdmin@sacounty.gov ★

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County is proud to announce that the Department of

Child, Family, and Adult Services (DCFAS) has been named the winner of the inaugural Social Sector Hero of the Year Award by Clear Impact.

This international recognition celebrates organizations that

demonstrate exceptional measurable impact, transparency and a commitment to continuous improvement in their communities. Clear Impact is an organization that offers software, training and support to

help governments, non-profits and communities keep track of their programs, see how their work is making a difference and share their progress.

Each winner has been recognized for strong alignment with

Clear Impact's Social Sector Hero strategies, particularly the use of storytelling to connect data with real-life impact.

To learn more, visit SocialSectorHero.com/Award. ★

Department of Child, Family and Adult Services Awarded for Commitment to Community

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-08340
Debra E. Meixner and Thomas E. Meixner, 661 Crow Creek Drive, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Eagle RV" 661 Crow Creek Drive, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 10, 2025
Publish: Dec 26, Jan 2, 9, 16, 2026
EAGLE 1-16-26

ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
#25CV027785
Cristina Olga Noble Lockie has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Cristina Olga Noble Lockie to Cristina Cheyenne Lockie.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on May 12, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 54, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.

Dated: November 17, 2025
Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: December 5, 12, 19, 26, 2025
LOCKIE 12-26-25

TRUSTEE SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
T.S. No. 25-01713-RM-CA Title No. RTSG2506-CA-3932778 A.P.N. 148-0270-002-0000 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 03/13/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check(s) drawn on a state or national bank must be made payable to National Default Servicing Corporation, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state; will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the here-

inafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made in an "as is" condition, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: Raul L. Jara and Celia L. Jara, his wife, as joint tenants Duly Appointed Trustee: National Default Servicing Corporation Recorded 03/20/2006 as Instrument No. Book 20060320 Page 1171 (or Book, Page) of the Official Records of Sacramento County, California. Date of Sale 01/29/2026 at 1:30 PM Place of Sale: At the east main entrance to the county courthouse, 720 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$482,174.62 Street Address or other common designation of real property: 1018 Tudor Street, Galt, CA 95632 A.P.N.:

148-0270-002-0000 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The requirements of California Civil Code Section 2923.5(b)/2923.55(c) were fulfilled when the Notice of Default was recorded. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge

you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 714-730-2727 or visit this internet website www.ndscorp.com/sales, using the file number assigned to this case 25-01713-RM-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are a "representative of all eligible tenant buyers" you may be able to purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if

you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 888-264-4010, or visit this internet website www.ndscorp.com. using the file number assigned to this case 25-01713-RM-CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as a "representative of all eligible tenant buyers" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code, the potential rights described herein shall apply only to public auctions taking place on or after January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2025, unless later extended. Date: 12/11/2025 National Default Servicing Corporation c/o Tiffany and Bosco, P.A., its agent, 1455 Frazee Road, Suite 820 San Diego, CA 92108 Toll Free Phone: 888-264-4010 Sales Line 714-730-2727; Sales Website: www.ndscorp.com Connie Hernandez, Trustee Sales Representative A-4860692
12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026
GALT HERALD 01-02-2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE LIPPI RANCH TENTATIVE SUBDIVISION MAP TIME EXTENSION

Notice is hereby given that the Galt Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing in the Council Chamber of Galt City Hall, 380 Civic Drive, Galt, California, on the date and time indicated below, or as soon thereafter that the matter can be heard, to receive and consider all evidence and reports relative to the application described herein. The Planning Commission will act on the application.

PROJECT TITLE: Lippi Ranch Tentative Subdivision Map Time Extension

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located east of Freedom Boulevard / 2nd Street at the terminus of 3rd Street, and west of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPF) tracks.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Lippi Ranch Subdivision Project is an entitled residential development of 94 single-family residences. The project required approval of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and adoption of a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), and approval of a General Plan Amendment (GPA), Rezone, Tentative Subdivision Map (TSM), and Design Review (DR). Galt City Council approved the project on December 19, 2023 with a TSM expiration date of December 19, 2025. The applicant applied for a three-year map extension on December 9, 2025 in accordance with Galt Municipal Code 18.64.040.13, wherein upon written request of the subdivider filed prior to expiration of the approved or conditionally approved tentative map, the time at which such map expires may be extended by the Planning Commission in its sole discretion for a period or periods not exceeding a total of three (3) years.

There are no modifications proposed to the map configuration and layout.

OWNER/APPLICANT: TTLG Galt – Lippi Ranch, LLC
110 Blue Ravine Road, Suite 150
Folsom, CA 95630

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING:

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, January 8, 2026; 6:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter that the matter can be heard.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed project or wish to review the tentative maps or other details prior to the public hearing, please contact Kristyn Bitz, Principal Planner at 209-366-7230 or kbitz@cityofgalt.org.

