

Galt Wrestling Squad Splits Forces, Brings Home Hardware from Two Competitions

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Hawks Soar Past Union Mine in Thrilling League Opener

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The Galt Herald

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JANUARY 9, 2026

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New Restaurants, Shops Coming to Town Galt's Latest Openings and Business Updates



Pictured is Wild Heart Bread Co., located at 411 C St., which recently opened its doors to the community offering baked goods such as cinnamon rolls, cookies, muffins, quiches and sourdough bread. Photo by Idaly Valencia

By Idaly Valencia

GALT, CA (MPG) - Entering 2026, Galt can expect to see a wave of new businesses and commercial developments that will shape the city's economic landscape.

From a bakery and farm-to-fork restaurant to large retail centers, several developments are already operating or set to launch this year, expanding

dining, shopping and service options for residents.

Wild Heart Bread Co.

Replacing the space formerly occupied by Erica's Cookies Co., Wild Heart Bread Co. opened its doors last November after operating as a home-based business since fall 2023. The bakery offers cinnamon rolls, cookies, muffins, quiches, and, of

course, sourdough bread.

"This bakery isn't just about bread, it's about a space for connection, soul nourishment and the beauty of what can emerge when we dare to begin again with a Wild Heart," owner Lindsay Ortez said in a post before the bakery's official opening.

The bakery, located at 411 C St., is open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and

Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with order pickups available from 3 to 6 p.m.

Wild Heart Bread Co. kicks off monthly sourdough classes in February, limited to 10-12 participants. Registration details will be posted in advance on the bakery's social media page. Weekly menus are sent via text to anyone who shares their phone number; more information

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District Highlights Student Progress, City Growth, Transit Updates



By Idaly Valencia

GALT, CA (MPG) - At its final meeting of 2025 on Dec. 17, the Galt Joint Union Elementary School District addressed a series of agenda items that helped set priorities heading into the new year, touching on leadership, city growth, student performance and transportation planning.

The meeting began with the district's annual election of officers. Trustee Katherine Harper of Area 2 was unanimously re-elected as board president. Trustee Annette Kunze of Area 5 was elected vice president and Trustee Casey Raboy of Area 3 was elected clerk, with the two switching positions.

City growth and its long-term impact on schools was an item presented by Assistant City Manager Amy Mendes, joined by City Project Planner Kristyn Bitz. They presented an overview of housing developments that are completed, under construction or still in the planning stages.

Mendes noted the city recently issued its highest number of housing permits in a single calendar year, though she cautioned that the trend may not continue at the same pace. Many of the developments were approved more than a decade ago and still have years remaining until full buildout, while others are progressing more quickly.

The presentation included a breakdown of which schools will serve specific development areas. Mendes also connected residential growth to the city's broader economic outlook, explaining that new housing can attract retail development, which in turn generates sales tax revenue to support city services and operations. She highlighted a proposed 45-acre commercial project, Galt Ranch, near the C Street interchange and Simmerhorn Road exit that is expected to go before the Planning Commission in February.

Student performance data followed, delivered by Director of Curriculum Stephanie Simonich. She shared results from recent reading assessments and reviewed progress toward districtwide academic goals, describing the outcomes as showing "outstanding data" and notable improvement. Growth

Continued on Page 2

Statewide Ban on Poultry and Dairy Cattle Exhibitions Lifted



The ban had affected fairs, livestock shows and youth programs statewide, including 4-H and FFA projects that rely on exhibition opportunities as part of their educational experience. Designed by Freepik, www.freepik.com

By Lloyd Green Jr.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA (MPG) - The California Department of Food and Agriculture has lifted its statewide ban on poultry and dairy cattle exhibitions at fairs and shows, clearing the way for animals to return to exhibition barns across the state.

The ban, which was put in place amid concerns over H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza, was lifted

effective immediately following a review of current infection trends and mitigation measures, according to a letter issued by State Veterinarian Dr. Annette Jones.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture officials said the decision came after months of surveillance, analysis of viral trend data and consultation with state and federal epidemiologists and animal health partners.

"Based on a comprehensive review of current H5N1 infection trends, improved understanding of transmission dynamics, and enhanced mitigation measures now in place, CDFA has determined that the risk associated with poultry and dairy cattle exhibitions has sufficiently decreased," Jones wrote.

The ban had affected fairs, livestock shows, and youth programs

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District Highlights Student Progress, City Growth, Transit Updates

Continued from page 1
was reported in English, English Learner Progress and science.

Math scores were slightly below standard, though trustees noted the subject has already been identified as an area for improvement. Board members discussed instructional strategies and targeted interventions aimed at helping students meet benchmarks.

Overall, the board said it was confident in the results and encouraged by the positive trends reflected in the data.

District officials confirmed that 2025 student performance results mean the district will not require differentiated assistance, a county support system designed to support struggling districts.

Transportation Supervisor Michelle Trujillo then reviewed department goals and summarized work completed over the past year, including route planning, fleet updates and the number of students served. The district's transportation fleet consists of 28 buses, three of which are electric. For the elementary district, 13 buses along with one car and one van are used to serve eight elementary school routes.

Trujillo outlined the projected transportation budget for the 2025-26 school year, noting that most funding is expected to come from state and local

sources, with additional support from the city's General Fund. Planned expenditures include \$1,022,684 for salaries and benefits, \$260,435 for supplies and \$292,463 for services.

Looking ahead, Trujillo said the department plans to review traffic safety strategies and evaluate route effectiveness. She also highlighted new state laws related to passing school buses, emphasizing that traffic must stop on both sides of a two-lane road without a median and on roads with a center turn lane. On roads with a raised divider or median, vehicles on the opposite side of a stopped bus may continue, though drivers are urged to proceed cautiously.

The board also discussed the district's continued transition to electric buses. Trujillo said current electric buses can travel up to 150 miles on a charge and seat as many as 78 passengers, with electric air and heating systems. Four additional electric buses are scheduled to arrive in Spring 2026, with two designated for the elementary district and two for the high school district.

Trustee Matt Ward raised concerns about the state's 2035 emissions mandate, saying the topic came up at a recent school conference where he learned some districts may be eligible for waivers. Trujillo said she had heard similar

discussions, noting that long field trips exceeding 150 miles can require two electric buses or reliance on the district's remaining diesel fleet.

She added that newer electric Blue Bird buses offer higher quality and improved conditions compared to older buses that lack amenities such as air conditioning or heating.

"It's nice to provide better quality services for students," Superintendent Lois Yount said. "We should have some type of exception for diesel for those occasions, but providing better quality for students it makes a difference..."

Trustees also raised concerns about safety after referencing a news report from Los Angeles involving an electric school bus fire.

Trujillo said all electric bus fires to date have occurred at bus yards while charging and not while buses were operating with students on board. She added that drivers are trained on how to respond in the event of a fire. The board agreed to continue researching the issue.

The meeting concluded with trustee reports from conferences and meetings, followed by updates from school principals on upcoming initiatives and events.

The next regular meeting of the GJUESD Board of Education is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 21. ★

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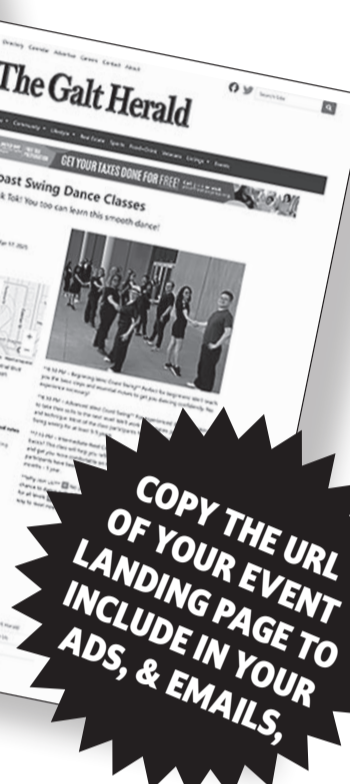
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Five Rescued After Flooding Near Dry Creek

By MPG Staff

GALT, CA (MPG) - Five people and two dogs were rescued early Monday, Jan. 5 after rising floodwaters submerged a homeless encampment and left them stranded on an island near Dry Creek.

