

Liberty Ranch Rallies Past Galt 2-1 in Senior Night Thriller

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Warriors Claim League Title on Senior Night with Shutout Victory Over Hawks

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Planning Commission Approves Galt Ranch



The Planning Commission meeting on Feb. 12 drew a packed City Hall chambers and lobby as commissioners reviewed the proposed Galt Ranch commercial development planned between the A Street and Simmerhorn Road off-ramps.

Story and photos by Idaly Valencia

GALT, CA (MPG) - City Hall was packed Feb. 12 as residents filled the chambers and lobby for a Planning Commission meeting focused on the proposed Galt Ranch commercial center, a project that prompted extensive public comment from more than 20 speakers.

Opposition during public comment centered largely on the proposed gas station, which would accommodate truck fueling. More than half of those who spoke said their concerns were specific to the station being perceived as a truck stop. Others voiced support for the overall development but urged commissioners to move forward only

after addressing traffic, noise and environmental protections.

The meeting marked the first for Michaela Johnson as commission chair, following her appointment at the Jan. 8 meeting.

The Galt Ranch development is proposed for vacant land between the A Street and Simmerhorn Road off-ramps and is designed as a large-scale commercial

center intended to generate new jobs and tax revenue for the city. Plans include a hotel, retail stores, drive-through and full-service restaurants and a Maverik gas station and convenience store.

A central open plaza with walking paths, seating areas and landscaping is planned as a key feature of the project. The overall

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City Releases District Map for Elections



By MPG Staff

GALT, CA (MPG) - The City of Galt released an updated City Council district map in its latest newsletter as part of the transition to district-based elections ahead of the 2026 general election.

According to the newsletter, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2025-04 in 2025, officially moving Galt from an at-large election system to a district-based model. Under the new system, the city is divided into geographic districts, with voters in each district electing one council member who resides in and represents that area.

The district-based system takes effect with the 2026 election on Nov. 3. Voters in Districts 1, 3 and 5 will cast ballots for their district representatives in 2026, while voters in Districts 2 and 4 will vote in 2028.

City officials noted that residents reviewing the new map may notice District 5 currently has two council members, while District 1 has none. This is due to the timing of the transition, which occurred after current council members were elected under the at-large system.

An interactive map is available online to help residents identify their district and learn which councilmember represents them. City officials said knowing one's district helps voters to better understand their representation and in which elections they are eligible to participate.

Under the new map, District 1 is vacant and will be up for election in 2026. District 2 is represented by Councilmember Matthew Pratton and will be up for election in 2028. District 3 is represented by Mayor Bonnie Rodrigues and will be on the ballot in 2026. District 4, represented by Vice Mayor Tim Reed, will be up for election in 2028. District 5 is currently represented by Councilmember Shawn Farmer and Councilmember Paul Sandhu and will be up for election in 2026.

More information is available at cityofgalt.org/home. The interactive map is at bit.ly/4kR2ILJ (case sensitive). ★

'Recycling Is Easy,' Boss Tootie Raps



Boss Tootie, 12-year-old Tia Young, is a youth hip-hop artist and Elk Grove Unified School District student making waves in the local music scene. She is now featured in a collaboration with regional waste management company Cal-Waste. Photo courtesy of Gilliam Media Production

By Idaly Valencia

ELK GROVE/GALT, CA (MPG) - A local student and hip-hop artist is using music to teach her peers about recycling and the sorting of food waste through a new collaboration with area waste management company Cal-Waste.

Based in Galt, Cal-Waste operates

throughout Sacramento and San Joaquin counties, providing residential, commercial and industrial waste collection and recycling services. Community education is a major focus for the company, particularly with school districts' work to meet state requirements for food waste recycling.

"At Cal-Waste Recovery Systems,

one of our primary focuses is helping schools implement and expand food waste recycling programs in their cafeterias," said Leesa Klotz, the company's education coordinator. "We want to support district compliance with California Senate Bill 1383, which aims to eliminate food from the landfill."

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Planning Commission Approves Galt Ranch

Continued from page 1

site plan also includes a car wash, two medical buildings, nine retail buildings, five quick-service restaurants and one restaurant lot with an outdoor patio area. Throughout the meeting, commissioners and speakers referenced potential national tenants such as In-N-Out, Panda Express and Quick Quack Car Wash.

City staff emphasized the economic benefits of approving the project, noting that much of Galt's sales tax revenue currently flows to neighboring cities such as Elk Grove and Lodi because residents leave town for everyday shopping and dining. The development, staff said, would help keep that revenue local and support public works and city services.

To accommodate traffic, the project would include an extension of Crystal Way on the eastern portion of the site with access from A Street, along with an internal roadway known as Galt Ranch Road that would serve as the primary road within the development.

Commissioners questioned staff on issues including economic impact, architectural design, landscaping standards and traffic flow. Commissioner Dan Denier asked whether the parcel east of the proposed gas station would also be designated for commercial use, which staff confirmed.

Denier then provided historical context, noting that city records from the 1980s identified the area for major commercial expansion, a vision later reiterated in the city's 2009 General Plan.

City Principal Planner Kristyn Bitz added that while the current application has been in progress for two years, discussions about developing the site date back roughly a decade.

Denier also asked for job projections associated with the project, though staff said an estimate was not yet available.

"We're talking about a significant amount of jobs for the residents of the City of Galt," Denier said. "I think that any time that we can do something to increase the job portal in this town, I think it's a good step, so that's what I want to have," he said.

Traffic concerns were also addressed, particularly regarding vehicles exiting the development onto Simmerhorn Road. Public works staff told commissioners that conditions would be imposed to address any future issues at that intersection. At present, drivers traveling north on Galt



"My clients have no problem with the Galt Ranch commercial center; it's with Maverik," said Attorney Ed Gates, who said he represents an unnamed citizen group during public comment on Feb. 12.

Ranch Road are able to turn left or right onto Simmerhorn Road without closures in either direction.

Commissioner Dan Gerling described the proximity of the Simmerhorn Road freeway on-ramp as "questionable" and said it should be carefully considered as part of the project. Staff noted that coordination with Caltrans would be required as a condition tied to improvements at the interchange.

Public comment reflected a wide range of opinions. Resident Gale Webber, among the first to speak, said she supported the gas station as a motorhome owner seeking a local fueling option.

"We have a 40-foot diesel motorhome that we are unable to fill up in city limits... so we are very much in support of having the Maverik fuel station..." Webber said.

Attorney Ed Gates, who said he represents an unnamed citizen group, said he filed a lawsuit against the city seeking public records related to the Maverik gas station, claiming proper procedures were not followed for the project's environmental exemption.

"I was stonewalled by staff; I was attacked personally by the city attorney," Gates said. He added that the city later settled the lawsuit to provide documents, which he said cost taxpayers \$150,000.

"We urge you that you have a problem legally, you have a problem with costs, sending it on taxpayers and we urge you to step back here. My clients have no problem with the Galt Ranch commercial center; it's with Maverik," Gates added.

Ryan Haggerty, president of Haggerty Construction, spoke in favor of the project, saying it would employ nearly 100 construction professionals and help

support the regional labor force. He also voiced support for the Maverik station, citing positive experiences visiting the company's locations in Nevada and working with the brand as a contractor.

Resident Veronica Lopez said she supported the commercial center but opposed the gas station.

"I support the other development because I know we need all those services and retail stores, but for the Maverik store I think we already have too many gas stations," Lopez said.

Another resident opposed to the station described it as a truck stop and raised public safety concerns.

"Everyone's saying this not a truck stop; this is a truck stop," the resident said. "You get prostitution, that's the reality."

Yira Soto, who said she lives off Glendale Avenue near the proposed development, noted existing issues with big rigs parking on nearby streets and said there are better ways for the city to generate revenue without relying on out-of-town traffic.

"I feel like there's better opportunity to grow this town by doing things that will benefit the locals rather than outsiders that are just traveling and stop by," Soto said.

"I respectfully ask that you deny the proposed truck stop project," said Ariana Hernandez, a 13-year resident. "Large truck stops in other areas have become associated with public safety concerns including crime, drug trafficking and other unlawful behaviors such as prostitution."

Kat Seabolt, director of the Galt Chamber of Commerce and a resident since the early 1990s, spoke in support of the project, viewing it through the lens of the local business community. She

acknowledged concerns about competition with small businesses but said the development would ultimately help the city and its merchants.

"Every time a family drives to Elk Grove for retail, dining gas or services not currently offered, that sales tax revenue leaves our city," Seabolt said. "That's money that could be funding our roads, Measure R, Measure Q and community programs."

Galt resident and local social media influencer Joseph Thomas, also known as JT Thomas, supported the development and said it would help balance recent housing growth by bringing in commercial tax revenue. He also spoke in favor of the Maverik station.

"It's just a damn fuel stop," Thomas said. "I'll just say I find it kind of hilarious about eight individuals came in with the same position reading from their phones..."

Resident Scott Speer said residents' opposition may stem in part from unfamiliarity with the Maverik brand and concerns over competition from existing gas stations.

"Anyone who's had a road trip across Nevada and has been to a Maverik would love it," Speer said. "I think it needs to be noted that a lot of the public opposition to this has been sort of instigated by local gas station owners because they don't want competition."