NOTICE REGARDING CHALLENGES TO DECISIONS

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

Dated: December 26, 2025

/s/ Kristyn Bitz
Kristyn Bitz, Principal Planner

/s/ Tina Hubert
Tina Hubert, City Clerk

The Galt Herald 12-26-2025

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Galt Joint Union High School District, California, acting by and through its Governing Board, hereinafter referred to as the District is requesting proposals, for the award of E-Rate contracts for the following:

FY26, Form 470 #260010184
Category 2: Internal Connections-Cabling
1 Site, Approximately 11 Fiber Runs

MANDATORY JOB WALK: January 9th, 2026, at 10:00 AM. Galt High School, 145 N. Lincoln Way, Galt, CA 95632-1720. Attendees must attend the full walk. Attendance will be taken at the beginning and the end of the meeting. Only vendors that attend the entirety of the walk will be qualified to submit a RFP response.

This is a Public Works project and will require Bonds and Insurance. Prevailing wage rates must be paid and Certified Payroll Records submitted at the conclusion of the projects. This project requires the services of contractors holding a valid California C7 or C10 contractor's license that will be current for the entire installation. Contractor must be familiar with SB854 and its requirements. This is an E-Rate funded project. Vendor must participate in the E-Rate Program and must provide a Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) and Federal Registration Number (FCC-FRN) with the proposal.

This RFP is pursuant to Public Contract Codes 20118.2, 20111, and 22000.

All public works projects shall be subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the department of industrial relations.

Pursuant to California Labor Code sections 1725.5 and 1771.1 all public works contractors and subcontractors must be registered with the department of industrial relations.

FY26, Form 470 #260009013
Category 2: Internal Connections/Network Electronics/BMIC/MIBS

Electronic proposals for both Form 470 will be accepted up to but not later than February 12, 2026 10:00 AM PST. The RFP and all addendum(s), questions and answers will be posted to the E-Rate EPC website at <https://portal.usac.org/suite/> The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive informality in any proposals received, even with SLF funding approval. In addition, the district reserves the right to deny any or all proposals associated with this RFP, even with SLD funding approval. The district reserves the right to accept the pricing proposal solely dependent upon SLD approval.

The Galt Herald 12-26-2025 and 1-2-2026

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-12

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALT, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE DISTRICT ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF GALT FOR THE SHEFFIELD SUBDIVISION PROJECT

WHEREAS, FDC Nor-Cal Corp. submitted an application to the City for subdivision and development of approximately ±9.5 acres containing a single, vacant home into 65 individual lots with a single-family home on each resulting in a 6.84 du/ac density, a project commonly referred to as the Sheffield Subdivision Project (Project) and which requires approval of a General Plan Amendment (GPA), Specific Plan Amendment, Rezone, and Tentative Subdivision Map (TSM); and

WHEREAS, the Project is proposed at 13315 E Stockton Boulevard (Assessor Parcel Numbers 150-0012-007, -025, and -026); and

WHEREAS, the Project has a proposed 6.84 du/ac density and the Property is zoned Low-Density Single-Family Residential (R1A), which only allow a density of 6 du/ac, whereas Medium-Density Residential Planned Development (R2) zoning permits up to 8 du/ac, thus, a rezone is necessary to effectuate the Project as shown in EXHIBIT A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, the Project has unique attributes and aspects that make application of a planned development (PD) overlay necessary, allowing minor deviations from the underlying zoning standards particular to lot sizes which are further detailed in EXHIBIT B, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, staff has reviewed the proposed Project, requirements for a rezone, and the underlying General Plan and zoning policies, goals, and criteria and determined that the requisite findings may be made to support a rezone to R2 with a PD overlay (R2-PD) as to the Project site; and

WHEREAS, a duly noticed public hearing on the rezone for the Property was held by the Planning Commission on November 13, 2025 and the Planning Commission reviewed the rezone for the Property, considered all evidence in the record including the staff report, supporting documentation, and oral and written comments, and, using their independent judgement, recommended approval of said rezone and PD overlay; and

WHEREAS, all potential environmental impacts resulting from the Project, including this rezone, were analyzed, addressed, and, where necessary, mitigated pursuant to the IS/MND and MMRP for the Project adopted by the City Council on December 2, 2025 and no further CEQA review is required; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission based its recommendation to approve the requested rezone on the findings set forth below and the proposed adoption of an Environmental Impact Report and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2025, the City Council held duly noticed public hearing at which all persons wishing to testify in connection with the rezone and PD overlay were heard and the proposed rezone and PD overlay was comprehensively reviewed; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has approved Resolution 2025-____ adopting the IS/MND and MMRP prepared for the General Plan amendment, North East Area Specific Plan amendment, proposed rezone and PD overlay, and Tentative Subdivision Map, pursuant to the provisions and requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Res. Code § 21000 et seq.: "CEQA") and the City Council finds that the documentation prepared complies therewith.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALT, CALIFORNIA, does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. Purpose. Based on the entire record before the City Council and all written and oral evidence presented, the City Council finds that this Ordinance promotes the public health, safety, and welfare of the community because: (i) the rezone assists with the facilitation of the development of the Project Site, which encourages a slightly denser residential site use to meet the diverse needs of Galt's residents while preserving the residential character of the area and serving as a transition to lower-density developments; (ii) the Project Site is located adjacent to land that has already been developed in a manner that is complementary to the proposed rezone; and (iii) the Project Site would otherwise remain vacant or underutilized given its current land use designations and site constraints if the rezone is not implemented, and such use would not be in the best interest of the public health, safety and general welfare of the community.