Speaking to local news outlets at the scene, Woodbridge Fire Department Battalion Chief Eric Edwards said responders received the initial call around 3 a.m. and carried out a challenging water rescue for five individuals trapped by floodwaters following the weekend's rain.

The Cosumnes Fire Department confirmed its crews assisted Woodbridge Fire with a water rescue along Dry Creek near the county line and Lincoln Way, south of Galt. In a social media post, the



In a social media post early Monday, Jan. 5, Cosumnes Fire Department said it assisted Woodbridge Fire Department in responding to five people stranded on an island near Dry Creek due to rising floodwaters. Photo courtesy of Cosumnes Fire Department.

department later added that a primary and secondary search had been completed and several people were safely rescued from the area.

The San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office also

responded to the incident, assisting with the rescue effort.

Those rescued were transported to a hospital and treated for mild hypothermia. No additional injuries were reported. ★

Community to Honor Officer Tonn 13th Anniversary

City of Galt News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - On Thursday, Jan. 15, the Galt Police Department will honor Officer Kevin Tonn during a memorial ceremony at noon.

Officer Kevin Tonn was fatally wounded in the line of duty on Jan. 15, 2013. This 13-year memorial ceremony will take place at the Officer Kevin Tonn Memorial located in front of Galt City Hall, 380 Civic Drive. The ceremony will include the placement of a wreath by the Galt Police Department, followed by a moment of silence.

Members of the community are invited to attend and pay tribute to Officer Tonn as we remember his service, honor his sacrifice, and reflect on the lasting impact he made on our community. ★



The Galt Police Department invites the community to attend the 13-year memorial ceremony honoring Officer Kevin Tonn on Thursday, Jan. 15 at noon at the Officer Kevin Tonn Memorial in front of Galt City Hall, 380 Civic Drive. Photo courtesy of City of Galt



A Wingstop has been confirmed to be filling the space formerly occupied by a Subway located in the shopping plaza housing Tractor Supply Co. and Dollar Tree at 10530 Twin Cities Road. Photo by Idaly Valencia



Located at 218 S. Lincoln Way, the former O'Hara Realty site is being transformed into Block 7, a farm-to-fork restaurant expected to open by mid-2026. Photo by Idaly Valencia



Now available for lease, the former Squeeze Burger location in the Tractor Supply Co. plaza off Twin Cities Road offers a fully built-out restaurant space for those looking to establish a business in Galt. Photo by Idaly Valencia

Galt's Latest Openings and Business Updates

Continued from page 1 can be found on Instagram @wildheartbreadco.

Galt Ranch Retail Center

A major commercial development is underway in central Galt between the A Street and Simmerhorn Road off-ramps, adjacent to the new Simmerhorn Ranch subdivision. Known as Galt Ranch Retail Center, the project will accommodate a wide range of tenants including big-box retailers, restaurants and even medical services.

Assistant City Manager Amy Mendes noted during the recent State of the City address that plans under review include a Quick Quack Car Wash, Panda Express, Maverik and other businesses to be announced by February. The 45-acre development is slated for planning commission review next month.

Block 7 Farm-to-Fork Restaurant

Replacing the former O'Hara Realty building



This image, released by real estate group CBRE, shows the upcoming Galt Ranch commercial development located between the A Street and Simmerhorn Road off-ramps. Photo courtesy of CBRE

on Lincoln Way, a new farm-to-fork restaurant called Block 7 is expected to break ground early this year, with an anticipated opening in mid-2026. The restaurant is a new venture by local resident and entrepreneur Mark Hutchason.

In a social media post announcing the restaurant, it was announced that Chef Julio Cambresos

will oversee a farm-to-fork menu.

Wingstop Coming Soon

The shopping plaza housing Tractor Supply Co. plaza, is now vacant and available for lease, offering an opportunity for new dining options to join the area's growing commercial corridor off Twin Cities Road. ★

worldwide, including more than 10 in the Sacramento area.

Grocery Outlet

A new Grocery Outlet will occupy the former Rite Aid building at Twin Cities Road and Carillion Boulevard, with construction set to begin this month. At a Nov. 13 planning commission meeting, officials noted that the building will remain largely unchanged, with only signage and landscaping enhancements planned.

Grocery Outlet is a discount grocery chain with more than 540 stores nationwide, including 20 locally.

Squeeze Burger Space Available

The location previously occupied by Squeeze Burger, also in the Tractor Supply Co. plaza, is now vacant and available for lease, offering an opportunity for new dining options to join the area's growing commercial corridor off Twin Cities Road. ★

Statewide Ban on Poultry and Dairy Cattle Exhibitions Lifted

Continued from page 1

statewide, including 4-H and FFA projects that rely on exhibition opportunities as part of their educational experience. With the restriction lifted, fair organizers may resume planning poultry and dairy cattle exhibits for upcoming events.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture emphasized that the decision was made with both public health and

agricultural interests in mind.

"CDFA recognizes the importance of protecting animal health, public health, and California's agricultural industries while also supporting youth programs, educational opportunities, and agricultural traditions across the state," the letter stated.

While exhibitions are now permitted, the California Department of Food

and Agriculture strongly encouraged fairgrounds, organizers, and exhibitors to continue enhanced biosecurity and disease prevention practices. Animals showing signs of illness should not be transported or exhibited, and veterinarians should be contacted promptly if disease is suspected.

Suspected cases of H5N1 in poultry or cattle should be reported to the California Department of Food and Agriculture Sick

Bird Hotline at 866-922-2473.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture officials said the department will continue close monitoring of H5N1 activity statewide and will work with fair organizers and animal owners to ensure safeguards remain in place. Additional guidance for exhibitions will be posted on the California Department of Food and Agriculture website. ★

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Dine Downtown Returning to Sacramento for 21st Year

Downtown Sacramento Partnership News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Downtown Sacramento Partnership is welcoming the new year with the 21st annual Dine Downtown, announcing 30 exceptional participating restaurants and unveiling many of the specially curated menus created for this year's event. Once again, guests can enjoy three-course dinners for just \$45 from Jan. 9 to Jan. 18, offering an accessible way to experience some of downtown's most elevated dining at an exceptional value.

This year's program also continues Downtown Sacramento Partnership's long-standing commitment to giving back.

Opening Doors has been selected as the official nonprofit partner, receiving one dollar from every Dine Downtown meal sold. Opening Doors empowers more than 4,500 immigrants, refugees and trafficking survivors each year across Sacramento by providing workforce development, entrepreneurship training, financial empowerment, immigration legal services and social-support programs that foster stability, self-sufficiency and belonging.

Launched in 2005, Dine Downtown was created to support local restaurants during a typically slower



During the 21st annual Dine Downtown, Dawson's Steakhouse at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento (1209 L St.) will serve affordable three-course dinners in early January, with proceeds going to a local nonprofit. Photos courtesy of Downtown Sacramento Partnership

season.

Over the past two decades, the program has generated over \$7 million in sales for central city eateries, helping solidify Sacramento's reputation as a vibrant culinary destination and making high-quality dining experiences more accessible to residents and visitors alike.

Participating restaurants include Butcher and Barrel, Frank Fat's, Grange, Willow, Dawson's

Steakhouse, The 7th Street Standard, Kodaiko Ramen & Bar, Field-N-Flame Midtown, Pilothouse Restaurant aboard the Delta King, Brasserie du Monde, Tequila Museo Mayahuel, La Cosecha, Octopus Peru, The Firehouse Restaurant, Bear & Crown British Pub, Ella Restaurant & Bar, Alchemist Events at Empress Tavern, Frog & Slim, Revolution Kitchen & Winery, Tapa the World,

The Lock & Key Tapas + Bar, Maydoon, Hook & Ladder Manufacturing Co., The Melting Pot, Aioli Bodega Espanola, Octopus Baja, Historic Star Lounge, Magpie Café, Hawks Public House and The Porch Restaurant & Bar.