Maverik representative Todd Meyers answered commissioners' questions about security concerns, saying each store is equipped with 50 to 60 high-definition cameras monitored live by a security team in Utah and will be coordinated with local law enforcement. He also said staff are trained to identify and respond to potential human trafficking situations, supported by the extensive camera surveillance.

Addressing concerns about the site being a truck stop, Meyers said the fueling station would not have showers and would prohibit overnight or long-term parking.

After deliberation, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to adopt the project's CEQA environmental checklist and approve the tentative parcel map, master site plan, conditional use permits for fast-food restaurants and a convenience store and a minor use permit for a car wash, with a modification requiring a commission design review of the project's community public art. ★

Register for the 2026-2027 School Year at Galt Joint Union Elementary School District

Student registration information can be found at <https://www.galt.k12.ca.us/StudentsFamilies/Registration> or any of our school sites and District Office. Current Transitional Kindergarten students do not need to register for Kindergarten and current 6th grade students do not need to register for 7th grade. Current preschool students do need to register for either TK or Kindergarten depending on their birthdate.

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten Birthdates:

- Enrollment in Kindergarten requires that a child be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2026.
- Enrollment in TK requires that a child be 4 years of age before September 1, 2026.
- TK for all students will be at Fairsite Elementary and Early Learning Center at 902 Caroline Street.



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12:00 PM	12:45 PM	1:30 PM	2:15 PM	3:00 PM	3:45 PM	4:30 PM	5:15 PM	6:00 PM	6:45 PM	6:45 PM	7:30 PM	8:15 PM	9:00 PM	9:45 PM	10:30 PM	11:15 PM	12:00 PM	12:45 PM	1:30 PM
1:30 PM	2:15 PM	3:00 PM	3:45 PM	4:30 PM	5:15 PM	6:00 PM	6:45 PM	7:30 PM	8:15 PM	8:15 PM	9:00 PM	9:45 PM	10:30 PM	11:15 PM	12:00 PM	12:45 PM	1:30 PM	2:15 PM	3:00 PM



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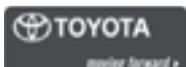
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Police Department Celebrates Public Service at Annual Awards

Galt Police Department News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - On Feb. 12, the Galt Police Department celebrated the dedication, courage and commitment of its team by honoring award recipients at its annual ceremony.

From the steady leadership of the Officer of the Year, Matthew Walters, to the calm and critical decision-making of its Dispatcher of the Year, Makaila Genilla, each honoree represents the very best of public service.

The Galt Police Department celebrated its Professional Staff of the Year recipient, Nicole Latino, and Volunteer of the Year recipient, John Salazar, whose behind-the-scenes efforts and selfless contributions keep the department running strong. The department also recognized the recipient of the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Award, Officer Kyle Hughes, honoring outstanding commitment to keeping impaired drivers off our roadways and protecting our community.

A special acknowledgment goes to the department's Life Saving Award recipients. This year, multiple members were recognized for stepping forward in moments that mattered



Matthew Walters was named the department's 2025 Officer of the Year.



Officer Kyle Hughes received the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Award.



Makaila Genilla is the Galt Police Department's 2025 Dispatcher of the Year.



Nicole Latino received the 2025 Professional Staff of the Year award.



On Feb. 12, the Galt Police Department celebrated the dedication, courage and commitment of its team by honoring award recipients at its annual ceremony.

most, deploying Narcan to reverse overdoses and performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to restore life. Their quick actions and unwavering resolve made the ultimate difference.

The department also took time to honor recently retired canine Rex for his loyal and dedicated service to the Galt Police

Department and community. His years of partnership, protection and unwavering commitment will leave a lasting legacy.

The ceremony was made even more meaningful as four new members were welcomed to the department during a swearing-in ceremony. As they took their oath, they joined a proud tradition of service,



Pictured is the Galt Police Department's Volunteer of the Year recipient, John Salazar, center left, with Police Chief Brian Kalinowski, center right. Photos courtesy of Galt Police Department



The Feb. 12 awards ceremony also introduced four new members to the department, including two officers, during a swearing-in portion of the event.

integrity and commitment to the Galt community: Officers Abdullah Taimoori and Luis Naranjo Diaz, dispatcher Serena-Helene

Winton and administration member Mikaela Phan.

Congratulations to all the award recipients and welcome to the newest

team members. The Galt Police Department is grateful for the dedication each of you brings to this profession every single day. ★

'Recycling Is Easy,' Boss Tootie Raps

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The idea for the collaboration began after Klotz heard Boss Tootie, a sixth-grade music artist in the Elk Grove Unified School District, during a radio segment that highlighted her songwriting and performance skills.

"I immediately thought, 'How fabulous would it be if Boss Tootie created a song and video that spoke to her peers about the importance of food waste recycling?'" Klotz said.

Boss Tootie, 12-year-old Tia Young, agreed to collaborate and created a public service announcement titled "Recycling is Easy," released Jan. 30. The video was filmed at the Cal-Waste facility in Galt and at Anna Kirchgater Elementary School in Sacramento, where Boss Tootie is a student.

The young hip hop talent has been creating music for about three years and has 18 songs in her

repertoire. She has gained local recognition for her work and has been featured by media outlets including CapRadio, "Good Day Sacramento" and The Sacramento Observer.

In "Recycling is Easy," Boss Tootie blends catchy tunes with facts to educate students about the importance and impact of recycling.

The song emphasizes simple, everyday habits such as separating food waste from trash, making smart food choices and understanding how small actions can help the environment and future generations.

"The result was a fun, engaging learning experience for everyone involved and a unique, customized music video that speaks directly to elementary school students about the importance of food waste recycling," said Klotz.

Young's father and manager, Rinn Zee, said the

project was a natural fit for his daughter and one she began working on immediately after Cal-Waste reached out.

"She really just took something that she'd been practicing for a number of years at school in the cafeteria when they would eat at lunch," Zee said.

He added that he hopes the song has the same impact on listeners that it had on him, noting that he learned something new about recycling after hearing his daughter's song.

Anna Kirchgater Elementary School Principal Jorge Leiva said the school was excited to film the video on campus and noted that Boss Tootie being the brains behind the music made the collaboration a strong example of student voice in the community.

"Having one of our own students, Boss Tootie, serve as the creative force and featured voice of the



Anna Kirchgater Elementary School Principal Jorge Leiva said the school was excited to film the video on campus and noted that Boss Tootie being the brains behind the music made the collaboration a strong example of student voice in the community. Photo courtesy of Gilliam Media Production

Cal-Waste recycling campaign was incredibly meaningful for our school community. It was a powerful example of student voice, creativity and leadership in action," Leiva said.

"Students have expressed pride in seeing one of their peers featured in a professional campaign, and many have been talking about the song and its message," he added.

Boss Tootie said the experience was both challenging and rewarding, a

sign that her dedication to creating and promoting music is "paying off."

"I felt super honored when Cal-Waste asked to team up with me because they're one of Sacramento's biggest recycling companies," she said.

"It was my first time recording an educational song and video, and some parts were challenging for me, but I kept trying and finished it," she said. "I felt really proud and happy about how everything turned out."

Boss Tootie's favorite part of filming this collaboration with Cal-Waste? Getting to do a ride-along on a split-body truck.

"My favorite part was filming the video and getting the chance to ride in the Cal-Waste truck; it was so exciting," she added.

Watch "Recycling Is Easy" on Boss Tootie's YouTube channel, @BossTootieMusic, or view it at bit.ly/4rtS3DY (case sensitive). Learn more about Cal-Waste at cal-waste.com. ★

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Break the Losing Streak

Well, Kings fans, your hometown team is setting records, albeit not the ones anyone wants.

After leading every team in the NBA in scoring and making the playoffs just 3 short years ago the Sacramento Kings currently own the worst record in the league. Just 12 wins and 44 losses set a Sacramento franchise record entering the all-star break for most anemic effort since the franchise arrived over 40 years ago.

If that sounds bad, it's potentially not the worst news. In all my years of following the NBA never have I so brazenly heard the word tanking bandied about.

Radio hosts and columnists use this word with no apprehension, and many are posing tanking as a form of strategy. Nothing could be more abominable or thoroughly nauseating.

As much as I admire the fan base of the Kings, at no time have I ever considered that this fan base would trade losing games with purpose to potentially acquire a better draft pick.

The day that Doug Christie intentionally tries to lose a basketball game, is the day that I turn in my season tickets and find another organization to support.

Tanking is a dirty word, and it sends a message to the youth of our fan base that no one should want to consider.

The Sacramento Kings have made blatant mistakes to be sure, and injuries have contributed greatly to a paltry 12 wins thus far this season, but at no time have I believed that the owner or the coaching staff of this team is intentionally trying to lose a game.

Hefty fines were recently handed out to the Utah Jazz and Indiana Pacers for intentionally trying to throw basketball games. Yes, tanking is a real thing, and anyone associated with it should be ashamed.

When Adam Silver had the Herculean mountain to climb taking over as commissioner for David Stern, he had no illusions as to what lay ahead and the difficulty of the task. Since 2014 Silver has put into practice all that David Stern tried to teach him, but perhaps his most daunting task is yet before him. It is unlikely that tanking can be stopped 100% of the time, but getting this

dirty word out of our everyday vocabulary is something Adam Silver must conquer.