SECTION 2. Findings. Pursuant to Galt Municipal Code section 18.68.150(B) and based on the entire record before the City Council, including all written and oral evidence presented, the City Council hereby finds that the project is consistent with the Galt General Plan because:

A. The Planning Commission finds that approval of the requested rezone from R1A to R2-PD is consistent with the City's General Plan and Northeast Area Specific Plan because the Project that the rezone supports proposes to divide a relatively vacant large parcel and develop single-family homes on medium sized lots in an area already developed into single-family, residential uses of similar density and sizes, designated by the NEASP and General Plan for such uses, and considered under the NEASP and General Plan long term goals and policies for such. The rezone modifies the underlying land use designation for the major purpose of allowing slightly more dense housing than initially anticipated. This use type, intensity, and design aligns with NEASP and General Plan goals specifically related to increasing housing in the City, providing diverse housing opportunities, phased housing production, providing housing supported by existing infrastructure and public services, and building housing in existing residential areas. The City Council further incorporates herein by reference, those certain findings made as reflected in the applicable portions of the staff report that accompanied this agenda item.

B. The public necessity, convenience, and general welfare permit the rezone. The rezone provides for the development of diverse housing opportunities in an area already surrounded by residential uses of similar density and lot sizes thereby promotes the public necessity, convenience, and general welfare by advancing thoughtful planning and providing housing opportunities above that initially anticipated during a housing crisis.

C. The rezone was adequately considered in the IS/MND and MMRP and no further CEQA review is required.

SECTION 3. Rezone. The Official District Zoning Map of the City of Galt, established by Galt Municipal Code Sections 18.12.020 and 18.12.030, is hereby amended in order to rezone from Low-Density Single-Family Residential District (R1A) to Medium-Density Residential District Planned Development (R2-PD) those 9.50 ± acres of land identified as APNs 150-0012-007, -025, and -026 as described in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein in conformance with the Galt Planning Commission recommendation at a public hearing held November 13, 2025, and the City Council decision at the public hearing held December 2, 2025.

SECTION 4. No Mandatory Duty of Care. This ordinance is not intended to and shall not be construed or given effect in a manner that imposes upon the City or any officer or employee thereof a mandatory duty of care toward persons and property within or without the City so as to provide a basis of civil liability for damages, except as otherwise imposed by law.

SECTION 5. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are severable. This City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this ordinance irrespective of the invalidity of any particular portion thereof.

SECTION 6. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its final passage and adoption.

SECTION 7. Notice. Within fifteen (15) days after its final passage, the City Clerk shall cause this ordinance to be published in full in accordance with Section 36933 of the Government Code.

The foregoing ordinance was introduced and the title thereof read at the regular meeting of the City Council the 2nd day of December, 2025 and by unanimous vote of the Council members present, further reading was waived.

On a motion by Council Member Farmer, seconded by Council Member Pratton, the foregoing ordinance was duly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Galt at a regular meeting thereof, this 16th day of December, 2025, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:	Council Members:	Pratton, Farmer, Rodriguez
NOES:	Council Members:	Reed
ABSTAIN:	Council Members:	
ABSENT:	Council Members:	Sandhu

/s/ Bonnie Rodriguez
MAYOR, City of Galt

ATTEST:
/s/ Tina Hubert
City Clerk, City of Galt

The Galt Herald 12-26-2025

POLICE LOGS

During the time period of Dec. 16 to Dec. 21, Galt Police received and responded to a variety of calls, resulting in 10 arrests.

Dec. 16

12:50 p.m., Fraud reported, Lake Park Circle: Unknown subject took money from Cash App account to purchase gift cards.

1:39 p.m., Suspicious Circumstances, Valley Oaks Senior Apartments on Oak

Avenue: Phone scam.
2:31 p.m., Theft reported, B Street: Teal Huffy bicycle with black accents stolen from driveway.

Dec. 17

4:20 p.m., Warrant Served/ Adult arrest, B Street.

Dec. 19

8:17 a.m., Stolen Vehicle reported, Meladee Lane: Vehicle windshield with suspected bullet

holes.
11:05 a.m., Theft reported, Amador Avenue: Two ATVs, one motorcycle, Honda lawnmower and one pitching machine taken.

11:46 a.m., Vehicle Accident-Injury, Boessow Road/South Carillion Boulevard.

Disposition: Case Report Issued.

7:27 p.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, Caroline Avenue/Pine Street.

11:47 p.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, Twin Cities Road/Christensen

Road.

Dec. 20

5:20 p.m., Warrant Served/ Adult arrest, Galt Post Office on North Lincoln Way.

6:36 p.m., Warrant Served/ Adult arrest, Galt Mobile Estates on North Lincoln Way.

7:16 p.m., Warrant Served/ Adult arrest, West C Street.

11:59 p.m., Warrant Served/ Adult arrest, California Burrito on Fairway Drive.

Dec. 21

2:59 a.m., Warrant Served/ Adult arrest, Highway 99 Northbound/Mingo Road.

2:50 p.m., Theft reported, Mildred Avenue: Catalytic converter stolen.

6:06 p.m., Domestic Violence/ Adult Arrest, Port Ashton Court.

11:46 p.m., Narcotics Violation/Adult Arrest, Highway 99 Northbound/Walnut Avenue.