Dine Downtown menus are available online at downtownsac.org/downtown-sac-experiences/dine-downtown/ and reservations can be made with the restaurants directly.



Tequila Museo Mayahuel, located at 1200 K St., is also participating in the 21st annual Dine Downtown from Jan. 9 to Jan. 18, joining 30 other restaurants offering specially curated menus for this year's event.



Pictured is a meal from Kodaiko Ramen & Bar, located at 718 K St., that will be participating in the 21st year of Dine Downtown where guests can enjoy three-course dinners for just \$45 from Jan. 9 to Jan. 18. Photo courtesy of Downtown Sacramento Partnership

For more information about Opening Doors, visit openingdoorsinc.org/.

Dine Downtown is produced by the Downtown

Sacramento Partnership with support from Kaiser Permanente, FOX40, Sacramento365, Yelp Sacramento and others. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



On Dec. 27 the Sacramento Kings treated the hometown fans to a post-Christmas treat with a stirring 113-107 victory over the visiting Dallas Mavericks. It was a reminder that although Dallas is a notable team with playoff intentions, the Kings have the talent to match up nightly with any team in the NBA. They have demonstrated this repeatedly, but the conundrum has been a complete lack of consistency as it relates to game over game results.

Why, you ask? The singular question that begs for an answer.

Injuries have played a role to be certain, but every NBA club must contend with injuries.

If I had to answer this question as honestly as I could, I would turn to the one player on this year's squad that has the greatest impact and that is none other than Domantas Sabonis. Over the past 3 ½ seasons Domantas hasn't just led the NBA in rebounding and double-doubles, he's been the singular stabilizing influence on a team that needs a leader like none-other. Sabonis' nightly consistent reinforcement of the fundamentals in playing the paint the old-fashioned way, gives every player on the floor a boost of confidence.

Domantas has a motor that just won't quit, and his enthusiasm for the game of basketball is simply contagious. Players want to play with this guy, and former King Jonas Valanciunas was vocal in his admiration for Sabonis and his desire to play alongside the Kings big man.

Unfortunately, the Kings did not value the talent that Valanciunas brought to the floor and allowed him to walk out the back door. Denver did not hesitate to provide their multiple MVP center Nikola Jokic with a resplendent backup, and Valanciunas has thrived this season in his new role.

The number one problem the Kings have had to face this season is not having Domantas on the floor, and their record shows it. 8 wins in 35 contests matches the worst start for an NBA season in the Sacramento Kings franchise history, and this is not a record you want to be a part of. Getting Sabonis back on the floor will be the first step in establishing what this year's team really is, but the Kings face a real dilemma.

GM Scott Perry is making noises that this year's team is about to receive a complete face lift, and Domantas Sabonis name has been mentioned or at least rumored in possible trade rumors. That would be mistake of herculean proportions.

Breaking news, the grass is not always greener on the other side.

Do you not remember what the organization did just one year ago when it inexplicably sent face of the franchise DeAaron Fox to the San Antonio Spurs?

DO NOT trade Domantas Sabonis. Draw a line in the sand, NOW, and build around a player that gets fans on their feet every game!

Stop trading away talent that makes other NBA teams stronger such as Davion Mitchell, DeAaron Fox, Issac Jones, and Boston Celtic starting center Neemias Queta. Yes, Neemias Queta, that the Kings had the good sense to draft 39th overall in the 2021 NBA draft and then send him to the G league where he thrived.

Fans saw something in this raw rookie and gave him more votes than any other King when it came to All-star voting that season.

The front office saw things differently and waived Queta in August 2023, and he was immediately scooped up by the Boston Celtics. Signed to a 2-way contract, Queta went on to help Boston win and NBA championship that same season and has since worked his way up to become this year's starting center. In the recent 120-106 loss to the Celtics, Queta provided the Kings with an up front and personal look at why their decision to let him go should have been reconsidered. Queta held down the paint efficiently all night, while posting 13 points, 5 rebounds, and 3 big blocks.

Simply stated, the Sacramento Kings must stop giving away valuable NBA talent and find someone in the organization that can effectively grade players and determine who is and who is not a viable NBA player.

Stay tuned Kings fans because Domantas will hopefully return soon, and then we can see what this team can do with a true NBA center on the floor.

Happy New Year Kings fans and by all means do not give up hope! ★

New Year May Entertain Political Junkies, but Sluggish Economy Deserves the Spotlight



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

As the new year begins, there's no shortage of political trends to keep Californians preoccupied, entertained or perhaps appalled — particularly the state's transcontinental feud with President Donald Trump.

There is Gov. Gavin Newsom's all-but-announced campaign for president, centered on his self-appointed role of resistor-in-chief to Trump. As Newsom continues to troll Trump this year we may learn whether it continues to advance Newsom as a White House frontrunner or becomes tiresome and off-putting.

As 2025 ended Axios, a news website, reported that Newsom's potential rivals are ratcheting up efforts to undermine his bid, arguing that, as a California progressive, he's unelectable.

Another point of political fixation is Newsom's successful effort to gerrymander California's 52 congressional seats to help Democrats recapture control of the House in 2026. Whether it works is a question hanging over his presidential ambitions.

Still another is the campaign to choose a successor to Newsom. It so far has attracted a large contingent of Democrats without, as yet, a clear leader. There's a theoretical possibility that with as many as a dozen Democrats in the field, the

two Republicans could finish first and second in the June 2 primary and face each other for the governorship in November, despite the GOP's very weak standing among voters.

This year's election cycle also promises to be another showdown of moneyed interests via dueling ballot measures, with those either increasing or decreasing taxes at the top of the heap.

While political junkies can feed their habits this year, the more profound issue that faces California will be its moribund economy.

Newsom often brags that California's \$4 trillion economy, were it a nation, would rank fourth in the world. However, it has seen zero net job growth since the COVID-19 pandemic ended and recently has experienced employment shrinkage.

More than a million Californians in the labor force are jobless and the state's unemployment rate, currently 5.6%, has been the highest or near the highest of any state for several years.

Employment doldrums have affected even the state's hallmark sectors, most obviously Southern California's withering film and TV production industry and the Bay Area's high technology concentration.

The latter has almost single-handedly propped up the state's economy and generated a huge portion of tax revenues, but layoffs have proliferated as artificial intelligence is increasingly employed — a syndrome that also affects Hollywood.

Stubborn, or even increasing, unemployment makes it more difficult for state and local governments to cover their budget deficits — thus underpinning the

thrust for tax increases on state and local ballots. The sluggish economy also hampers efforts to improve two of the state's most pressing socioeconomic issues, its highest-in-the-nation poverty and homelessness levels.

Even Californians who have homes and jobs are feeling the economic pinch. Combining economic data with polling results, the Public Policy Institute of California recently discovered rising economic angst among California residents.

"California is one of the largest economies in the world, but many working Californians do not feel economically secure (and) they struggle to pay their bills, save for the future, and balance the demands of work and daily life," PPIC reported, adding that polling data "indicate that pessimism about future economic opportunity has become even more pervasive amid recent economic volatility."

As he shifts into presidential campaign mode, Newsom has every reason to keep bragging about the state's economy. But those running to replace him and state legislators should make 2026 the year to recognize that California has serious problems, to bore into the underlying causes and to do what they can to once again make California thrive.

History tells us that taking prosperity for granted — think Detroit — is an invitation to economic ruin.

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. ★

Social Security Matters My Wife Believes She Can Get a Spouse Benefit While I'm Still Alive; Can She?



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social
Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: A friend of my wife told her, and she believes, she could receive a Social Security benefit based on my SS benefit that I'm currently receiving while I'm still alive. I told her she could only receive spouse survivor benefits. Is there any truth to what she now believes? Would you settle this issue for us please? Thank you.
Signed: Uncertain Husband

Dear Uncertain Husband: Well, surely don't want to get in the middle of your marital discussion, but I'll be happy to explain Social Security's rules about your wife's eligibility for spousal benefits while you are both still living. And just for awareness for both of you, the rules about spousal benefits are one of the most confusing areas of Social Security.