Don't ever let this nasty concept get watered down Kings fans, because once you open Pandora's box it's ever so hard to put the lid back on.

So, what should the Kings do?

Find the Lion on the team, the very heart of the team, and build around that player! Someone with a heart for winning and an engine that never stops.

Yes, he's here, and his name is Domantas Sabonis! His name is synonymous with winning, and he was the center piece of the team that led the NBA in scoring, while he single-handedly led the NBA in rebounding.

It was a glorious year that saw the Kings finally taste the playoffs and came within a gnat's eyelash of knocking off the Golden State Warriors in the first round of the playoffs.

This was just 3 short years ago, and although the Kings have made monumental missteps such as trading away DeAaron Fox, there remains more than a remnant of talent on this team.

What the Kings need is a steady hand, and someone to bring this talent together.

The upcoming draft looms large, and GM Scott Perry will be tested to see if he can double down on Nique Clifford and Max Raynaud who have acquitted themselves admirably thus far in their rookie debut.

Please Kings fans, don't ever buy into tanking and give it the cold shoulder it deserves. Let's continue in the Sacramento tradition of never giving up and striving to win every game.

We may not have an NBA championship, but don't let anyone say we don't have honor.

The recent acquisition of DeAndre Hunter has yet to make his presence felt but let's welcome him with open arms and see how he can play alongside Keegan Murray who is slated to return soon from injury.

Winning games Kings fans! That's who we are and who we should be.

Get out to a game and let's light the beam together!

All the best!

★

Newsom's Spending Binge Outstripped Revenues, Creating California's Chronic Deficit



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

An array of charts buried in the fine print of the state budget, unknown to all but a few fiscal nerds, details what California has collected in revenues and spent over the last half-century.

The current charts in Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed 2026-27 budget reveal how spending has exploded during his governorship, far outstripping stagnant population growth, inflation and even a hefty increase in revenues.

The result, according to both Newsom's Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst Office, is a multibillion-dollar "structural deficit," meaning that revenues cannot cover spending that Newsom and the Legislature have enacted.

"Both our office and the administration expect the state to face multiyear deficits, with estimates ranging from \$20 billion to \$35 billion annually," Legislative Analyst Gabe Petek says in his overview of the proposed budget.

"These deficits are concerning for three reasons. First, after four years of projected deficits and a cumulative total of \$125 billion in budget problems solved so far, the state's negative fiscal situation is now chronic.

"Second, structural deficits have grown — our November outlook is the most negative forecast of the budget's position since the pandemic.

Finally, deficits have persisted even as the state's economy and revenues have grown, underscoring that the problem is structural rather than cyclical. Taken together, these trends raise serious concerns about the state's fiscal sustainability."

The budget's historic charts are important because they support Petek's deficit warning and undercut politicians' temptation to shift the blame to economic conditions, emergencies such as the Los Angeles wildfires or reductions in federal aid by President Donald Trump.

Here's what one chart reveals:

In the seven budgets Newsom has signed, beginning with 2019-20, and the eighth one he has proposed, revenues have increased by 60%, mostly from taxes that tapped into a 48% increase in Californians' personal income during the period. Total spending, however, jumped 72%, from \$203 billion to \$349 billion.

During that same period, the state's population has been stagnant at 39.6 million while inflation at the national level has been 29%, averaging 3.4% a year, with California's inflation slightly lower at about 3%.

In other words, revenues have increased at roughly twice the rate of inflation while spending has jumped even higher.

Those numbers are reflected in a nearly 28% increase in the state's workforce, from 376,990 to 481,850, as the budget expanded programs that were in place when Newsom became governor and added new categories. Spending on health care, especially for low-income Californians, has been one major driver, while constitutional formulas for financing public schools have been another.

Another chart provides a clue to the massive error in revenue projections by Newsom's budget staff in 2022 which sparked the spending surge.

In 2021, as the state's economy began recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown and as billions of dollars in federal relief flooded the state, general fund revenues jumped 53% above the pre-pandemic 2019 level, topping \$200 billion for the first time in history.

For reasons known only to themselves, Newsom and his aides assumed that the new revenues figure would be at least semi-permanent. It fueled Newsom's claim, as the 2022-23 budget was being finalized, that the state enjoyed a \$97.5 billion surplus, and his bragging that "no other state in American history has ever experienced a surplus as large as this."

Newsom's declaration fueled an immediate spending increase that carried into the following years. But the projected revenue increase turned out to be an illusion, and subsequently the administration acknowledged that it had over-estimated revenues by \$165 billion over four years.

The structural deficit has been with us ever since, totaling \$125 billion so far, as Petek describes. Newsom clearly envisions a presidential campaign after his governorship ends, but the self-inflicted budget mess may haunt him.

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

I'm Still Working; Why Didn't my Benefit Amount Increase



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I have been working somewhat consistently since commencing my Social Security benefit income. I've been collecting since my full benefit age of 66, approximately. I'm now 81, and customarily, in about October of each calendar year, Social Security notifies me of additional benefits from my additional work. Not this year.

I earned some \$18,000-\$19,000 in 2025. SS advised I did not meet some 35-year formula. I thought that formula just applied to the original benefit calculation. Otherwise, one seems cheated given the SS taxes paid on income received after applying for benefits without any consideration for that income. Please advise me. **Signed: Feeling Cheated**

Dear Feeling Cheated: FYI, your Social Security benefit is always based on the highest 35 years of your lifetime earnings (with your early years' earnings automatically adjusted for inflation). And that

formula continues even after you start receiving benefits. Social Security will look at your earnings each year to see if your recent earnings are among your highest. If so, they will automatically recalculate your benefit to give you a higher amount (and pay you retroactively to the first of that year). Apparently, in past years, your more recent earnings were among the highest over your lifetime, which is why you received those notifications in the fall of each previous year saying your benefit was adjusted based upon recent earnings. That you didn't get a similar notification this year, means that your earnings in 2024 were not among the highest over your lifetime, so no adjustment to your monthly benefit was appropriate.

Now, to clarify, those annual notices you received in the past always referred to the preceding year — that is, if you received a notice in October 2024 of a higher SS benefit, that was a result of your 2023 earnings. If you got no such notice in October of 2025, that means that your 2024 income was not among the highest over your lifetime. And your 2025 earnings of \$18,000 - \$19,000 will likely not be among your lifetime highest either, so you probably won't get a notice next year either.

It's important to understand that your

contributions to Social Security (i.e., the SS payroll taxes you pay while working) are not put into a separate account for you — rather, they are used to help pay benefits to all beneficiaries. In other words, just contributing to SS with payroll tax from your work earnings doesn't necessarily mean you get a higher benefit. Your SS benefit is always based upon the 35 years in which you earned the most, including recent years if you continue to work. So, you weren't "cheated" — that is simply how the program works — your SS benefit is always based on your highest 35 years of work earnings, including recent years, with earnings from the early years adjusted for inflation.

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-dvisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★



Virginia's Clownish Redistricting Scheme

ity -- that votes Republican will be almost completely shut out of congressional seats. And, of course, this is being done in the name of "democracy."

Virginia's move, which still needs to clear hurdles, is a salvo in the mid-decade redistricting wars set off by President Trump and the GOP, beginning in Texas. It was foolhardy of the GOP to go down this road, but now Democrats in a relatively moderate state are creating a new standard for audacity.

Buoyed by their election victory last year -- led at the top of the ticket by Gov. Abigail Spanberger, who is supposed to be a centrist -- Democrats have tortured the map to produce the 10 presumptively Democratic seats.

One of their methods is to tap into populous, deep blue Northern Virginia to scoop up heavily Democratic voters, and then draw districts extending into less populated, Republican areas. The idea is that the Northern Virginia contingent will overwhelm the more rural voters, ensuring that they have little chance of electing a member of Congress who reflects their priorities.

In this sense, the map is not just a partisan power play, but a means of giving Northern Virginia hugely disproportionate sway over the state's congressional delegation.

One district will reach from the inner suburb of Arlington, Virginia, all the way down to York County in the Tidewater area of Virginia, a roughly three-hour drive. For all that these areas have in com-

mon, the district might as well stretch all the way to Erie, Pennsylvania. To try to force through their map, Virginia Democrats need to maneuver around a constitutional amendment passed by voters in 2020 to create a nonpartisan districting commission, exactly to avoid the kind of outrage Democrats are now proposing. The amendment passed with 66% of the vote, a strong message from the public that it didn't want gerrymandered districts.

Democrats have now blown past procedural requirements for re-amending the Constitution to allow for their plan, and may yet get blocked by the state's Supreme Court. The measure also has to pass in a referendum, and there's a chance voters will reject it, although Democrats have scheduled the vote for April, when turnout is low.

TITLE: None of this is worthy of a state with one of the finest political traditions in America. Virginia Democrats tell themselves they are just responding to Texas, but Democratic states like Illinois and California were already heavily gerrymandered prior to the Lone Star state redrawing its map, and Virginia is going above and beyond in its rank partisan grubbiness.