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TRUSTEE SALE

T.S. No.: 2019-02711-CA
A.P.N.: 128-0200-032-0000 / 820-0901-369-0000
Property Address: 12866 Orange Road, WILTON, CA 95693
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE PURSUANT TO CIVIL CODE § 2923.3(a) and (d), THE SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REFERRED TO BELOW IS NOT ATTACHED TO THE RECORDED COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT BUT ONLY TO THE COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR. IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 08/18/1998. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Trustor: ELIZABETH PERRY, An Unmarried Woman Duly Appointed Trustee: Western Progressive, LLC Deed of Trust Recorded 08/31/1998 as Instrument No. 199808310219 in book --, page-- and of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Sacramento County, California, Date of Sale: 02/03/2026 at 09:00 AM Place of Sale: EAST MAIN ENTRANCE, GORDON D. SCHABER SACRAMENTO

COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 720 9TH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 Estimated amount of unpaid balance, reasonably estimated costs and other charges: \$ 76,732.40 THE TRUSTEE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, A SAVINGS ASSOCIATION OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE: All right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described as: More fully described in said Deed of Trust. Street Address or other common designation of real property: 12866 Orange Road, WILTON, CA 95693 A.P.N.: 128-0200-032-0000 / 820-0901-369-0000 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remain-

ing principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$ 76,732.40. Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary of the Deed of Trust has executed and delivered to the undersigned a written request to commence foreclosure, and the undersigned caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property

itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on this property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (866)-

960-8299 or visit this Internet Web site <https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx> using the file number assigned to this case 2019-02711-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction, if conducted after January 1, 2021, pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (855)-976-3916, or visit this internet website <https://tracker.auction.com/sb1079>, using the file number assigned to this case 2019-02711-CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to

place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid, by remitting the funds and affidavit described in Section 2924m(c) of the Civil Code, so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: December 16, 2025 Western Progressive, LLC, as Trustee for beneficiary C/o 1500 Palma Drive, Suite 238 Ventura, CA 93003 Sale Information Line: (866) 960-8299 <https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx> Trustee Sale Assistant **This address must be used for the required delivery by certified or overnight mail of postponement requests as specified pursuant to Civil Code section 2924f(e). Published 12/26/2025, 01/02/2026, 01/09/2026 Galt Herald 01-09-26



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Boxing Day with Candy Canes



It is the day after Christmas and most of the people in the United States are enjoying the long Christmas weekend: doing a bit of Christmas money shopping, enjoying the snow, or movies, or just hanging out with family. However, according to Checkiday.com in the United Kingdom, Boxing Day is observed.

In seventeenth-century Great Britain, boxes holding presents or gratuities were given to tradesmen and workers in service industries for their previous year's work. This went back to an even earlier tradition where servants would wait on and serve their rich masters on Christmas Day and would visit and celebrate with their own families on the day after Christmas. Their rich masters would sometimes give them a box with leftover food, a bonus or another type of gift.

The day may have also stemmed from alms boxes that were put in Anglican churches on Christmas Day or during Advent and opened on the day after Christmas. These boxes collected money for the poor. Similarly, boxes were put outside of churches to collect money on Saint Stephen's Day, which is also held

the day after Christmas.

There is another possible source for the beginning of the day. Ships once set sail containing a box of money for good luck. If the trip was a success, the box would be given to a priest, and he would open it on Christmas and give it contents to the poor. More modern Boxing Day is a day of the gathering of family and friends. Leftovers from Christmas are commonly eaten. Popular foods include baked ham, mince pies, Christmas cakes and other desserts. Such as candy canes.

Popular during the holiday season, it is National Candy Cane Day, too! The cane-shaped hard candy is usually peppermint flavored and is white with red stripes. There is a lot of folklore surrounding the beginnings of the candy cane. Some say it was invented by priests in the 1400s and

was originally straight and solid white in color.

A popular legend claims that a choir-master at Cologne Cathedral in Cologne, Germany, bent straight sugar sticks in the shape of shepherd's staffs, and handed them out to children at living nativity services on Christmas Eve in 1670. There is a belief that candy canes then spread from Germany to the rest of Europe, where they were handed out at other nativity plays, leading to their association with Christmas. Another story says that in 1847, a German Swedish immigrant named August Imgard of Wooster, Ohio, asked a candy maker to add a crook to the canes to justify giving candy to children during worship services, to remind them of the shepherds who visited the baby Jesus. Imgard is also sometimes credited as being the first to put candy canes on trees.

Despite all the legends, here is what is known about candy canes. The first recorded evidence of stick candy dates to 1837. A recipe for straight peppermint candy sticks dates to 1844, and candy canes are mentioned in a book in 1866.

Their earliest verified association with Christmas is 1874, and candy canes have been hung on trees since at least 1882. Candy canes with red stripes first came about in early 1900s, and postcards before that time show only white colored candy canes. They were first made by hand, and patent machines for making them date to the early 1900s.

Candy canes are a cheerful addition to the Christmas decorations. I am not a fan of peppermint, but I definitely don't like the other flavors of candy canes, either. Some things just don't need to happen, and any candy cane other than red and white peppermint doesn't need to happen.

Maybe those other flavors should be made into another shape for other holidays, like heart shape for Valentines' Day or pretzel or shamrock shape for St. Patrick's Day, or pumpkin-shaped for Halloween.