Per Social Security's rules, a spouse (e.g., your wife) can receive a "spousal boost" from you — while you are still living — if the SS retirement

benefit she is personally entitled to at her full retirement age (FRA) is less than 50% of the SS retirement benefit you are (were) entitled to at your FRA (full retirement age amounts are used to calculate living spouse benefits, regardless of when each of you actually claimed your Social Security).

So, if your FRA entitlement benefit amount is more than twice your wife's FRA entitlement benefit amount, she can, indeed, get a "spousal boost" from your record while you are both still living. The spousal boost is added to her own SS retirement amount and will be based on the difference between her FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement. Thus, in this discussion, your wife may be correct — she may be able to get a spousal boost from you while both of you are living, depending on how your personal FRA retirement amounts compare. The best way for your wife to find out is to contact Social Security on 1.800.772.1213 to inquire, and if she's eligible, also make an appointment to apply for her spousal benefit.

And to clarify your wife's options as your possible widow, a surviving spouse can also get a survivor benefit if their marital partner passes away, but only if the deceased spouse's current benefit (at death) was more than the surviving spouse is already

receiving. The surviving spouse receives the higher amount, instead of their own smaller Social Security retirement benefit.

But here is an important thing to know: Whenever any Social Security benefit (including a spousal or surviving spouse benefit) is claimed before the recipient's full retirement age, the payment amount is permanently reduced (both spousal and survivor benefits do not reach maximum until the recipient's full retirement age). And just to complete the picture for survivor benefits, a surviving spouse is also entitled to a one-time, lump-sum death benefit of \$255 if their marital partner dies, in addition to any other benefit they are entitled to.

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



No, the USS Liberty Incident Wasn't Israeli Treachery

stroyer escort, which was denied, and orders to the Liberty to withdraw about 100 miles from the front were delayed in a communications tangle.

That morning, an ammunition dump ignited in the coastal city of El-Arish in the Sinai, and the Israelis (wrongly) believed the location had been shelled by Egyptian ships. The Israeli navy spotted the Liberty heading toward Egypt and (wrongly) concluded it had been one of the attackers. Two Israel Mirage jets saw no identifying markings on the Liberty (a later U.S. inquiry speculated that the flag might not have been visible for lack of wind) and strafed the ship. More Israeli jets napalmed the Liberty.

The absence of return fire puzzled the Israelis, who paused to ensure they weren't hitting an Israeli vessel. Assured it wasn't one of their own, they renewed the assault.

Still uneasy, they looked for identifying markers again. They saw no flag, but made out Latin, not Arabic, letters on the hull. That strongly suggested the vessel wasn't Egyptian.

Yet, a squadron of Israeli torpedo boats determined that the Liberty's silhouette matched an Egyptian supply ship. A request for identification from the Liberty received no affirmative reply.

The Liberty's captain ordered his men not to shoot at the torpedo boats, but one gunner briefly fired and there were further discharges from exploding ammunition. Believing

they were taking incoming from an Egyptian ship, the torpedo boats requested permission to fire and got reluctant assent. A torpedo slammed into the Liberty, blowing a hole 24 feet tall by 39 feet wide and killing more than two dozen sailors.

Eventually, an Israeli torpedo boat picked up a raft from the Liberty with U.S. naval markings and the Israelis realized their tragic error. They apologized instantly to U.S. naval attaché Ernest Carl Castle, and an Israeli helicopter attempted to take him out to the Liberty (the effort was foiled by darkness). The Israeli torpedo boats offered assistance to the Liberty, which was rebuffed.

As Michael Oren points out in his history of the Six-Day War, none of the common conspiracy theories makes sense. There was no way that Israel — desperate for U.S. support and wary of Soviet enmity — was going to make an act of war against a friendly superpower. Nor did Israel need, as is sometimes posited, to hide its gains in the Sinai from the U.S., or its plans to hit Syria. It hadn't executed Egyptian POWs, so that didn't justify a murderous cover-up, either.

Both official Israeli and U.S. investigations determined that the attack was a friendly fire incident, but for Israel and the Jews in the current environment, the truth is no defense.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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ABOUT TOWN

Friday, Jan. 9 through Sunday, Jan. 11

Lodi Antique Show – at the Lodi Grape Pavilion at the Lodi Grape Festival Grounds. Friday, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$6 general admission, free parking, hourly door prize drawings. Whether you collect, curate or just love the thrill of the hunt, this is your chance to uncover a little piece of history right here in Lodi. More information at 408-394-3521. 413 E. Lockeford St., Lodi.

Saturday, Jan. 10

Constitutional Speech Contest – 1 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Hall, District 56. This progressive contest for an oratorical scholarship starts at our local American Legion Post 233 level and winners advance to a national competition, where the first-place national winner receives more than \$25,000. The public is welcome to join us to watch this first local step with our own high school students. For more information, contact Susan Mason, chair, Post 233 Oratorical, at

freedom9115@1791.com. 8230 Civic Center Drive.

Kids' Corner Event: Papel Picado Banners – 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lodi Community Art Center. Ages 5 to 18 are invited to learn to make your own papel picado banner to decorate for any special occasion.

Free event: we provide all supplies. 110 W. Pine St., Lodi.

Guided Sandhill Crane Tour – 3:30 p.m. at the Cosumnes River Preserve. Join experienced docents and members of the "Save our Sandhill Cranes" advocacy group for a 90-minute

guided tour. More information and registration at Cosumnes.org. 13501 Franklin Blvd.

Friday, Jan. 16 through Sunday, Jan. 18

Lodi Home Improvement Show – at the Lodi Grape Festival Fairgrounds. Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. You'll see the newest in landscaping, kitchens, baths, home furnishings, lighting, home security, spas and more. See lodihomeshow.com for tickets. 413 E. Lockeford St., Lodi.

Saturday, Jan. 17

Lodi Lake Bird Walk – 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.; meet at the Nature Area entrance of Lodi Lake Park. This family-friendly event is a wonderful way to connect with nature and the community. Bring comfortable walking shoes, water, binoculars and your sense of wonder. 1101 W. Turner Road, Lodi.

History Tour in Locke – noon to 2 p.m.; meet at the Locke Boarding House. Join us for a short, guided tour of this historic Chinese American community. Hear stories and learn about the history of

the only remaining rural community built by and for Chinese Americans. Admission and participation are free. 13916 Main St., Walnut Grove.

Galt Lions Foundation Annual Crab & Shrimp Feed – 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Littleton Center. All you can eat crab, shrimp, pasta, salad and rolls; \$75 per person. Tickets and more information on the Galt Lions Foundation Facebook page. 410 Civic Drive.

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.

Twin Cities Cruisers Cars and Coffee – last Sunday of every month, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at "Life's Grind" coffee house located in the Raley's shopping center. All makes and models are welcome. This is a family-oriented event: no burnouts, no loud music, no drinking alcohol. 10420 Twin Cities Road.

Veterans Meetings American Legion Post 55, Veterans and Auxiliary Units – fourth

Wednesday each month. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m. Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove. Breakfast: second Saturday, 8-10 a.m., 8830 Sharkey Ave., Elk Grove.

American Legion Post 233 and Auxiliary Unit 233 – general meetings the fourth Thursday each month at 7 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 9240 Survey Road, Elk Grove. Dinner at 6 p.m.

Post 233 Family Breakfast – first Saturday each month at 9 a.m., Mimi's Café, Elk Grove. For more information, call Henry at 916-205-9296 C or Sue at 916-683-6128 H.

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

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

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

MEETING MINDERS

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.

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

Tuesday, Jan. 20

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

Wednesday, Jan. 21

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

Galt Elementary School Board, 7 p.m., City Hall, 380 Civic Drive, 209-745-4545. ★

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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 #25CV030472

Tamiko Hendrix Abbott has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Tamiko Hendrix Abbott to Tamiko May Hendrix.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on May 18, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 25, 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: December 17, 2025 Julie G. Yap, Judge of the Superior Court Publish: January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026 ABBOTT 1-30-26

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 remaining 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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Meals on Wheels Cafe Accepting Older Adults

Meals on Wheels is accepting new participants in its Galt All Seasons Café located in the Chabolla Community Center, 600 Chabolla Ave.