Democratic state senator Louise Lucas crowed after Democrats produced their maps, "We said 10-1, and we meant it." Yes, indeed, they are determined to protect democracy -- Virginia voters be damned.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2026 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

Your Community, Your Parks: City Updates from Measure Q



City of Galt News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - The City of Galt is making progress on several Measure Q-funded projects that enhance community facilities and recreational amenities.

These initiatives reflect the city's ongoing commitment to investing in spaces residents can enjoy for years to come.

Waterslide Replacement Project

Construction on the new waterslide at the Gora Aquatic Center is in full swing. Crews are currently on site assembling the slide, with visible progress taking shape each day.

The project remains on schedule, with the opening date still anticipated for May 2026.



The City of Galt's latest newsletter highlighted how Measure Q, the local one-cent sales tax approved by voters in 2022, is helping fund improvements that residents will enjoy for years to come. Photo courtesy of City of Galt

Walker Community Park Phase 2A

Walker Community Park Phase 2A is already out to bid.

This project will bring three new youth baseball/softball fields, new amenities and improvements to the park, enhancing recreational opportunities for the community.

Skatepark Enhancements Project

The Skatepark Enhancements Project is expected to go out to bid in the next couple of months. Once underway, this

project will double the size of the skatepark and provide upgraded features for skateboarding enthusiasts.

The City of Galt appreciates the community's continued support of Measure Q and looks forward to sharing additional updates as these projects continue to advance.

Approved by voters in 2022, Measure Q established a local one-cent sales tax.

The revenue generated increases locally controlled funding, allowing the city to enhance and maintain essential services. ★

Weekend Events Highlighted at Barsetti Tasting Room



The Fourth Street Band will perform from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21 at the Barsetti Vineyards Tasting Room, 400 4th St, Suite 150. Herald file photo

By MPG Staff

GALT, CA (MPG) - Join Barsetti Vineyards for a weekend of laid-back entertainment featuring live music and, of course, a glass of wine.

Live music from the Fourth Street Band will be featured from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21 at the Barsetti Vineyards Tasting

Room.

The band will perform hits from the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s and includes members of Phil & da Pinots Band, along with local musician Tony Keezee. Wine and wine slushies will be available for purchase.

Additional live music is scheduled from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 27 when

Phil & da Pinots returns with a mix of dance tunes and classic rock from the 1960s through the 1990s. A two-drink minimum is required for the evening performance.

For more information, visit barsettivineyards.com or call 209-747-3861. Barsetti Vineyards Tasting Room is located at 400 4th St, Suite 150. ★

Legal Advertising
916-483-0946

LEGAL ADVERTISING

The Galt Herald Adjudicated For and By the County of Sacramento, Case No. 93246 - October 14, 1910

2508 Garfield Ave. • Ste. A
Carmichael, CA 95608

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-01070
Yasir Alshammaa, 5301 Leader Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95841 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Sac simsim" 5301 Leader Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95841. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 4, 2026
Publish: Feb 20, 27, March 6, 13, 2026
SAC 3-13-26

TRUSTEE SALE

T.S. No. 25-76360 APN: 148-1190-004-0000 **NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 7/12/2023. 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 drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or

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 hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. 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 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: **MARIELLE VICTORIA BALAEI, A SINGLE WOMAN**Duly Appointed Trustee: ZBS LAW, LLP Deed of Trust recorded 7/13/2023, as Instrument No. 202307130828, of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Sacramento County, California, Date of Sale: **3/17/2026** at 9:00 AM Place of Sale: East Main Entrance,

Gordon D. Schaber Sacramento County Courthouse, 720 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **\$490,215.02**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 owed. Street Address or other common designation of real property: **924 POSEY STREET GALT, CALIFORNIA 95632**Described as follows: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED ON SAID DEED OF TRUST.A.P.N #: **148-1190-004-0000**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.**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 auto-

matically 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 (855) 976-3916 or visit this internet website www.auction.com, using the 25-76360. 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 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 tracker.auction.com/sb1079, using the 25-76360 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 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. Dated: **1/29/2026 ZBS LAW, LLP, as Trustee 30 Corporate Park, Suite 450Irvine, CA 92606For Non-Automated Sale Information, call: (714) 848-7920For Sale Information: (855) 976-3916 www.auction.com Michael Busby, Trustee Sale Officer**This office is enforcing a security interest of your creditor. To the extent that your obligation has been discharged by a bankruptcy court or is subject to an automatic stay of bankruptcy, this notice is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a demand for payment or any attempt to collect such obligation. EPP 46693
Pub Dates 02/06, 02/13, 02/20/2026
THE GALT HERALD 2-20-26



NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Galt, California, will receive sealed Bids as follows:

BID DATE / TIME / AWARD DATE: TUESDAY, April 7, 2026 Until 2:00 P.M. (Local Time).

SUBMIT BIDS TO: City Clerk
City of Galt
380 Civic Drive
Galt, CA 95632

FOR: City of Galt
Gun Range Improvements, 624C & 521Q

ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST: \$1.65M to \$1.85M Base Bid

TOTAL CONTRACT TIME: 60 working days

CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE: A and/or B

NON-MANDATORY PRE-BID SITE MTG: Monday, March 23, 2026, 1:30 PM
at West Gun Range Site – WWTP / 10059
Twin Cities Road, Galt, CA 95632.

The Scope of Work is to provide the improvements per these general and technical provisions and the construction plans. The non-mandatory mtg map/direction from Twin Cities Road to the West Gun Range access:

Notice is hereby further given that the Project is a public works project within the requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1 of the California Labor Code, and that each Bidder and all Subcontractors are required to be registered pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5 at the time of bidding. **Failure of the Bidder to be registered at the time of bidding shall render the Bid non-responsive and unavailable for award. A Subcontractor who is unregistered will not be permitted to work on the Project. If any Subcontractor required to be listed in the Bid is unregistered, that Subcontractor will be required to be substituted with a registered Subcontractor at no additional cost to the City and/or the listing of an unregistered Subcontractor may render the bid nonresponsive.**

City affirmatively identifies this project as a "public work" as that term is defined by Labor Code Section 1720, and the project is, therefore, subject to prevailing wages under Labor Code Section 1771. Contractor and its Subcontractors shall fully comply with all the provisions of the California Labor Code governing the performance of public works contracts including, but not limited to, payment of prevailing wages, limitations on time worked, compliance with apprentice requirements, maintenance of payroll records, posting of wages at the job site and prohibitions against discrimination. Prevailing wage determinations are available from the Department of Industrial Relations at www.dir.ca.gov. Those prevailing wage rates hereby are incorporated in this Contract and made a part hereof. (See General Provisions, Chapter 6.)

Submit Bids (original/no copies) and bid security in a sealed envelope, marked "Bid for CITY OF GALT Gun Range Improvements, 624C & 521Q" and include the company name and address on the envelope.

City Clerk's Office is located in the City Administration Building, 380 Civic Drive, Galt, CA 95632, telephone (209) 366-7130 Monday -Thursday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. The contractor may view/print the project Contract Documents, Supplemental Information available to Bidders, and check for addenda at the link below. The contractor should call the Clerk's office and request to be included on the Plan Holder's List for addenda. The City of Galt will not provide printed hardcopies for purchase of the Notice to Contractors. Visit the webpage and select the applicable project:

<https://www.cityofgalt.org/government/public-works-department/bid-cip-construction-projects>

Complete sets of Contract Documents must be used in preparing Bids. The City does not assume responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Contract Documents. The City, in making copies of the Contract Documents available on the above terms, does so only for the purpose of obtaining Bids for the Work and does not confer license or grant for any other use.

Written questions regarding this Invitation for Bids should be directed to **Kevin Hoover** and **Trung Trinh** by email at khoover@reyengineers.com and ttrinh@cityofgalt.org no later than ten (10) calendar days before the time specified for opening Bids. The City will issue addenda seven (7) calendar days, or as deemed appropriate, prior to the time specified for opening Bids. All emails shall require verification of receipt by sender in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. Bidders shall develop and submit Bids at their own expense. The City will not reimburse any costs associated with the development and submittal of any and all Bids.

Each Bid must be submitted on the Bid Forms provided in the Contract Documents. The Bid must be submitted and received by the Engineering Division no later than the time and date prescribed. The clock located in the Engineering Division office is considered the official local time. Bid submissions received after the designated time will not be opened and will be returned to the Bidder unopened. Telephones will not be available to Bidders at the City's offices for the preparation of Bids.

Each bid shall also have a **STATEMENT OF EXPERIENCE**, which provides contact information, and project descriptions of similar work as advertised herein. The statement shall be on the Contractor's own form/letterhead.

Each Bid must also be accompanied by security in the form of a Bidder's Bond issued by a corporate surety, a certified check, or cashier's check payable to the City of Galt, or cash. The amount of the bid security must be not less than ten percent (10%) of the Total Bid Price, consisting of the total base bid plus the total additive bid alternates. The successful Bidder shall be required to execute a Material and Labor Payment Bond and Performance Bond, issued by a corporate surety, in conformance with the requirements set forth in the Contract Documents, each for not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price.