I think I will stay in and extend the peace of Christmas today. And I look forward to the new year. From my family to yours, have a safe and blessed New Year.

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

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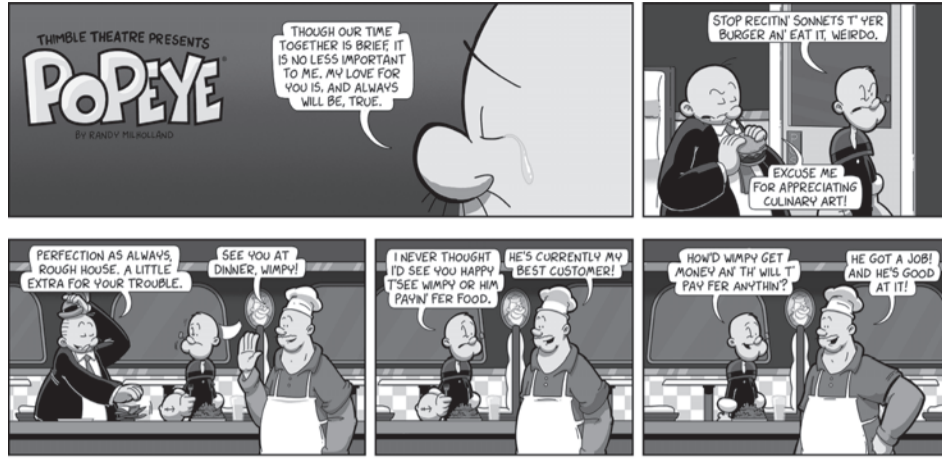
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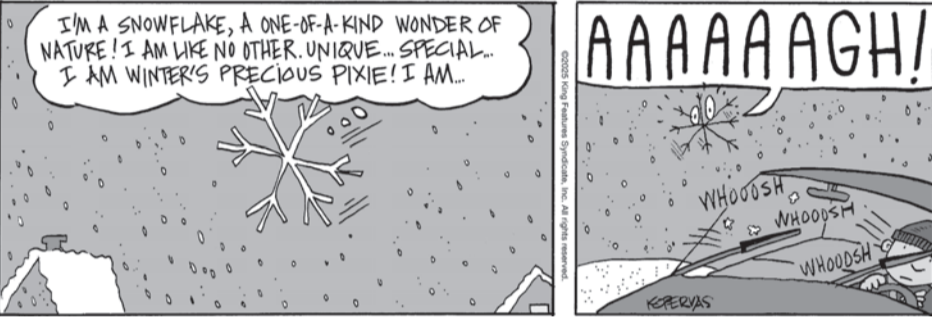
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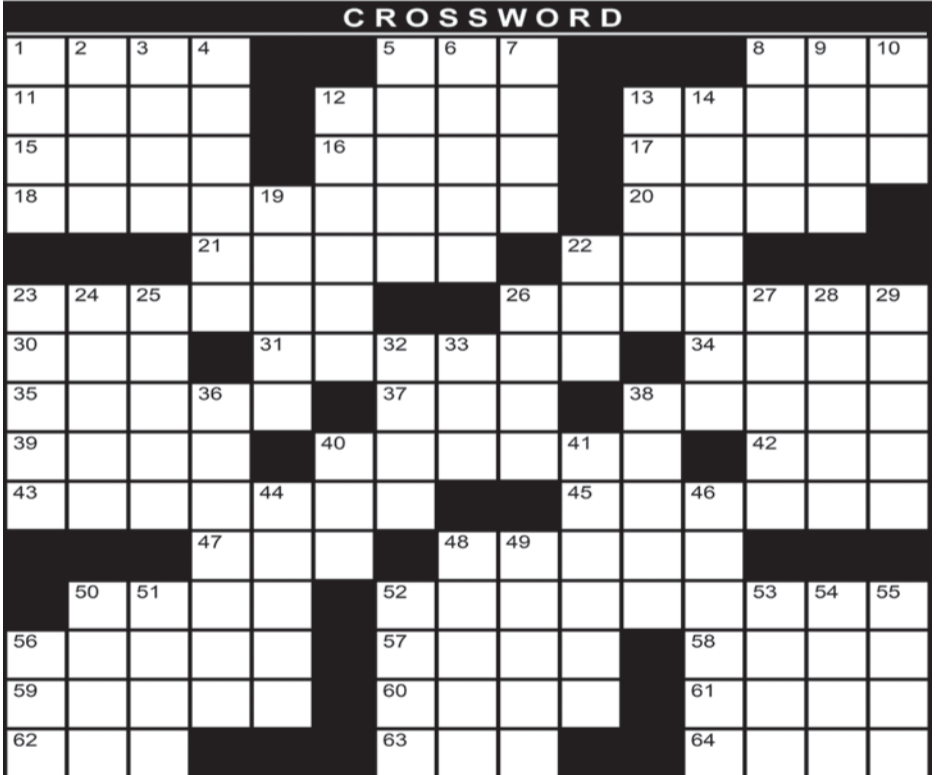
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 - Artist's inspiration
 - *Move head to show attention
 - Angry growl
 - Shamu, e.g.
 - Diva's number
 - Put on fancy dress (2 words)
 - *Making facial expression showing pain
 - Mine passage
 - Single-handedly
 - Assistance
 - Made according to specifications
 - Economizes
 - Biochemistry acr.
 - Aerie baby
 - Genesis skipper
 - Leaves out
 - *Some look up and to the right when telling one
 - Watcher
 - *The Forsyte _____ by John Galsworthy
 - Forty winks
 - Fraternity letter T
 - *Said "easy peasy" with fingers
 - Like a weight lifter, usually
 - Weasel-related onomatopoeia
 - Undo laces
 - Helicopter sound
 - *Showing low self-esteem or boredom
 - 100 centimes
 - Purl partner
 - From square one
 - Frustration, in a comic book
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 - Don't go
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 - Frustrated driver's recourse
- DOWN**
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 - Ascus, pl.
 - Same as sea moss (2 words)
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 - Dress with a flare
 - Rudolph, when older
 - Famous Christmas guests
 - Like some champagnes
 - High mountain
 - Toyota truck model
 - Part of flight
 - *Showing agreement
 - Healing plants
 - Be in a cast
 - *Show anger with arms
 - Unnerve
 - Eurasian antelope
 - "_____ but not heard"
 - Much, in Italy
 - Song of praise
 - *"I don't know" move
 - *One's smiling because one's _____
 - Intoxicated
 - *Showing impatience with fingers
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 - Large edible mushroom

