

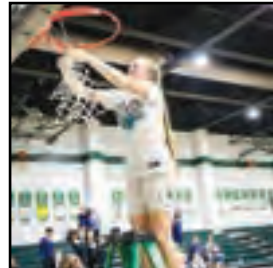


**Warriors, Hawks  
Both Boys' Soccer  
Section Champions**

PAGE 12

**Hawks Honor  
Seniors; Playoff  
Run Continues**

PAGE 11



# The Galt Herald

75¢ per copy

126TH YEAR • ISSUE 9

Serving Galt and Sacramento County Since 1901

FEBRUARY 27, 2026

**SEE  
INSIDE**

**HAPPY NATIONAL  
STRAWBERRY DAY!**



PAGE 9

**SCHOOLS FACE RED INK  
DESPITE BOOSTS IN  
EDUCATION SPENDING**



PAGE 5

**BREAK THE  
LOSING STREAK**



PAGE 5



Scan our QR Code for a  
direct link to our online edition!

PRSRTD STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID

CARMICHAEL, CA  
PERMIT NO. 350

OR CURRENT  
POSTAL CUSTOMER



## 'Night to Shine' Returns with Record Turnout



Honored guests and their buddies pose for a photo during the Feb. 13 Night to Shine event at Galt High School, hosted by Horizon Community Church. Photo by Courtney Bamert, Horizon Community Church

By Idaly Valencia

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - A night of glam, smiles and high energy filled the air the evening of Feb. 13 as Queens and Kings took center stage at the annual Night to Shine celebration.

Limousines and limo buses rotated steadily through the parking lot at Galt High School, dropping off around 240 honored guests who made their way down a red carpet lined with loved ones and community members cheering them on.



Night to Shine honored guests enjoy the Feb. 13 celebration, taking part in activities including a photo booth and karaoke. Photo by Courtney Bamert, Horizon Community Church

The event marked the largest Night to Shine hosted by Horizon Community Church, with

schools and nine churches from across Sacramento and San Joaquin counties partnered to make the event a regional celebration, with Galt serving as the host city.

Night to Shine is sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, founded in 2014 by former NFL quarterback Tim Tebow. The annual event brings churches around the world together to celebrate individuals with special needs ages 14 and older by offering them a prom night

*Continued on Page 3*

## Council to Fund City Branding Plan, Grizzly Hollow Repairs



The three logos for the city of Galt currently being used are shown above. The council approved a \$120,000 contract with Sacramento's Position Interactive to produce a more consistent brand identity for the city. Graphics courtesy of the City of Galt

By John McCallum

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - How the city of Galt presents itself to residents, businesses and external audiences was the focus of a \$120,000 contract adopted by the City Council at its Feb. 17 meeting.

The contract with Position Interactive, Inc., a Sacramento-based creative content agency, is part of the city's "Branding Initiative," an initiative to "define and strengthen" the city's brand identity. The initiative springs from one of six priorities established in the city's 2025-2027 Strategic Plan that "focuses on quality of life and on preserving Galt's small-town charm."

One challenge to this identity is the city's use of three different logos, all likely developed at different times in the past, including a logo for the Galt Market. The lack of a cohesive design used on city communications, signage, tourism and economic development materials can create confusion about what the city is and wants to be, Assistant City Manager Amie Mendes told the council during a presentation.

"There really is no consistency or standards in how our logos are applied," she added.

Position Interactive's task is to create those standards through input from council, staff and community members.

It's a four-phase, 8-to-12-month process that includes information gathering and rolling out the developed program.

Phase 1, "Discovery and Community Engagement," includes surveys and interviews with city leaders, staff, businesses and residents about how Galt is currently perceived and identify community aspirations and values.

Phase 2, "Brand Strategy and Identity Development," builds on this information to define

*Continued on Page 2*

## Cal-Waste Honors Three Businesses for Recycling



Pictured at the Feb. 3 meeting are members of the Galt City Council alongside Andrew Baughman of BIA Cordon Bleu, center left, and Davis Tran of Pizza Guys, center, holding their Cal-Waste certificates and awards in recognition of their achievements. Photo courtesy of Cal-Waste

Cal-Waste News Release

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - Cal-Waste proudly recognized three local businesses during the Galt City Council meeting on Feb. 3 for their exceptional recycling efforts.