If the lowest responsive, responsible bidder fails or refuses to execute any Contract for the Project, the City may, in its discretion, award the Contract to the second lowest, responsive responsible bidder. If the second lowest responsible, responsible bidder fails or refuses to execute any Contract for the Project, the City may, in its discretion, award that and all other Contracts for the Project to the third lowest, responsive responsible bidder. Any Bidder to whom any Contract for the Project is awarded who fails to execute the Contract and file acceptable bonds and insurance certificates as required in the Contract Documents will have its Bid Guarantee forfeited.

Pursuant to California Public Contracts Code, any contract awarded pursuant to this Notice to Contractors shall obtain a provision permitting, at the Contractors' sole expense, the substitution of securities for any moneys withheld to ensure performance under the Contract. The terms of such provisions shall be according to the requirements of the Public Contracts Code Section 22300.

No Bid received and read aloud may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the bid opening date, except pursuant to California Public Contract Code Section 5101 et seq.

The City reserves the right to award the Contract, to reject any or all Bids, to waive non-material and inconsequential irregularities in any Bid, and to reject nonconforming, non-responsive, non-responsible, or conditional Bids.

Interim Public Works Director
Trung Trinh, P.E.
Interim Public Works Director
City of Galt

February 13, 2026
Date

ABOUT TOWN

Friday, Feb. 20

Historical Walking Tour of Downtown Lodi – 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., starting at the historic train depot. This walking tour provides a general history of Lodi and includes mention of many of our most interesting female residents. Tour participants will be required to sign a waiver before the tour begins. These tours are free, though donations are welcomed; ask your tour guide. *24 S. Sacramento St., Lodi.*

Saturday, Feb. 21

NorCal Science Festival – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lodi High School. This free, family-friendly celebration of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM) features interactive exhibits, live demonstrations and engaging activities designed to spark curiosity at every age. Students, educators and science lovers from across the region are invited to join a day packed with discovery. More information at norcalsciencefestival.org. *3 S. Pacific Ave., Lodi.*

Raptor Rescue Talk – 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Amphitheater at Shumway Oak Grove Regional Park. Enjoy this wild presentation by Tri County Wildlife Care, featuring its amazing ambassador raptors and other animal friends. *4520 W. Eight Mile Road, Stockton.*

4th Annual Pasta & Bingo Night – 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Littleton Center. Join the St. Martin Foundation for its annual fundraising event. \$40 adults, \$25 child includes pasta dinner, five Bingo games and entry for a door prize. Raffle tickets and extra Bingo cards will also be for sale. *410 Civic Drive.*

Stockton Police K9 Connection Crab Feed – Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at the Lodi Grape Festival Grounds. Enjoy a great time with crab dinner, dance, raffle prizes and music. All proceeds benefit the Stockton K9 Connection. For tickets or event information, contact Eric Hutton, 916-284-6381, or Jenny Sahagan, 805-616-7343. *413 E. Lockeford St., Lodi.*

Sunday, Feb. 22

Galentine's Brunch – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Brookside Country Club. Please join us for this inaugural brunch hosted by Love Unlocked. Your support unlocks love, builds confidence and nurtures belonging for each foster youth, aged-out young adult and trafficked victim we serve. Tickets and more information at loveunlocked.org. *3603 St. Andrews Drive, Stockton.*

Thursday, Feb. 26

2026 Lodi Lottery for the Arts – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Lodi Community Art Center. This special fundraising event helps keep the doors open and the programs thriving at the Lodi Community Art Center. Each \$135 ticket guarantees an artwork valued at more than \$135, sometimes much more. Artists and supporters

have generously contributed beautiful work currently on display in the gallery through all of February. Tickets will be drawn at the event. *110 W. Pine St., Lodi.*

Saturday, Feb. 28 and Sunday, March 1

StocktonCon Winter – 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days at the Adventist Health Arena. With over 100 exhibitors and artists participating, fans attending the event will have an exciting opportunity to discover hidden treasures and art commissions. Dress up, have your camera ready and enjoy a day filled with cosplay. Tickets and more information at stocktoncon.com. *248 W. Fremont St., Stockton.*

Saturday, Feb. 28

Valentine's Pottery Workshop – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lodi Community Art Center. Celebrate love and creativity with a hands-on Valentine's potter experience. This clay workshop invites you to sculpt and decorate heart-shaped plates or bowls – perfect as a heartfelt gift or a keepsake to treasure.

Whether you arrive solo, with a friend or on a date, it's a fun and relaxing way to spend your day surrounded by creativity. \$25 per person; space is limited. Call or text 209-639-9089 to reserve. *110 W. Pine St., Lodi.*

Dancing for the Dogs and Cats – 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Stockton Golf and Country Club. This unforgettable evening will feature prominent members of our community paired with professional dancers from Arthur Murray Dance Studio for an exciting competition.

While cheering on our talented dancers, guests will enjoy a fabulous dinner, drinks and an evening filled with fun, all in support of the animals in our community. Your generosity directly supports the Animal Protection League's mission to save lives and raise awareness for animals in need. Tickets and more information at apl209.org. *3800 Country Club Blvd., Stockton.*

Rotary Scholarship Dinner – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Jean Harvie Community Center. Join us for our annual community fundraising dinner and silent auction. Guests will enjoy complimentary wine from local vintners, a full no-host bar and dinner prepared by Acoustic Events. Proceeds from the event support local community needs and provide scholarships to Delta students. Tickets and auction registration at walnutgroverotary.org. *14273 River Road, Walnut Grove.*

Sunday, March 1

Guided History Walk of the Cosumnes River – 10 a.m. to noon at the Cosumnes River Preserve. Come join us for a fascinating journey through the past. Discover the stories and secrets of this beautiful river while enjoying the serene surroundings of the preserve. Reserve your spot at Cosumnes.org. *13501*

Franklin Blvd.

A Wonderland Tea Party – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hidden Tea Room. Step into a whimsical world inspired by Alice in Wonderland at this enchanting tea party experience. Perfect for families and fans of classic storytelling, this themed event invites guests to enjoy a magical afternoon. Seats are limited; call 209-452-5366 to reserve your spot. *310 N. California St., Lodi.*

World of Wonders Birthday Party – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join the community in celebrating 17 years of hands-on discovery at the World of Wonders Science Museum. This free birthday event invites guests of all ages to explore, play and learn through interactive exhibits and engaging science activities. *2 N. Sacramento St., Lodi.*

Saturday, March 7

Galt Saturday Market Opens – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the 4th Street Promenade. Join us for a warm, family-friendly event filled with local vendors, fresh finds, tasty treats and a welcoming atmosphere for all ages. Bring the kids, invite friends and make it a Saturday tradition. Markets are the first Saturday each month, March through November. More information at 209-366-7115.

Empty Bowl Fundraiser – 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Littleton Center. Please join us for this exciting gathering, a fundraiser for the Galt Sunshine Food Pantry & Resource Center, Inc. Help us raise funds to meet our goals while you enjoy an evening with neighbors and friends. Soup, salad and bread included in ticket cost; \$20 adults and children 12 and under \$5. There will also be a silent auction of gift baskets and artisan bowls available for purchase. Tickets can be purchased by calling Faye Gaines at 209-200-2628 or via email at fayegaines@att.net. *410 Civic Drive.*

Ongoing Events

Blood, Sweat and Gears Car Club – 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Foothill Pizza in Lockeford. Fourth Friday each month, cruise-in pizza and pistons. All years, makes and models welcome. Next event, Friday, Feb. 27. *18970 N. Highway 88, Lockeford.*

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, March 14. *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.*

Senior Bingo – most Mondays except holidays, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Chabolla Community Center. Free play for seniors.

Come for the fun and socialization. Next date Monday, Feb. 23. *600 Chabolla Ave.*

Wilton Bingo – First Saturday each month. The next bingo will be on Saturday, March 7 in the Wilton Community Center. Doors open at 5 p.m. with food available for sale; 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) Galt Marian O. Lawrence Library, 1000 Caroline Ave. and (WG) Walnut Grove, 14177 Market St.

Friday, Feb. 20: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (G) Bad art night for adults, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. (WG)

Tuesday Feb. 24: Family story time, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. (WG)

Friday, Feb. 27: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (G) Loteria, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Discover and play this wonderful card game for a chance to win a prize. There will be some of Mexico's traditional sweet treats to enjoy while you play. (WG)

Saturday, Feb. 28: Concierto familiar con 123 Andrés, 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Enjoy a concert for young children with Grammy-winning musical group 123 Andrés. Experience fun, energetic and educational music in Spanish and English. (G)

Call 916-264-2920 or 800-561-4636 for more information on any of these events.

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, corner of Laguna Boulevard and West Stockton Boulevard (just off Highway 99) in 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 Thursday. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., District 56 Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove. For more information, call 916-684-3849. ★

POLICE LOGS

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

Feb. 10

7:35 a.m., Theft reported, H&R Block, Twin Cities Road.

Feb. 11

6:43 p.m., Weapon-Brandishing/Adult Arrest, Cottage Lane Apartments on A Street.

Feb. 12

2:56 p.m., Fraud reported, Maple Street: Online fraud, money taken over several months.

8:28 p.m., Domestic Violence/Adult Arrest, Emerald Oak Drive/Rossi Drive.

Feb. 14

7:01 a.m., Domestic Violence/Adult Arrest, Heritage Senior Village on Second Street.

2:47 p.m., Domestic Violence/Adult Arrest, South Emerald Oak Drive.