The cafe is open at 11:30 a.m. Mondays through Fridays for adults age 60 and older.

Those interested can apply at the Chabolla Center when meals are being served or they can call 916-444-9533.

'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.

AA 24-Hour Hotline

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

Nar-Anon Family Group Meetings

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

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.

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.

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

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. ★

POLICE LOGS

During the time period of Dec. 30 to Jan. 5, Galt Police received and responded to a variety of calls, resulting in seven arrests. There were 11 complaint calls for fireworks the night of Dec. 31 and nine early Jan. 1.

Dec. 30

5:25 a.m., Theft reported, Sparrow Drive: Vehicle broken into.

9:08 a.m., Theft reported, Geranium Circle: Vehicle doors forced open.

3:11 p.m., Narcotics Violation/Adult Arrest, Grouse Drive/W Elm Avenue.

3:28 p.m., Narcotics Violation/Adult Arrest, Casado Drive.

3:35 p.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Emerald Vista Park on Emerald Vista Drive.

Dec. 31

8:36 p.m., Vandalism reported, Lake Canyon

Elementary School on Lake Canyon Avenue: Grass area damaged by motorbikes.

10:27 p.m., Narcotics Violation/Adult Arrest, Kost Road/Raven Brook Drive.

Jan. 1

4 p.m., Vandalism reported, River Oaks Elementary School on Vantage Oak Avenue: Broken glass.

Jan. 2

2:30 a.m., Recovered Stolen Vehicle, Toni Court/Oakwilde Street.

8:57 p.m., Vandalism reported, Wicker Way: Driver's side door cannot close. No items stolen.

2:59 p.m., Fraud reported, Creekside Way.

3:52 p.m., Theft reported, Fumasi Drive: Cash taken from vehicle.

6 p.m., Attempt Theft/Tamper-In-Progress reported, McDonald's on

East Stockton Boulevard: Four male adults, wearing baggy black clothes, allegedly stealing audio equipment from newer white car.

Jan. 3

11:03 a.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, A Street/Fairway Drive.

4:33 p.m., Theft reported, McDonald's on Pine Street: Male adult, 30 years old, in black sweater with blue ripped jeans, allegedly took bike, black frame; red letters with some blue and has in writing "Big Flyer" on the frame.

8:33 p.m., Assault w/ Deadly Weapon-In-Progress reported, AM/PM Store on East Stockton Boulevard: Female adult, in a silver four-door sedan with one taillight out and back left window taped up; subject allegedly attempting to run over a male adult, wearing black

sweatshirt and black pants. 10:03 p.m., Vandalism reported, Shelduck Lane/Wren Drive: Mailbox broken into and opened from the back.

Jan. 4

8:06 a.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Cafe Latte Co., C Street.

10:21 a.m., Theft reported, Second Street: Community mailbox broken into.

11:35 a.m., Theft reported, Shelduck Court: Mailbox broken into and mail stolen.

2:20 p.m., Shoplifting/Adult Arrest, Ace Hardware on C Street.

Jan. 5

7:26 a.m., Vandalism reported, Galt Market on Meladee Lane: ATM broken into.

3:59 p.m., Identity Theft reported, Valley Oaks Senior Apartments on Oak Avenue. ★

Local Classifieds Advertise in your local community newspaper Call 916-685-5533

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Thank Law Officers for Their Service



According to Checkiday.com there are over 900,000 law enforcement officers in the United States, and they are honored on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. It shows that the community recognizes the difficulty of their job and supports them as they provide a public service.

The day is dedicated to all members of law enforcement, but the focus is on police and similar state and local agencies. First observed in 2015, National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day came about in the wake of the 2014 Ferguson, Missouri, officer-involved shooting of Michael Brown, at a time when there was much scrutiny of police officers and concerns about police brutality. Observants of the day spend it thanking police officers, wearing blue and turning on blue lights at their homes.

Having a police force is a relatively new concept in the scope of history. During colonial times, forces were part-time and privately funded. Volunteer night watches were also common. Boston started one in 1636, followed by New York City in 1658 and Philadelphia in 1700. These were not

very efficient, and those who were put on duty were often put there for punishment.

When cities grew larger, night watches were even more ineffective. The first full-time publicly funded police force in the country was formed in Boston in 1838. Boston was a large shipping area, and the need for policing grew out of the need to protect shipping. Merchants had long hired officers to watch over their goods and then found a way to pass off the costs to the public by convincing them it was for the common good.

In the south, slavery was the original driving force behind the creation of police forces. Beginning in the early 18th century, officers chased down runaway slaves and prevented slave revolts. Following Reconstruction, many local sheriffs did similar work to that of the earlier patrols

by enforcing segregation and the disenfranchisement of freed slaves. By the late 1880s, all major cities had police forces. Officers were there to protect public order, which meant different things to different people. Businessmen with connections to politicians did not want disruptions to their workforces from labor-union organizers and immigrants. Political machines were also rampant at the time, and heads of police were picked by political bosses. It was not until well into the 20th century that there was a move toward the professionalization of police officers.

The school districts have school resource officers on campus, and their presence is appreciated. If you see an officer today, thank them for their service.

On another note, the apricot, a small, pitted fruit, is celebrated today with National Apricot Day. Apricots range in color from pale orange to dark saffron, often with a blush of pink or red, and have soft skin with light fuzz, looking similar to a small peach. They have a short growing season and are delicate. They grow on

small trees and have a sweet, tart flavor.

Apricots were first domesticated in China and were spread throughout Asia and to the Mediterranean by the Persians. In the early 18th century, Spanish missionaries brought them to the New World, to California. Today an overwhelming majority of the apricot trees grown in the United States are located in California, especially in the San Joaquin Valley. A small number of apricot orchards are cultivated in Washington and Utah. But most of the world's apricot production takes place in the Mediterranean, and Turkey leads in global production: Apricots are as popular there as apples are in the United States.

I am a big fan of apricots. Fresh off the vine, apricot jam, and oh my goodness: apricot pie is the best. What I don't understand why we celebrate apricots in January where the ripening season in the valley is the end of May to the middle of July. Maybe it is to remind us there are good things to come while we are trying to keep warm in this cold rainy weather.

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

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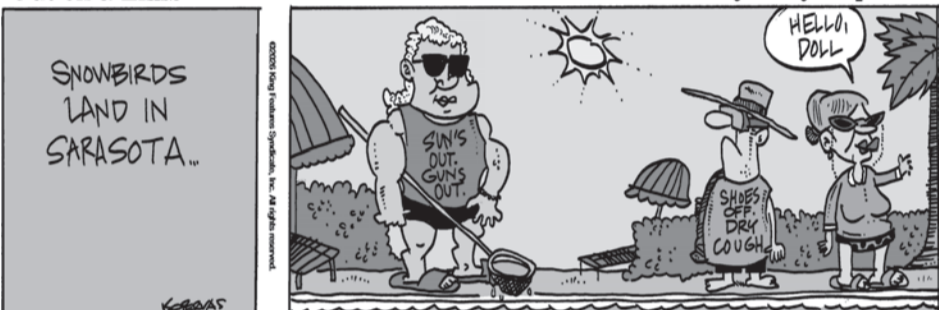
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 - *Lady Gaga's nominated album
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 - Leo or Libra, e.g.
 - *Wonder's "Songs in the _____ of Life," Album of Year (1977)
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Republic FC Adds Two Local Standouts on USL Academy Contracts