Working closely with its operations team, Cal-Waste identified businesses that demonstrated strong recycling habits throughout 2025. These businesses consistently practiced clean

and responsible recycling, incorporated sustainable habits into their daily operations, and helped reduce contamination within the community's recycling stream.

The businesses honored for their commitment to sustainability were BIA Cordon Bleu, Pizza Guys in Galt and Dry Creek Liquors in Galt.

BIA Cordon Bleu, a wholesale manufacturer of high-quality porcelain, stoneware, bakeware,

dinnerware and serve ware, has operated in Galt since 2001. The company supplies trusted kitchenware products nationwide while maintaining strong roots in the local community. Director of Operations Andrew Baughman attended the City Council meeting and accepted the award on behalf of BIA Cordon Bleu.

Dry Creek Liquors in Galt has been family owned since 1989. Navdeep

*Continued on Page 4*

# McCaffrey Middle School Students Stage Walkout

By Idaly Valencia

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - Ahead of a planned student walkout, Galt Joint Unified Elementary School District Superintendent Lois Yount issued a letter Feb. 19 to students and families emphasizing student safety and outlining district expectations.

In the letter, Yount acknowledged the planned walkout scheduled for Friday, Feb. 20 and offered an alternative for students who wished to express their concerns while remaining on campus. Students were encouraged to visit the Wellness Center at McCaffrey Middle School, where they could write letters to U.S. representatives and local



McCaffrey Middle School students walk along Stockton Boulevard after holding a walkout Feb. 20 at the corner of Fermoy Way and Twin Cities Road, between Walmart and Raley's. Photo by Idaly Valencia

lawmakers.

"As required by education code, regular student attendance procedures will be adhered to during any student walkouts... At the same time, we recognize that the decision to excuse a child from school for civic or political events

is a personal decision and we support parental choice in this matter. Knowing that you have approved your child's decision to miss school helps us keep all students safe and accounted for," Yount said in the letter.

Yount also made clear in

the letter that walkouts are not sanctioned by the district and outlined potential consequences for students who leave campus during the school day.

"Students are not permitted to leave campus during the school day. If a student leaves campus without

following proper release procedures, they will be unsupervised by school staff and the district cannot ensure their safety," the letter read. "Additionally, walking out of class or leaving campus will result in school consequences including detention and

may impact a student's eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activities at school."

The superintendent added that the Galt Police Department had been notified of the plan and that school resource officers would be on campus.

Despite the warnings, a group of students participated in the walkout Friday afternoon. Students were seen holding signs at the corner of Fermoy Way and Twin Cities Road between Walmart and Raley's.

The walkout appeared to be part of a broader response to recent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity, similar to student demonstrations held across the region and nationwide. ★

# Council to Fund City Branding Plan, Grizzly Hollow Repairs

Continued from page 1

goals and target audiences along with delivering a city "tagline," brand story, positioning statement and two to three logos for the city and the market.

Phase 3, "Brand System," will specifically define how elements in Phase 2 are delivered, such as how the city talks about itself, when and where logos are used, colors, letter fonts and styles for photography.

Phase 4, "Implementation, Guidance and Rollout," will train staff on applying the new brand effectively, particularly when promoting the city externally for business and tourism.

"We need to tell them why they should be visiting here," Mendes said.

The not-to-exceed \$120,000 in funding is a one-time expense from the city's General Fund. Any future expenses for the initiative such as business cards, letterheads, logos on city vehicles, signage and other materials will have to be funded through additional budget allocations.

Mendes told council that staff interviewed three companies specializing in brand initiatives. All provided comparable

skills and pricing, with Position Interactive standing out for final selection because of its staff training capabilities.

Councilmember Shawn Farmer said he didn't believe something like this has ever been done in Galt, with logo creation likely being an internal product. Selecting the right company was therefore as, if not more, important than cost.

"There's more to a good deal than a good price," Farmer said. "We need to look at this as a business. Galt Market is a business."

Echoing a concern made during public comments, Vice Mayor Tim Reed asked if a schedule of payments in the contract also carried a requirement from Position Interactive to deliver product coinciding with the payments.