5:26 p.m., Domestic Violence/Adult Arrest, Quik Stop on Fourth Street.

7:24 p.m., Hit and Run/Non-Injury, Aisle 1 Gas Station on Twin Cities Road.

Feb. 15

2 a.m., Hit and Run/Non-Injury, Chabolla Avenue/South Lincoln Way.

10:25 a.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Auto Zone, C Street.

Feb. 16

7:49 a.m., Identity Theft reported, West C Street.

9:39 a.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, South Lincoln Way/Ranch Road.

11:23 a.m., Theft reported, Days Inn on North Lincoln Way: Money and gold bracelet missing from hotel room after checkout.

5:01 p.m., Kidnapping/Adult Arrest, Oaken Alley/Fifth Street-Sixth Street alley. ★

MEETING MINDERS

Monday, March 2

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, March 3

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

Wednesday, March 4

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. contact.

Friday, March 6

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

Sunday, March 8

Galt 4-H Club meeting, 3 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.

Thursday, March 12

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

Saturday, March 14

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

Tuesday, March 17

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

Wednesday, March 18

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

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

Thursday, March 19

Galt Beautification Committee, 10 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. ★

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California Lawmakers Strike Back at DUI Repeat Offenders

**Assemblyman Tom Lackey
News Release**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - After witnessing the devastation caused by drunk drivers firsthand, former California Highway Patrol (CHP) Sergeant Assemblyman Tom Lackey (R-Palmdale) is partnering with Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Irvine) and Senator Bob Archuleta (D-Pico Rivera) to protect victims, and hold repeat DUI offenders accountable.

“As a CHP officer, I have stood on the side of the road with families who have just lost loved ones to drunk drivers. Those scenes will never leave me,” Assemblyman Lackey said. “When you have seen what I have seen, you understand that one weak law can cost a life. We owe it to the victims to do better.”

“After losing my eldest grandchild Samantha to a drunk driver, this fight is deeply personal to me,” said Senator Archuleta. “It is clear to me from my time with the Montebello Police Department



“When you have seen what I have seen, you understand that one weak law can cost a life. We owe it to the victims to do better.” Photo courtesy of Freepik

that these are completely preventable tragedies. California must finally step up and make real change. This isn’t a partisan issue. We owe it to every family to prevent these heartbreaking

losses and save lives.”

Despite the devastating and permanent consequences of drunk driving, California’s laws fail to protect the public from repeat offenders and those who

kill while driving intoxicated. Victims and survivors are ignored by a system that fails to address the magnitude of their loss.

Assemblyman Lackey, Senator Archuleta, and Assemblywoman

Petrie-Norris have each introduced their own bills targeting impaired driving, working together on a coordinated package to protect California drivers and hold repeat offenders accountable.

AB 1685 increases the points assessment for a conviction of vehicular manslaughter and vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated from two points to three, bringing repeat offenders closer to license suspension or revocation.

AB 1686 will allow for a felony or misdemeanor charge for a second offense of a DUI within 10 years.

AB 1687 changes the timeframe for how long the Department of Motor Vehicles can revoke a person’s license after they have been convicted of their third DUI from three years to eight years.

“This legislation isn’t about retribution,” Lackey said. “It’s about saving lives. Every DUI death is preventable, and we owe it to families to stop repeat offenders before anyone else suffers this unimaginable loss.” ★

Bill Strips Veterans of Choice, Delays Access to Earned Benefits

**Assemblyman
Jeff Gonzalez
News Release**

CALIFORNIA (MPG) - Feb. 10, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 694 (Archuleta), a measure promoted as “protecting Veterans,” but one that ultimately restricts their freedom to choose how they access earned disability benefits.

Despite calls for a veto, the governor chose to side with institutional interests over the lived experiences of disabled Veterans. SB 694 eliminates lawful private assistance options that many Veterans rely on after traditional systems fail them. These systems are plagued by backlogs, understaffed offices, and delays that can last months or years, often resulting in underrated claims or denials.

“There’s a market for private assistance because the system doesn’t work for everyone,” said Josh Smith, CEO and co-founder of Veteran Benefits Guide. “Seventy percent of the 55,000 Veterans we’ve helped over the past decade tried free services first. They came to us because they had no other option.”

Veterans did not turn to private assistance out of convenience, but out of necessity. SB 694 removes those options entirely, replacing choice with gate-keeping and delay.

The bill was advanced using procedural maneuvers that shut out meaningful Veteran input. It moved through the Assembly as a different bill before being gutted and amended in the Senate. The only Veteran serving in the



Newsom signed Senate Bill 694 (Archuleta), a measure promoted as “protecting Veterans,” but one that ultimately restricts their freedom to choose how they access earned disability benefits. Courtesy photo

Assembly was listed as a co-author when the measure was sent to the Governor’s desk, despite requesting in writing to be removed.

In the Legislature, four out of five Veteran lawmakers voted against SB 694. Supporters framed Veteran choice as exploitation, sidelined dissenting Veteran voices, and elevated institutional stakeholders while ignoring the lived experiences of disabled Veterans who rely on these services to survive.

“As the only veteran in the Assembly, Jeff knows firsthand the needs of veterans and to take away their resources like this is unacceptable to those who served our country,” said Assembly Republican Leader Heath Flora.

“Veterans know what delay costs,” said Assemblyman Jeff Gonzalez (R-Indio). “When benefits are held up, it’s not abstract. It means missed rent, postponed medical care, untreated PTSD, and families left without stability. As a Veteran, I find it deeply troubling that the state would take away options Veterans chose because the system was not working for them.”

Industry data shows that prolonged benefit delays can cost Veterans an average of

more than \$18,000 in lost income. Surveys indicate that 95 percent of Veterans believe they should have the right to choose who helps them navigate the claims process. SB 694 ignores that reality.

Lawmakers were presented with an alternative. Assemblyman Gonzalez worked on a bipartisan proposal that would have preserved Veteran choice, established real consumer protections, cracked down on bad actors, and provided additional funding for County Veteran Service Offices. That balanced approach was rejected in favor of a blanket prohibition that limits access rather than improving outcomes.

Other states have chosen reform over restriction. California instead chose prohibition. This decision will eliminate jobs, drive legitimate Veteran serving businesses out of state, and reduce transparency for Veterans seeking help.

“This bill does not protect Veterans. It protects a broken status quo,” Gonzalez added. “If we are serious about having Veterans’ backs, we should be expanding access and accountability, not taking options away from the people who earned these benefits through their service.” ★

California Doubles Down on Commitment to Transit

Caltrans News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Caltrans recently announced major steps in strengthening its commitment to public transportation by establishing a new Deputy Director for Transit and Rail Programs and restoring the Division of Mass Transportation to create a dedicated team focused on providing faster, more reliable and connected transit services statewide.

The department is also releasing its first holistic Director’s Policy on Transit to support more coordinated and efficient transit and rail services along the State Highway System and ultimately improving connections for millions of California riders.

“Caltrans is taking great strides in making our transportation network safer and more efficient by prioritizing transit to improve mobility for Californians of all ages and abilities,” said Caltrans Director Dina El-Tawansy. “These critical steps will help California achieve its progressive climate, health, equity, and environmental goals while fostering socially and economically vibrant, thriving and resilient communities.”

The Director’s Policy outlines the department’s vision of delivering transit priority projects on state highways and enhancing Caltrans’ role in developing transit statewide. It focuses on transit priority facilities such as dedicated bus lanes, signal priority and other infrastructure to make road-based transit service faster and more reliable on the State Highway System.

These changes will help reduce travel times, improve safety and make transit a more attractive option for Californians. The policy aims at improving air quality by reducing the number of cars on our roadways and lowering greenhouse gas emissions and prioritizes transit as a core consideration in Caltrans’ decision-making

processes to ensure all communities enjoy equitable and improved access to transit.

To drive this transformation, Caltrans is aligning resources and expertise and reinforcing its commitment to public transit by establishing the Deputy Director for Transit and Rail Programs. This executive role is dedicated to overseeing transit and rail programs and accelerating the delivery of projects that make public transportation more efficient and accessible.

The Division of Mass Transportation, in partnership with the Division of Rail, will work closely with partners to integrate transit into California’s transportation system and support initiatives that make public transportation more convenient and more sustainable. It will do so in partnership with the new California Transit Advisory Committee (CALTAC), which will advise Caltrans on transit-related matters.

California Transit Advisory Committee will consist of 20 member agencies and organizations from a diverse group of transit stakeholders, such as transit agencies, state universities, disadvantaged communities and transit experts.

California Transit Advisory Committee will meet regularly to ensure that policy stays current and reflects the most innovative state of the practice. As such, California Transit Advisory Committee will position Caltrans to develop a world-class, equitable transit system.

The new executive leadership, organizational structure and coordinated transit policy will work hand-in-glove to achieve a world-class transit and rail network and cultivate a thriving and connected California.

Learn more about the Director’s Policy on Transit at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/transportation-planning/division-of-transportation-planning/office-of-transportation-planning/directors-policy-on-transit>. ★



New Home Sales in Greater Sacramento Region Climb 79%

**North State Building Industry Association
News Release**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - New home sales in the greater Sacramento area got off to a fast start in January, soaring 79 percent higher than December’s totals, the North State Building Industry Association reported recently.