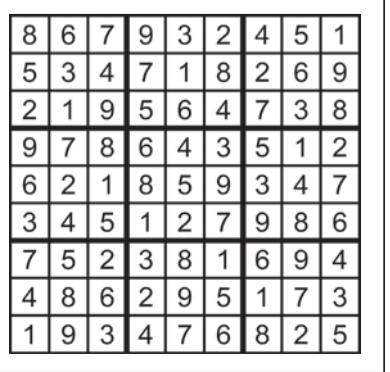


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Liberty Ranch Falls Short 70-65 After Erasing 17-Point Deficit

Story and photos
by Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - In a fast-paced, physical battle that showcased heart over rankings, the Liberty Ranch Hawks nearly pulled off a stunning upset against Division I powerhouse Sheldon High School before falling 70-65 in a game that came down to the final possessions.

The D4 Hawks trailed by as many as 17 points but stormed back in the second half, cutting the deficit to just three points in a furious rally that had the home crowd on the edges of their seats. Despite the loss, Liberty Ranch proved it could compete with one of the region's elite programs.

"The girls came out really strong. They stuck to the game plan," said new Head Coach Karrin Blevins. "We adjusted well. I can't ask anymore more of the team. They adjusted on the fly. They put in a defense they've never even run before. We brought back a 17-point deficit, made it a three-point basketball game."

Sheldon jumped out to an early 22-13 lead after the first quarter and maintained control through the first half, taking a 41-27 advantage into the break. But Liberty Ranch refused to fold.

The Hawks exploded for 23 points in the third quarter, their highest-scoring period of the game, cutting Sheldon's lead to just five points heading into the final frame. The comeback continued in the fourth as Liberty Ranch clawed within three points, setting up a tense finish.

Senior Haley Smith led the Hawks' offensive attack with a game-high 22 points on 8-of-18 shooting from the field. The versatile forward connected on three three-pointers, going 3 for 7 from beyond the arc, and added three free throws on four attempts. Smith dominated the glass with a team-high 10 rebounds for a double-double performance while dishing out three assists and recording a block and a steal.

Junior Kamrynn Blevins contributed 15 points while orchestrating the offense and keeping the Hawks in striking distance. Blevins battled through a tough shooting night, going 7 for 21 from the field and 1 for 6 from three-point range, but showcased her all-around game with a team-high eight assists, five rebounds and three steals. Her ability to distribute the ball and create opportunities for teammates was crucial in the comeback attempt.

Senior Madisyn Robbins provided efficient scoring with 12 points on 6-of-11 shooting from inside the arc. Robbins was a force on the boards with five rebounds and contributed three assists and two steals while committing just one foul.

Sophomore Cruz Gregorio matched Robbins with 12 points, shooting an impressive 6 for 9 from two-point range. Gregorio added five rebounds, three assists and played solid defense.



Junior Kamrynn Blevins is grabbed and pressured as she dribbles down the court.



Senior Madisyn Robbins floats to the basket.

Sophomore Lexi Williams came off the bench to provide a spark with two points on perfect 1-for-1 shooting. Williams also grabbed three rebounds, including two offensive boards, in limited minutes.

Junior Savannah Garbarino contributed two points on 1-for-1 shooting and made her presence felt on the glass with two rebounds while dishing out two assists and recording a steal.

For Sheldon, sophomore Saniah Wiley proved to be the difference-maker with a game-high 31 points in 31 minutes of action. Wiley was deadly from long range, connecting on 8 of 11 three-pointers while adding three two-point field goals. She converted one free throw on two attempts and contributed five rebounds and three assists.

Coach Blevins acknowledged the challenge of facing elite talent. "They have a couple phenomenal



Senior Haley Smith is sandwiched from both sides as she tries to get to the basket.

players who just were able to put the ball in the basket a few more times than we were, but there is nothing but all guts in battle," Blevins said.