"What safeguards do we have the work gets done?" Reed asked.

City Attorney Frank Splendorio said the contract requires Position Interactive to provide a detailed timeline of deliverables by March. Failure to produce content according to this timeline could be considered a breach of contract, with

terms allowing the city to terminate the agreement.

"You can walk away at any time," Splendorio added.

Council unanimously approved the agreement. Council also named Farmer and Reed as the two required council members to serve on a citizens ad hoc committee to work with staff on the first three phases of the branding process.

Also at the meeting, council approved a resolution awarding \$438,712.35 in California Department of Housing and Community Development Permanent Local Housing Allocation Program funding to Mercy Housing's Grizzly Hollow facility.

According to the staff report, the program provides funding for cities and counties "to help meet the unmet need for affordable housing and increase supply of affordable housing."

City staff have been working with local nonprofits since 2022 to use the funds for new projects, but have met with challenges.

Because of an approaching March

deadline, it was decided to turn to existing affordable housing use, and the staff at Mercy Housing conveyed an urgent need for funding to replace heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment in all 54 of their rental units.

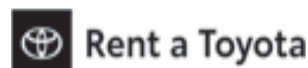
Located at the corner of Beaver Parkway and Elk Hills Drive, Grizzly Hollow has 18 detached single-family, three-bedroom, two-bathroom homes as well as 18 duplex buildings with 16 one-bedroom, one-bathroom units and 20 duplexes with two-bedroom, one-bathroom units.

Built in 2006, 19 of the units are restricted to individuals with incomes at 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI), 14 units at 50% of AMI and 20 units at 55% of AMI.

According to 2024 U.S. Census data, Galt's AMI is listed as \$94,393. Mercy Housing's website notes the average annual income of residents at its California facilities is \$19,922.

Mercy Housing senior asset manager Wendy Mertens said the funding would help because rental revenue doesn't provide enough to cover all upgrades. Mercy Housing has spent about \$1 million on exterior needs over the past five years, and now must address interior issues such as HVAC units. ★

IT'S NOT JUST A RENTAL... IT'S A TOYOTA!



**LOW WEEKLY RENTALS**

Starting at \$419<sup>94</sup> per week

Over 700 30¢/mile Expires 2/28/2026

**ELK GROVE TOYOTA RENT-A-CAR**

In the Elk Grove Auto Mall, Elk Grove (916) 405-8085

rental@elkgrovetoyota.com

elkgrovetoyota.com/rental

Summer Special

4 Runner

\$89<sup>99</sup> per day

100 free miles/day, 30¢/mile over 100 Expires 2/28/2026

4 Runner

\$539<sup>94</sup> per week

7 day minimum, 700 free miles/week, 30¢/mile over 700 Expires 2/28/2026

Tacoma

\$69<sup>99</sup> per day

150 free miles/day, 30¢/mile over 150 Expires 2/28/2026

Tacoma

\$419<sup>94</sup> per week

7 day minimum, 700 free miles/week, 30¢/mile over 700 Expires 2/28/2026

## NEW HWY-99 SATURDAY SERVICE

Connecting Galt with Elk Grove, Cosumnes River College, Kaiser South and Methodist Hospital

ELK GROVE EXPRESS ROUTE										COSUMNES RIVER COLLEGE ROUTE									
Northbound										Southbound									
8:00 AM	8:15 AM	8:30 AM	8:45 AM	9:00 AM	9:15 AM	9:30 AM	9:45 AM	10:00 AM	10:15 AM	8:00 AM	8:15 AM	8:30 AM	8:45 AM	9:00 AM	9:15 AM	9:30 AM	9:45 AM	10:00 AM	10:15 AM
11:00 AM	11:15 AM	11:30 AM	11:45 AM	12:00 PM	12:15 PM	12:30 PM	12:45 PM	1:00 PM	1:15 PM	11:00 AM	11:15 AM	11:30 AM	11:45 AM	12:00 PM	12:15 PM	12:30 PM	12:45 PM	1:00 PM	1:15 PM
2:00 PM	2:15 PM	2:30 PM	2:45 PM	3:00 PM	3:15 PM	3:30 PM	3:45 PM	4:00 PM	4:15 PM	2:00 PM	2:15 PM	2:30 PM	2:45 PM	3:00 PM	3:15 PM	3:30 PM	3:45 PM	4:00 PM	4:15 PM