A total of 605 new home sales were reported by Building Industry Association members across the eight-county region, compared to just 338 sales in December. Traditionally, December is the slowest month for new home sales in the region while January, February and March are often the strongest.

The monthly total was up 1 percent from last January’s 598 and tied August 2024 for the highest monthly sales volume since May 2024, when



Traditionally, December is the slowest month for new home sales in the region while January, February and March are often the strongest. Photo courtesy Freepik

666 homes sold.

Building Industry Association President and CEO Tim Murphy said several factors likely contributed to

the surge in sales.

“Mortgage rates are holding steady in the low 6% range and attractive builder incentives remain available,” Murphy said. “Prospective buyers may simply be tired of sitting on the fence and are ready to take advantage of those incentives, along with the wide range of locations and floorplans currently available.”

Once again, Roseville and Rancho Cordova led the region in sales, with 133 and 124 respectively. Elk Grove was third with 54, followed by Sacramento (51) and Lincoln (45). The remainder of the top 10 were Natomas (41), Plumas Lake (36), and in a three-way tie for eighth place, El Dorado Hills, Folsom and Galt with 19 each.

There were 189 active communities at the end of the month in the region, which includes Amador, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties. ★

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Sunshine Food Pantry Donations

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

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

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

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.

Nominate Your Neighbor

The Galt Beautification Committee wants you to "nominate your neighbor." Has your neighbor recently completed a yard project?

Does your neighbor have the best flowers in town or the best-looking yard? The Galt Beautification Committee wants to know.

Send an email with pictures and why you are nominating your neighbor to planningdivision@city-ofgalt.org.

The best submissions will be included in future newsletters and City Manager Updates.

Senior Bingo Weekly at Chabolla

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

and when required by the city).

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

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.

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.

Meals on Wheels Cafe Accepting Older Adults

Meals on Wheels is accepting new participants in its Galt All Seasons Cafe 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.

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.

'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.

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.

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. ★



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Do You Know the Muffin Man?



No? Me, either. But I do know I like muffins. Warm, freshly baked treats with a crispy exterior and fluffy interior, in a variety of flavors: perfect for breakfast or a snack.

According to the daysoftheyear.com website, who doesn't like a big, tasty muffin to start their day in the morning? Muffins are an essential morning staple for many people (and great in the afternoons and evenings, too). National Muffin Day is an opportunity for people everywhere to celebrate everything they might love about muffins with the people all around.

Most people would agree that muffins are fantastic! They come in a variety of flavors, they're super easy to make, and they're fun to eat. Some people think they are pretty much like a delicious cupcake without frosting but eaten for breakfast. But in the traditional muffin, the batter is a bit denser and they often include fruit in them.

A little history: National Muffin Day might be a big celebration on this day in modern times, but the concept has humble beginnings.

It all started with the work of tech

company employee Jacob Kaufman. One morning on the way to work, Kaufman took a bag of muffins with him and handed them out to homeless people in the city in which he worked. It was such a success that he started doing it regularly and making more muffins to meet the demand.

Some people even began affectionately referring to as "The Muffin Man." (Not even close to the 1820s Muffin Man who lived on Drury Lane and sold dry, flat English type muffins for a half-penny). No, Jacob gave his muffins away to the homeless.

By his own admission, Jacob says that his eyes were originally trained to be averted to homeless and needy people. But when he started delighting in giving muffins away, he began looking for them wherever he could find them. His

awareness of these people as not as just "needy" but as humans who deserved a bit of attention, changed his entire perspective. He wasn't just doing charity work, but he was excited to connect with them every day over a muffin.

For years, Kaufman was a source of giving and inspiration to those who were less fortunate than him, providing them with delicious food that they could enjoy, and for many it was a highlight and changed the trajectory of the rest of their day.

Kaufman continued doing his work under the radar until blogger Julia Levy picked up on his story. She reported about what he was doing in a blog post on the theme of ordinary philanthropists.

After talking with one another, the duo soon realized that they could use the appeal of Kaufman's muffin experience to help more homeless people who were living in other places. The result of the conversation was the inception of National Muffin Day back in 2015, an opportunity for people to bake muffins and raised money for homeless shelters. Muffins would go from something that served consumers to a vehicle for helping

less fortunate people who were struggling on the streets.

Pretty cool, huh? And I'll bet you thought I was going to tell you the best-loved flavor of muffins or how much the biggest muffin ever weighed or how many seeds are in a poppyseed muffin or my favorite muffin.

Don't know the flavor, don't care about the weight and too many seeds to fathom. But I do enjoy an warm orange-cranberry muffin sliced down the middle and served with a dab of butter.

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, was this past Wednesday. Instead of giving up something for Lent, maybe we should give or do something positive for 40 days. Like Jacob Kaufman giving out muffins, we could be picking up trash off a street or at a park, volunteer at the food closet, write uplifting notes to your student's school staff, to government officials, church staff, your family, etc. Who knows? After 40 days it could become a habit.

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

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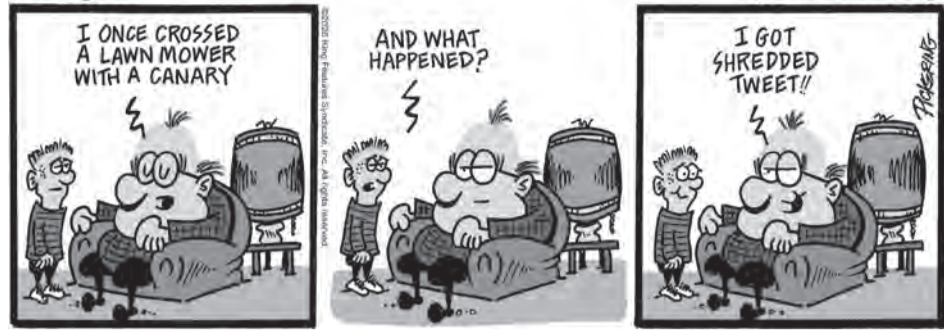
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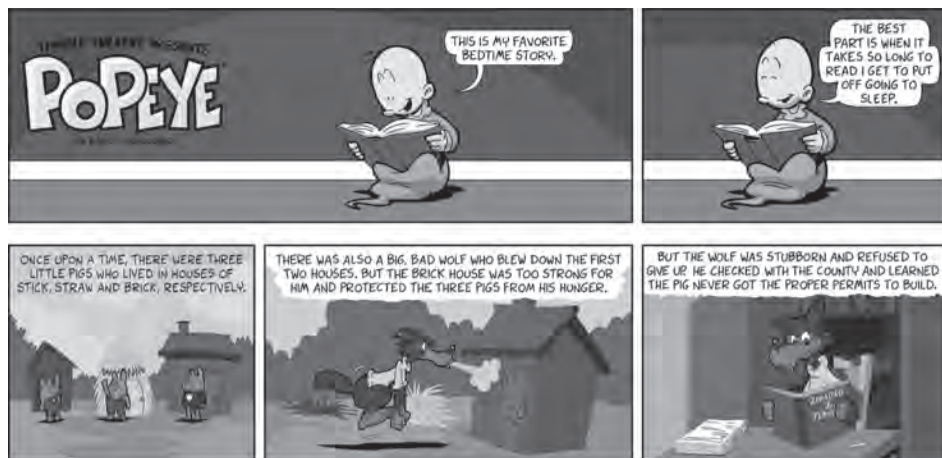
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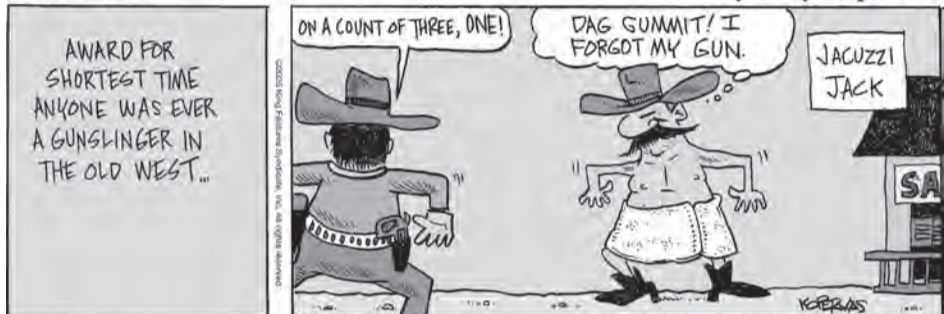
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 - Rock opera version of "La Boheme"
 - Gossipmonger, in Yiddish
 - Ballet step
 - *Henry the Navigator's title
 - Chicken pox pimples
 - Poetic "even"
 - Demosthenes or Cicero
 - "The _____ on the Floss"
 - Stories "from the Crypt"
 - Rank above maj.
 - Sore spot
 - "Happily _____ after"
 - Familiar routine
 - "Wow!"
 - Retina, pl.
 - *Explorer Shackleton's first name
 - New on the block?
 - Barbara Eden's TV character
 - Rumple
 - *First one to circumnavigate globe, almost
 - *Lewis' or Clark's vessel
 - Fictional giant
 - Plaintiff
 - Shrovetide dish
 - Zig or zag
 - Dunking cookie
 - _____ and the City"
 - "C" _____ la vie!"
 - Backgammon predecessor
- DOWN**
- Take drugs
 - Bohemian, e.g.
 - Skin opening
 - Short for self-synchronous
 - Don't just stand there!
 - "Fear of Flying" author Jong
 - Skirt length
 - Part of a hammer
 - Wholly engrossed
 - Obtain, but just barely
 - Gardening tool
 - Junk yard stuff
 - *"Dr. Livingstone, I _____?"
 - Fictional cowboy Bill
 - One better than bogey
 - J.M. Barrie's Pan
 - Plunder
 - *Geographical feature named for Ponce de Leon
 - *Inspiration for hide-and-seek game
 - City in Belgium
 - North Pole workers
 - Winter driving hazard
 - Homesteader's purchase, sing.
 - Likewise
 - *Possibly America's

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LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE

PRESENTED BY THE GALT HERALD

Liberty Ranch Rallies Past Galt 2-1 in Senior Night Thriller



Galt's Lilibeth Ortigoza looks for an opening as Liberty Ranch's Emily Portillo dribbles.