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

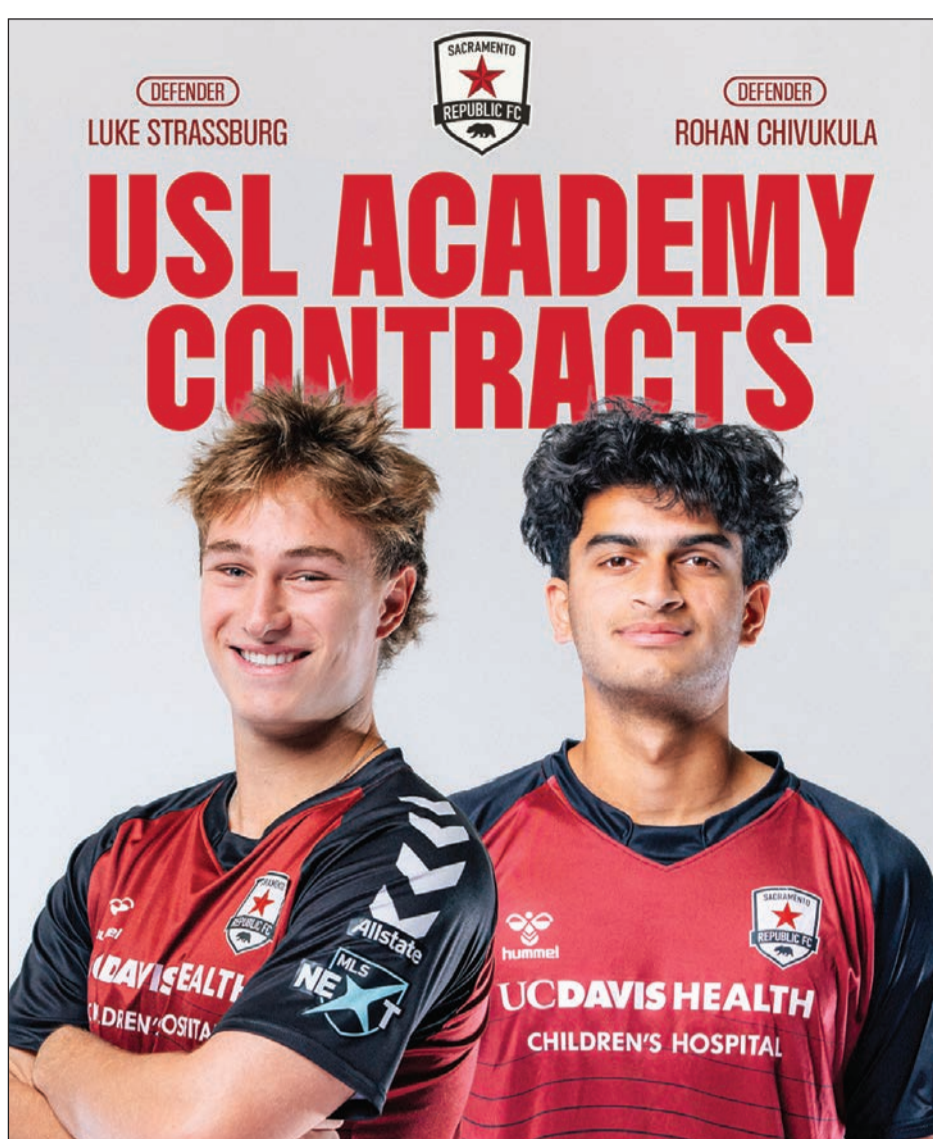
SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Republic FC announced Dec. 19 the addition of academy players Luke Strassburg and Rohan Chivukula to the club's first team roster. The defenders have signed USL Academy contracts, pending league and federation approval and will be eligible to play in first team matches in 2026.

"These signings reflect the strength of our pathway and commitment to developing local talent," said Republic FC Head Coach Neill Collins. "Bringing academy players into the first team environment prepares them for the next level and we have no doubt that Luke and Rohan will continue to represent the academy well during training camp and throughout the season."

Strassburg and Chivukula both currently play for Republic FC's U-19 academy team, which has opened up the 2025-26 campaign with an impressive 9-1-1 record.

Eighteen-year-old Rohan Chivukula joined Republic FC's academy in 2024 to take the next step in his development. He quickly became a key piece of the U-19's backline and in Chivukula's first year, the squad posted an overall record of 16-3-3 and won the Northwest Division of MLS NEXT before advancing to the Round of 32 in the postseason. The Folsom High School graduate previously featured for El Dorado Hills Soccer Club and Sacramento United, and will play at the collegiate level for American University in the fall of 2026.

Strassburg is a longtime member of the Indomitable Club. The Elk Grove native joined at the U-13 level in 2020



Strassburg and Chivukula both currently play for Republic FC's U-19 academy team, which has opened up the 2025-26 campaign with an impressive 9-1-1 record. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

and has since featured in every age group in the last five years. He has been a part of some of the top teams

in club history, reaching MLS NEXT Cup each season. During the 2023-24 season, Strassburg and the U-16

team went undefeated in 29 straight games from September in April, and in 2025 his U-17 team claimed three wins in the MLS NEXT Cup Playoffs to advance to the Semifinals – the best finish by a Republic FC squad since 2022. He has also received multiple invitations to U.S. Soccer ID camps and training camps. Prior to joining Republic FC, Luke played for the San Jose Earthquakes' youth academy and Sacramento United. He has committed to play at San Diego State in the fall of 2026.

USL Academy contracts allow academy players the chance to train and compete with the first team in professional matches while retaining their NCAA eligibility. Since its inception in 2015, Republic FC's Academy has created a strong, local pipeline of youth players ready for professional-level competition, with over 40 players earning the opportunity to join the first team on USL Academy contracts and over 25 going on to sign professional contracts with Republic FC or other clubs. In 2024, players from Sacramento's youth academy combined for 80 gameday roster selections, 56 appearances, and over 3,000 minutes.

Republic FC's 2026 season officially kicks off on March 7 when the club hosts FC Tulsa at Heart Health Park. Season ticket memberships are on sale now, offering a range of benefits including discounts on merchandise and access to exclusive fan experiences, as well as priority seat selection in the new Republic Stadium at The Railyards. For more information, or to purchase a membership today, visit SacRepublicFC.com/Memberships. ★

Carter Begins Assembling Staff with Initial Round of Hires

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento State head coach Alonzo Carter named several assistant coaches and staff personnel to his staff, it was announced Dec. 30. The hirings include offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau, defensive coordinator Adam Clark, associate head coach Angus McClure and general manager Jon Osterhout. Carter also retained Kris Richardson as the offensive line coach/run game coordinator, Bobby Fresques as the quarterbacks coach/pass game coordinator and Josh Brown as the safeties coach. In all, the staff will feature over 300 years of cumulative coaching experience.

Kiesau has served as the offensive coordinator at Fresno State, Boise State and Auburn during his lengthy collegiate career. He spent the past three seasons as an offensive quality control coach at Florida.

His offensive staff will include Richardson and Fresques who return for their eighth year with the program and have seen the team qualify for the NCAA FCS Playoffs four times. Richardson has mentored several FCS All-Americans, including current Tennessee Titan Jackson Slater. This past season, his group paved the way for a rushing attack which ranked third in the FCS with 365.4 rushing yards per game. In his time leading the Sacramento State quarterbacks, Fresques has guided FCS All-Americans Kevin Thomson and Asher O'Hara, as well as Jake Duniway and Carson Conklin.

Former Sacramento State offensive lineman and assistant coach Angus McClure will return to campus as the associate head coach and work with the offensive line. Since leaving Sacramento



Sacramento State head coach Alonzo Carter named several assistant coaches and staff personnel to his staff. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

State, McClure has had stints at Nebraska, Buffalo, UCLA, Nevada and Kansas.

Eric Scott will serve as the team's wide receivers coach. Scott has spent the last two seasons as the head coach at West LA Junior College. Prior to taking that position, Scott was the wide receivers coach and passing game coordinator at San Jose State from 2021-23 where he worked alongside Alonzo Carter.

On defense, Adam Clark will come to Sacramento State after leading the defense at Northern Arizona for the past two seasons. In his first season, NAU ranked second in the Big Sky and 12th in the FCS in interceptions. The unit also led the league in pass defense and was second in total defense.

Brown will shift to coach the safeties in 2026 after leading the team's linebackers this past season. During the year, he overcame several injuries to his position group to have three players rank among the top five on the team in total tackles.

That included Oscar Moore who led the team with 69 total stops. Brown has also coached at McNeese, UTEP, Hawaii, Nevada, Cal Poly, Kansas and Arizona State during his career.