Liberty Ranch shot 47 percent from the field overall (29 of 62) but struggled from beyond the arc, connecting on just 4 of 13 three-point attempts (31 percent). The Hawks were more efficient inside, shooting 51 percent (25 of 49) on two-point attempts. At the free-throw line, Liberty Ranch converted 3 of 5 attempts for 60 percent.

The Hawks were outrebounded 34-32 but showed tenacity on the offensive glass with 10 offensive rebounds leading to second-chance opportunities. Liberty Ranch recorded 19 assists on 29 field goals, demonstrating excellent ball movement, but committed 17 turnovers compared to just six for Sheldon.

Defensively, Liberty Ranch recorded

seven steals and three blocks while being whistled for eight personal fouls. The Hawks' ability to force Sheldon into difficult shots and create turnovers kept them in the game.

The loss provides a measuring stick for the Hawks as they continue their season under their new head coach. The ability to implement a new defensive scheme on the fly and nearly erase a 17-point deficit demonstrates the team's potential and fighting spirit.

Liberty Ranch will look to build on the positives from this competitive showing as it begins league play on Jan. 6 against Union Mine, where grit, determination and a balanced scoring attack should serve the Hawks well against division opponents. With six players contributing to the scoring column and a never-say-die attitude, the Hawks showed they have the pieces to compete at a high level. ★

Galt's Undefeated Streak Ends 5-1 Against Wildcats

Story and photos
by Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Galt Warriors' perfect season came to an end Friday night, Dec. 19 as they fell 5-1 to the Division I Franklin Wildcats in a rain-soaked match that featured slippery conditions and physical play.

Cold temperatures and intermittent rain created challenging conditions throughout the evening, leading to exciting sliding tackles and unpredictable ball movement on the wet pitch.

Despite the difficult circumstances, both teams battled through the elements in a contest that showcased the two talented teams.

Franklin, a skilled D1 program, jumped out to a 2-0 halftime lead before adding three more goals in the second half. The Warriors managed to break through for their lone goal in the second period, preventing the shutout.

Forward Noah Stratton led the Warriors' offensive



Forward Noah Stratton battles Franklin to get near the goal.

efforts, battling Franklin defenders to create scoring opportunities near the goal. Galt goalie Adam Preciado made several key saves throughout the match, including one spectacular stop that drew applause from the home crowd as he quickly distributed the ball to start a counterattack.

Rafael Bertho was a bright spot for the Warriors, showcasing his skills on both sides of the

ball. Bertho dribbled effectively down the sideline, creating space for his teammates, and won several crucial headers, including one impressive aerial battle where he out-jumped Franklin defenders.

The loss marks Galt's first defeat of the season after an impressive 6-0 start that saw the Warriors dominate league competition. Prior to Friday's match, Galt had outscored

opponents 33-2 while posting three shutouts.

The Warriors opened their campaign with convincing victories over Burbank (4-1) and Elk Grove (4-1) before rolling through league play. Galt defeated Cosumnes Oaks 5-1, blanked Rosemont 5-0, dominated Bradshaw Christian 8-0 and crushed El Dorado 7-0 to establish itself as the team to beat in league play.



Galt goalie Adam Preciado throws the ball after a save.



Rafael Bertho dribbles down the side of the pitch.

While the loss to Franklin snaps their winning streak, the Warriors remain undefeated in league competition and continue to control their own destiny in the race for a league championship.

Galt will look to bounce back and return to its winning ways as it continues league play in the coming weeks, where their dominant performances have made the Warriors the clear favorites. ★

New Era Begins for Galt High Basketball Under Coach Johnson



Galt High Boys basketball coach Hunter Johnson: "I have a great group of guys and they want to be great. We just have to put the work in."

Story and photos by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Hunter Johnson's excitement is palpable as he reflects on his recent promotion to varsity head coach at Galt High School. After two years leading the junior varsity program, Johnson is now tasked with elevating a basketball program searching for sustained success.

"I was very excited when I heard I got the promotion to varsity head coach," Johnson said. "This will be my third year with Galt and I think that we are moving in a positive direction in terms of skill development and culture."

Johnson's familiarity with the program gives him a significant advantage. Rather than arriving as an outsider, he inherits a foundation he helped to build as JV coach. His primary goal is establishing a winning culture that extends beyond the scoreboard.

"My main goal for varsity this year is to set the foundation for a winning mindset and culture regardless of our record," Johnson explained. "We have a young program with a big senior class this season, so I want everyone to have fun while building good habits and competing."

The challenge facing Johnson is substantial but not insurmountable. Galt



Coach Hunter Johnson directs the team during a recent timeout.

basketball has struggled to achieve consistent success, but Johnson believes the pieces are in place.

"It has been a while since Galt has seen real success in basketball and I want to establish a standard like soccer where playoffs are a goal that everyone believes is attainable," he said. "We have the talent and the drive; once we believe in ourselves the sky is the limit."

Johnson's coaching philosophy centers on effort, communication and teamwork.

"I believe that hard work

beats talent when talent doesn't work hard," he stated. "Communication and trust coupled with teamwork are the foundation of any good basketball team, and that is what I hope to instill in varsity."

The transition from JV to varsity has taught Johnson valuable lessons about the speed and intensity of high school basketball.