Warrior Katie Dalton controls the ball while Kennedy Arechiga guards her.

**Story and photos by
Paige Lampson
Sports Editor**

GALT, CA (MPG) - In front of an energized Senior Night crowd and with cross-town pride on the line, the Liberty Ranch Hawks once again showed resilience and championship composure, rallying to defeat rival Galt High School 2-1 Monday evening at Hawk Stadium.

The victory extends Liberty Ranch's winning streak to 11 matches and improves its record to 21-2-1 on the season, while Galt moves to 10-2-5. Much like their first meeting on Jan. 16, a narrow 3-2 Hawks victory, Monday's matchup delivered intensity, drama and high-level play from both teams, each with postseason aspirations.

The Warriors struck first, capitalizing on a penalty kick opportunity midway through the opening half. Galt's Baylee Miller calmly converted from the spot, giving the visitors an early 1-0 advantage and momentarily quieting the Senior Night crowd.

Liberty Ranch responded quickly and decisively, however. Just minutes after conceding, the Hawks found their equalizer when Juliana Romero delivered a powerful strike off an assist from Brooke Sparks, igniting the home crowd and restoring momentum. The goal sent both teams into halftime tied at 1-1 after a fast-paced and physical opening 40 minutes.

The second half continued to showcase the rivalry's competitive nature, with both teams creating scoring opportunities.

The breakthrough came when Liberty Ranch seniors connected on what

proved to be the game-winning moment. Kennedy Arechiga found the back of the net following a well-timed assist from fellow senior Bailey Alcoriza, giving the Hawks their first lead of the night.

Galt refused to fade, applying relentless pressure during the final stretch. Liberty Ranch goalkeeper Kennie Thomas played a pivotal role in preserving the lead, delivering seven highlight-reel saves while managing a constant Warriors attack. Her performance anchored a defensive unit that has been one of the Hawks' greatest strengths all season.

The Hawks' ability to overcome adversity has become a defining characteristic, as Liberty Ranch has now come from behind to defeat Galt in both meetings this season.

Following the match, Liberty Ranch Head Coach Rob Huarte emphasized the team's mindset and identity.

"You are not playing to prove who you are," he told his players. "You are playing to demonstrate who you already are."

According to Huarte that identity was built around five core values the Hawks emphasized throughout the match: Hunt, aggressively pursue loose balls and capitalize on hesitation. Punish, turn opponent mistakes into scoring opportunities. Relentless, maintain effort regardless of score, fatigue or circumstance. Composed, stay calm and confident in this high-energy rivalry atmosphere. Together, play as a unified team in every phase of the game.

Both Liberty Ranch and Galt demonstrated why they are considered among the strongest teams in the



On soccer Senior Night, coaches Rob Huarte and Brian Castaneda stand with seniors Arianna Barnes, Zia Rupert, Leilani Flores, Cathy Madrigal, Bailey Alcoriza, Avery Gregorio, Faviola Vasquez and Kennedy Arechiga.



Hawk freshman Brooke Sparks battles Warrior sophomore Brianna Romero in the middle of the pitch.



Warrior defender Shayla China gets the ball out of the goal zone.

region. We are now in the middle of playoff season and Monday's contest served as a potential preview of deep postseason runs for both squads.

For Liberty Ranch, however, the night belonged to

its seniors who delivered when it mattered most and left their home field with another memorable rivalry victory.



Galt freshman Viviana Vega works against Hawk junior Juliana Romero.

GALT HERALD ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Edgar Zavala
Galt High Soccer



Abigail Pantoja
Galt High Soccer



Lacy Smith
Liberty Ranch
Basketball



Charles Mejia
Liberty Ranch
Basketball

Photos by Paige Lampson



Warrior Jennifer Arambula tumbles as Hawk Kirin Dhaliwal as she gets close to the net.

LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE



Warriors Claim League Title on Senior Night with Shutout Victory Over Hawks

Story and photos by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Under a sky that alternated between drizzle and downpour, the Galt Warriors men's soccer team delivered a performance worthy of champions, defeating crosstown rival Liberty Ranch 2-0 on Senior Night to capture the league championship Monday evening at Warrior Stadium.

The Feb. 10 showdown had all the makings of a classic. Both teams entered with nearly identical records, the Warriors at 12-1 and the Hawks at 12-0-1, after Liberty Ranch's unexpected tie against Rosemont opened the door for Galt to seize the title. What followed was a fast and furious contest between two programs featuring some of the region's finest soccer talent.

Senior Edgar Zavala emerged as the hero of the night, scoring both goals in the championship-clinching victory. His first came off a perfectly executed set piece when Angel Munoz delivered a corner kick to the far post.

"The first goal was off a set piece that Angel Munoz sent to the second post and I was there, ready for the ball," Zavala said. "It's amazing."

Zavala's second goal showcased the Warriors' chemistry and his clinical finishing. Teammate Kevin Levario created space with a dummy run, allowing Zavala to unleash a strike into the bottom right corner.

"My teammate Kevin Levario basically dummed the ball, and I told him leave it, and I shot it bottom right, straight past the goalkeeper," Zavala explained. "I honestly felt amazing being able to show out in this game, especially the most important game of the league. Winning league, ready for sections. We are a special team that lifts each other up."

The victory marked a remarkable turnaround for Galt, which had trailed Liberty Ranch in the standings for most of the season. The Hawks had defeated the Warriors 2-1 at Liberty Ranch on Jan. 16, but Galt never lost again, setting up Monday's winner-take-all finale.

Galt goalkeeper Adam Preciado was instrumental in preserving the shutout,



The Warrior Senior soccer class, standing with Head Coach Julian Parra: Joshua Rodriguez, Mario Guerrero, Colby Szyper, Jose Careillo, Eduardo Chahin, Edgar Zavala and Leo Garcia.

recording six saves to keep the Hawks off the scoreboard. His performance anchored a defensive effort that proved crucial in the championship-deciding match.

Head Coach Julian Parra guided his team with a simple philosophy built on three core principles: composure, connection and communication. Those values proved decisive in the pressure-packed atmosphere.

"It's hard to explain," Parra said when asked about the victory. "I said at the beginning of the season there was a lot of talk about how this was a rebuild year. We still heard a couple of things, but we kept to ourselves. We kept true to who we are. We're a team united by a crest, but more importantly, we're a team united by the community."

Parra emphasized the support the Warriors felt throughout the season, even from those who couldn't attend matches in person.

"The community always supports us. We always feel it. People are busy and I know it can be tough to come to the game, but even the people that can't come out, they're always wishing us well and they're always watching on the stream," he said. "This is for everybody."

The Galt coach also praised the quality of competition provided by Liberty Ranch.

"Hats off to Liberty Ranch; great school, great program. They're very competitive, very good, talented. They do everything to a high intensity, high level," Parra said. "This was more of a celebration for the whole city. It felt really nice to see the stands full on both ends. I



Hawk Christian Maciel and Warrior Leo Garcia tangle with some high kicks.

always tell my boys all the time that if there was a top 50 SVC regional players list, Galt High and Liberty Ranch would take most of it because there's top-50-level players on both teams. The people here saw quality soccer and they saw, most importantly, the love for the city."

When asked what he told his team before the championship match, Parra kept it simple.

"They were intense. We knew what it was about. We didn't sell each other short. We were just there

for each other," he said. "It's a community. Blood couldn't make us any closer."

Perhaps the most memorable moment came immediately after the final whistle. Rather than rushing into celebration, the Warriors stopped and embraced every Liberty Ranch player, demonstrating the mutual respect between the rivals. Only

after that display of sportsmanship did the Warriors gather for their championship celebration.

Both programs have already advanced deep into their respective playoff brackets.

The Warriors, ranked first in the Division 5 section, opened with a dominant 13-0 victory over Waterford and have two more matches before

the section title game on Saturday. Liberty Ranch, seeded fourth in Division 4, defeated Center 8-1 in their opening round.

For the Warriors, however, Monday night belonged to the seniors who delivered a league championship on their final home match, capping a season that exceeded all expectations and united an entire community. ★



Galt's Angel Munoz takes a header.



Liberty's Hunter Owen takes a hurdle over Galt's Rafael Bertho side tackle.