Kenwick Thompson will coach the linebackers and brings experience as an FCS defensive coordinator as well as a position coach at the P4 level. Thompson was the defensive coordinator at Florida A&M in 2025 and was previously on Jeff Tedford's staffs at Cal and Fresno State as well as stints at San Jose State, Vanderbilt, East Carolina, UNLV and UAB.

Dakari Monroe will follow Carter from Arizona to Sacramento State and will coach the Hornet corners. Monroe was a defensive graduate assistant for the Wildcats the past two seasons and helped the team advance to the Trust & Will Holiday Bowl against SMU. He played four seasons at San Jose State where he twice led the team in interceptions before a stint with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Milo Austin will serve as Sacramento State's special teams coordinator. Austin has held the same role at Elon since 2022 where he has coached an FCS All-American kicker, punter and kick returner. He has also been the special teams coordinator at Texas Southern, Delaware State and Morehead State.

The team's personnel efforts will be led by former Sacramento State All-American Jon Osterhout who returns to campus as the general manager following a great career as the head coach at American River JC. With the Beavers, Osterhout led the team to an 88-39 overall record and took the team to seven postseason appearances, including six trips to the state playoffs. Osterhout was a four-year starter for Sacramento State on the offensive line where he garnered All-America honors while leading the way for Charles Roberts' record-setting rushing efforts.

Chris Parry, who has been on staff since 2019, will continue to serve as the assistant general manager. Parry has been a part of player evaluation, roster construction and scholarship management during the program's run of success since his arrival.

Record-setting receiver Otis Amey has been named the director of player development. Amey was an All-American for Sacramento State and still owns nearly all the career receiving records. Following his time as a Hornet, he played with the San Francisco 49ers as well as stops in the Arena League and UFL.

Kenny Macklin will remain at Sacramento State and take the position of Chief of Staff. CJ Pollard will also return as the Director of Recruiting.

The additions are the first to the staff for Carter who became the 14th head coach in school history on Dec. 15. ★

A's Agree to Terms with LF Tyler Soderstrom

Athletics News Release

LAS VEGAS, NEV (MPG) - The Athletics have agreed to terms with left fielder Tyler Soderstrom on a seven-year contract through the 2032 season with a club option for 2033, the club announced Dec. 29.

Soderstrom batted .276 with 25 home runs, 93 RBI and an .820 OPS in 158 games last season with the A's after combining

to hit .204 with 12 home runs, 33 RBI and a .636 OPS in 106 games over his first two seasons. He began the season as the A's starting first baseman, moved to left field (where he had not played professionally) when Nick Kurtz was promoted on April 23, moved back to first base while Kurtz was on the injured list from May 25 to June 8, and returned to left field after that. Soderstrom had a team-leading 93 RBI, which were the most

by an A's player 23 years old or younger since Eric Chavez had 114 in 2001. He had 11 outfield assists, which tied for third in the majors, and ranked fourth among left fielders in defensive runs saved (10).

Soderstrom is a .250 career hitter with 37 home runs, 126 RBI and a .754 OPS in 264 games in three seasons in the majors. He was the A's first round selection in the 2020 First-Year Player Draft out of Turlock High School

and was primarily a catcher in his first pro season in 2021. The 24-year-old left-handed hitter split his time between catcher and first base in 2022-23, played mostly first base in 2024 and saw his most action in 2025 as an outfielder.

Soderstrom is one of three players under contract through at least the 2028 season, when the A's are scheduled to open their new ballpark in Las Vegas. He joins Lawrence Butler, who inked

a seven-year deal through the 2031 season with a club option for 2032 on Mar. 10, 2025, and Brent Rooker, who signed a five-year contract through 2029 with a club option for 2030 on Jan. 23, 2025. ★



LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE

PRESENTED BY THE GALT HERALD

Galt Wrestling Squad Splits Forces, Brings Home Hardware from Two Competitions



The Galt High School Wrestling team poses with its hardware after the Maverick Round-up Tournament.

By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

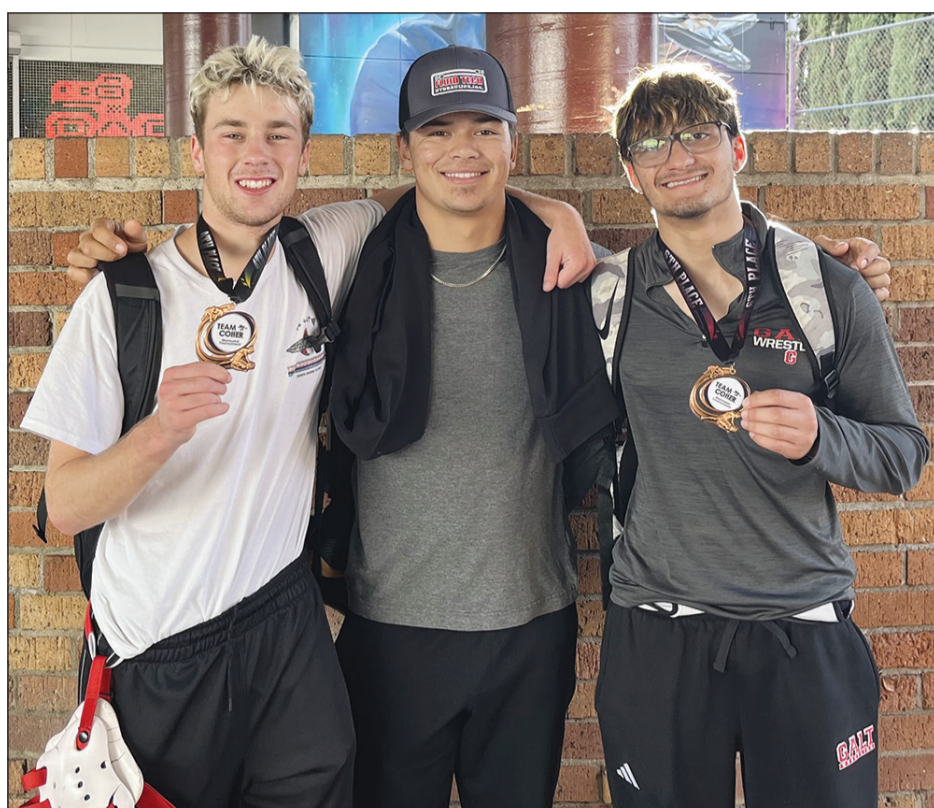
GALT, CA (MPG) - The Galt Warriors wrestling program made its presence felt across two tournaments this past weekend, with the squad splitting up to compete at separate venues and returning home with an

impressive medal haul.

While brothers Carson and Caleb McEwen represented the Warriors at the prestigious Cotter Memorial Varsity Tournament at Hiram Johnson High School, the remainder of the boys' and girls' teams traveled to Mesa Verde High School

for the Maverick Roundup. The strategic split paid dividends, as Galt wrestlers proved they could compete at the highest levels on multiple fronts.

At the Cotter Memorial, Carson McEwen battled through a competitive bracket to claim fourth place, while Caleb



The McEwen brothers show off their medals with an assistant coach. Courtesy Photos

McEwen finished fifth in his weight class. The tournament, known for attracting some of the region's top varsity talent, provided valuable experience against elite competition.

Meanwhile, at Mesa Verde, the Warriors put on a dominant display, with every Galt competitor reaching the podium with a third-place finish or better.

Leading the charge were Everett Maraspini and Jacqueline Dahl, who both captured first-place finishes in their respective weight classes. The pair

of champions showcased the depth and versatility of the Warriors program, with Dahl's victory highlighting the continued growth of Galt's girls' wrestling squad.

Four Warriors claimed silver medals at the Maverick Roundup. Christian Juarez, Taylor Bentley, Wyatt Burns and Niko Gonzales each finished as runners-up in their weight classes, demonstrating the team's strength across multiple divisions.

Rounding out the medal count were third-place finishers Mars Gutierrez,

Mickey Le, Jordyn Asunción and Mason Garcia. The quartet of bronze medalists ensured that every Galt wrestler who competed at Mesa Verde left with hardware around their neck.