"The speed of the game and shot-making ability of players add a sense of pressure in how quickly you're able to make in-game adjustments," he noted. "When changing defensive

schemes or attacking certain areas of the floor, 3 minutes could mean a 15-point run."

Early returns suggest Johnson's approach is resonating with his players. Despite the team still finding its identity, Johnson has already witnessed meaningful improvement.

"I have absolutely seen progress since taking over the program," Johnson said. "From the first game the season until now we have grown and improved tremendously; we still have a lot to do but if we continue on this path we are

bound for success."

Johnson credits the character of his roster for the early progress.

"Our players are resilient, hardworking and very coachable," he said. "I have a great group of guys and they want to be great. We just have to put the work in."

Looking forward, Johnson has ambitious but achievable goals for the program. His vision extends well beyond this season, with clear benchmarks for success.

"My vision is section championship game within

the next five years and playoffs in two," Johnson stated.

To reach those goals, Johnson is implementing a comprehensive program development strategy that extends beyond the basketball court.

"My goal is to build a real program; summer and fall ball, weight training, team building, etc.," he explained. "I have a lot of ideas but No. 1 priority this season is to establish a winning culture and great habits on and off the court."

The relationship Johnson built as JV coach has smoothed his transition to the varsity helm. Most of his current players already know his system and expectations, creating a natural continuity rather than a dramatic shift in direction.

As the season progresses, Johnson has a message for the Galt High community: "Come to the games! Your energy and encouragement mean more than you think and the games will be fun. We want there to be pride in the Warriors basketball community and we are not far from success." ★

G-Town Girls 7/8 Grade Team Shines at Golden 1 Center with Perfect Night



The G-Town 7/8 grade team poses on the Golden 1 floor where the Kings play. Courtesy photos

By Paige Lampson Sports Editor

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The G-Town Girls 7/8 grade competitive basketball team made the trip to Sacramento's Golden 1 Center on Friday night and left with memories – and a 2-0 record – to last a lifetime.

The young squad competed fiercely in the two-game matchup, showcasing the skills and heart that have defined the program for the past seven years.

"These girls represented our community with pride," said program director Karrin Blevins. "Nights like this are a reflection of the work, commitment and love for the game that goes into this program year after year."

The G-Town Girls program has become a pillar of youth basketball development in the community, offering both



Emily Springmeyer shoots at Golden 1.

developmental and competitive opportunities for athletes in grades 5 through 8. Friday's dominant performance was a testament to that foundation.

Head Coach Dan Molina and Assistant Coach Kyle Springmeyer drew praise for their dedication to developing strong female athletes both on and off the court.

"We're incredibly proud of this team," Blevins added. ★

For these young athletes, the experience of competing at such a premier venue against quality competition may well be a turning point: a moment that fuels their passion for the game and their community.

G-Town Sports offers boys and girls AAU basketball and flag football programs.

For more information, follow them on Instagram @g_town_sports_.

Liberty Ranch's Silva Makes History at Cliff Keen Tournament

By Paige Lampson Sports Editor

ROSEVILLE, CA (MPG) - Senior Kaydince Silva etched her name in school history books by becoming the first female wrestler from Liberty Ranch to win the prestigious Cliff Keen Women's West Coast Tournament of Champions, held Dec. 19-20 at the Roebelen Center in Roseville.

Silva's championship performance came against a field of more than 1,300 girls and women wrestlers from nearly 200 college, high school and middle-school teams representing states as far away as Indiana and Nebraska. The tournament, the largest women's wrestling event not connected to a national championship, featured competitors from all levels, including college athletes preparing for the first-ever NCAA championship in women's wrestling.

"Kaydince winning is huge," said Liberty Ranch Head Coach Brian Robinson, putting the achievement in perspective.

"Our best girl ever before Kaydince was a three-time state qualifier and never got past fifth place."

The historic victory



Kaydince Silva stands on the top podium with the final competition. Courtesy photos

came on the sport's biggest stage, with college recruiters in attendance scouting talent. For Silva, a senior with aspirations of wrestling at the collegiate level, the timing couldn't have been better.

"We're giving girls and women the opportunity to wrestle at this level," said Don Martinez, tournament director and wrestling coach at Sierra College in Rocklin. "You get some great competition, the best against the best."

Silva navigated through a bracket filled with regional powerhouses and college-level competition to claim the championship, demonstrating the skill and determination that has made her Liberty Ranch's most decorated female wrestler. ★

The tournament featured dozens of Sacramento-area teams and hundreds of local wrestlers, from Bear River High School in Grass Valley to regional powerhouses Del Oro in Loomis and Tokay in Lodi, making Silva's championship run all the more impressive.

As Silva looks ahead to potential college opportunities, her groundbreaking performance at the Cliff Keen Tournament of Champions serves as a calling card, proving she can compete with the best wrestlers on the West Coast.

For Liberty Ranch wrestling, Silva's victory represents a milestone moment for the program and sets a new standard for future female wrestlers to aspire to reach. ★

GALT HERALD ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



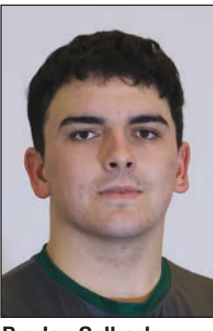
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