The weekend's results reflect the Warriors' commitment to competing at multiple levels while maintaining excellence across the board.

With tournament season in full swing, Galt's wrestling program continues to build momentum as it prepares for the crucial league competitions ahead. ★

Liberty Ranch Girls' Wrestling Captures First-Ever Team Trophy, Tournament Title



The Tournament Champion Liberty Ranch girls' wrestlers with coaches Brian Robinson, Cesar Candido and Jose Hernandez. Courtesy Photos

By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Liberty Ranch Hawks girls' wrestlers etched their names into program history this weekend, capturing first place at the 5th Annual Cotter Memorial Wrestling Tournament and claiming the first female team trophy in school history.

The historic victory marks not only the first time the Hawks girls have won a team championship, but also the first time any Liberty Ranch girls wrestling squad has placed first at a tournament in program history.

Leading the charge were Kaydince Silva and Amie Leah Muela, who won individual titles and also earned special recognition as the tournament's outstanding wrestlers. Silva claimed the Outstanding Lower Weight Wrestler award while capturing first place at 110 pounds, while Muela dominated the upper weights, taking first at 155 pounds and earning Outstanding Upper Weight Wrestler honors.

The Hawks' championship run featured strong performances throughout the lineup. Emma McLain secured second place at 170 pounds, while Merlina Pantaleon added another silver medal with a runner-up finish at 100 pounds. Jordan Gold placed fifth at 125 pounds, and Sofia San Juan rounded out the scoring with a fifth-place finish at 145 pounds.

Girls' wrestling Head Coach Cesar Candido beamed with pride when discussing his team's



Tournament MVPs Kaydince Silva, left, and Amie Leah Muela pose with their trophies.

breakthrough performance. "Our girls have been putting in the work all year in the wrestling room, and it's been showing in tournaments," Candido said. "These ladies have been showing out every week and surprising all of us. The ladies were super excited to earn that trophy. They definitely earned it."

The victory comes at a perfect time for the Hawks, providing a significant confidence boost as they prepare for league competition.

"Great boost of confidence heading into league duals this Wednesday at Galt," Candido added.

The historic achievement

represents the culmination of dedication and hard work from a program that continues to grow and develop.

With individual awards, a team championship and momentum building heading into league action, the Liberty Ranch Hawks girls' wrestling team has announced its arrival as a force to be reckoned with.

As the Hawks prepare for their league dual Wednesday, they do so with the knowledge that they've already accomplished something no Liberty Ranch wrestling team has done before; and they're hungry for more. ★

Next Level Offers Flag Football Skills Program

By MPG Staff

LODI, CA (MPG) - Are you looking for an opportunity for your athlete to play flag football, work on their skills and develop a love for the game? Next Level is the program for you! Next Level has partnered with Lodi High School to create a great opportunity for your athlete.

What is different with our program: We have athletes from Lodi and Tokay high schools working and developing our athletes; we help train our coaches to provide a great experience for your child; and our equipment is high quality and safe. We work with all experience levels to sharpen skills in a competitive and positive environment.

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Scan the QR code for registration information on Next Level's Flag Football program. Photo courtesy of Next Level Sports

experience, this is the place to be! Please click this link

for registration: bit.ly/3N7HIhC (case sensitive). ★

LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE

PRESENTED BY THE GALT HERALD

Hawks Soar Past Union Mine in Thrilling League Opener



Daniel Wilks dribbles and looks to pass.

Story and photos by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - After nearly three weeks away from their home court, the Liberty Ranch Hawks made their return count, rallying from a halftime deficit to defeat the Union Mine Diamondbacks 57-45 in their league opener Monday night.

The Hawks (1-0 league) hadn't played at home since Dec. 20, spending the final weeks of their pre-season schedule on the road since beginning their campaign Nov. 21. But the friendly confines of its home gym proved to be just what Liberty Ranch needed to shake off the rust and claim a crucial victory over a formidable opponent.

Liberty Ranch burst out of the gates with intensity, building a 10-point advantage in the opening quarter. However, Union Mine showed why it's considered one of the tougher teams in the league, clawing its way back into the contest and taking a lead into the halftime break.

"We were down at the half, so the plan was keeping our composure, sharing the ball, not being heroes, running offense, playing defense: just really basic basketball," said Liberty Ranch Head Coach Phillip Ricci. "I really got on them at halftime about sharing the ball, just running our stuff."

The message resonated. The Hawks hung tough through the third quarter before finally



Junior Ryan Ogas shoots for three.

breaking through in the fourth, reclaiming the lead and pulling away for the 12-point victory.

Junior Ryan Ogas led the charge with a game-high 23 points, including three three-pointers, as he rediscovered his offensive rhythm at the perfect time. "I think I'm back in my groove now. I turned it on and just went for it," Ogas said. "I just really wanted to attack the basket tonight and get back in my groove. I really wanted this win against Union Mine."

The balanced Hawks attack featured contributions throughout the lineup. Senior Daniel Wilks added 11 points, while senior Derek Nelson chipped in nine. Junior Arjun Nigam

and sophomore Conrad Dixon each contributed four points, with seniors Charles Mejia and Everett Dixon and freshman Isaac Gonzalez adding two points apiece.

Coach Ricci was quick to credit the opposition while celebrating his team's resilience. "My hat's off to that Union Mine team. They are a really well-coached team, and they're really tough. They're really hard to beat," Ricci said. "If you get a win against them in league, it's a big deal."

For Ogas and his teammates, the victory represents more than just a strong start to league play: It's a statement of intent. "I just want to thank



Hawk Sophomore Conrad Dixon wins the tipoff.



Charles Mejia dribbles and turns toward the basket.

our coaches. They have really been working hard to get us back to our business," Ogas said. "I am so excited. That was a big win for our opening game. We plan to play that tough through the rest of the

league and hopefully come out on top."

With their first league victory secured, the Hawks will look to build momentum as they continue their quest for a league championship. ★

GALT HERALD ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Ryan Ogas Liberty Ranch Basketball



Kamrynn Blevins Liberty Ranch Basketball

Photos by Paige Lampson

Monterey Trail Girls' Soccer Falls to Liberty Ranch 1-0

Story and photo by Nathan Felix Valencia

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - The Liberty Ranch High School girls soccer team traveled from Galt to play the Monterey Trail High School girls soccer team on Friday Jan. 2. The game started at 6:30 p.m. with windy weather, making it difficult to direct a ball when it is kicked in the air.

Coming into the game the Liberty Ranch Hawks had a staggering 9-1-1 overall record, with a 3-0 league record. The Hawks looked to continue a four-game win streak they had started after tying with Colfax High School, 0-0, on Dec. 8.

The Mustangs were 4-3-5 on the season, with a

1-0-1 league record. They were looking to get back into the win column after taking a 1-0 loss to West High School in Tracy on Dec. 30.

Although both teams were fighting the wind, both went back and forth applying pressure while on offense, only to come up short due to both defenses making blocks on shot attempts, and clearing the ball to get their offense started. With just above six minutes left in the first half, Liberty Ranch was able to attack down the field and score the first goal of the game.

Soon after, the clouds started to open up. The Mustangs continued to fight for the duration of the first half, putting themselves in scoring

opportunities but not being able to convert and going into halftime down by one.

Going into the second half, the Mustangs applied pressure to make the Hawks focus on defense. But the Hawks were able to constantly stop the Mustangs' attempts on goals, then clear the ball out of their half of the field.

The Hawks had their fair share of attempts on goals but were stopped by the Mustangs' defense and goalie, keeping to only one goal.

Knowing the numbers of attempts to score were going down for the Mustangs to tie the game, they were playing as fast as they could, looking for more scoring opportunities. They even pulled their goalie from the box in



Senior Cianna Bounsavang, No. 8, fights Liberty Ranch freshman Adrianna Gonzalez for possession.

attempts to help on offense, but that was not enough.

Liberty Ranch won the game 1-0, pushing them to

10-1-1 on the season and dropping Monterey Trail to 4-4-5 on the season.

The Mustangs are still

looking to get back into the win column as they finish the rest of the season playing Delta League teams. ★