**GALT COMMUTER STOPS:**

- Galt
- Twin Cities
- Midtown
- Downtown
- Sacramento



**ALL SERVICES**

- Available to EVERYONE
- Discounted Fares for Seniors, Disabled Riders, and Students
- Children 4 and Under Free With Paying Adult
- Lift-Equipped and Accessible to Mobility Aids

**DIAL-A-RIDE**

- Curb-to-Curb Service Within Galt City Limits
- Save With Ticket Books and Group Discounts
- Medical Run for Seniors and Disabled Riders
- Extended service on Tuesdays
- Service Monday Through Saturday

**DELTA ROUTE**

- Service Connecting Galt with Walnut Grove, Ryde, And Isleton
- Service from Delta Communities to Raley's and Wal-Mart in Galt
- Service Monday Through Friday

**ALL SERVICES CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER AT GALT CITY HALL FOR SCHEDULES OR MORE INFORMATION**

CALL (209) 745-3052 OR (800) 338-8676

www.sctlink.com

**AM 1380 THE ANSWER**  
NEWS. OPINION. INSIGHT.

**Sacramento's Best Talk**

AM1380TheAnswer.com

# Trustees Approve Budget Cuts, Update Protocols

By Idaly Valencia

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - The Galt Joint Union High School District Board of Trustees moved briskly through a wide-ranging agenda Feb. 19, celebrating student achievements, reviewing midyear academic progress and approving budget reductions for the coming years.

A notable moment came during discussion of updated board protocols, when trustee Dennis Richardson publicly apologized for remarks made at the previous meeting.

“I kind of lost my temper and I shouldn’t have done that,” he said. “I said some things, I used words that were inappropriate and offensive to people, and I apologize for that.”

Richardson said that after reflection, a previously proposed protocol change was unnecessary and he thanked district leadership for revising the language.

The board unanimously approved the updated



protocols, which the revision reaffirmed that all board members will comply with the Brown Act, the state law requiring public bodies to conduct meetings openly with advance notice and agendas.

## Campus Updates

The meeting opened with principal and student reports after a brief agenda adjustment to accommodate playoff games later in the evening. Director of Galt Adult School Josef Schallberger recognized two recent graduates, Alfredo Herrera, who enrolled in 2024, and Ashley Wentzloff, who enrolled in December 2025.

Student board representatives reported a busy

month across campuses. Liberty Ranch High School highlighted its FFA chapter’s annual Crab Feed, strong performances at agricultural field days and preparations for National FFA Week, including an upcoming rally themed “Battle at the Fairground.” Athletic teams also saw success, with boys’ and girls’ basketball and soccer advancing to the playoffs.

Galt High School reported progress with its Safe School Ambassador class, visits from Job Corps representatives and mock interviews for students. The student board representative added that qualifying students will attend a Sacramento Kings game in March as a reward for attendance and positive behavior.

At Estrellita High School, staff celebrated the school’s hydroponics program, which recently completed its second and third harvests of bok choy, butter lettuce, romaine, cilantro and basil. The produce was shared with

students and staff.

## Safety and Potential Bond Measure Update

Superintendent Anna Trunnell provided updates on safety initiatives and potential bond funding. She said the “Every 15 Minutes” safety program, a two-day initiative focused on drunk driving prevention for juniors and seniors, will not be held this year and was intended to be at Liberty Ranch. Instead, the school will conduct active shooter training.

Trunnell also said the district is working with consultants to finalize polling for a potential bond measure, with results expected at the March 19 board meeting. Work has also begun on an updated facilities master plan.

## Midyear LCAP Report Shows Gains

Director of Educational Services Linda DeWilde presented the district’s midyear update on its Local Control and

Accountability Plan. The multiyear plan outlines goals, actions and services funded primarily through Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) dollars. The district’s total LCFF allocation is approximately \$27.3 million, including about \$2.6 million in supplemental and concentration grants.

District leaders reported improvements in several areas, including increased English learner reclassification rates, gains in English language arts and math, higher attendance and a reduction in chronic absenteeism. Estrellita High School showed a 25% increase in its graduation rate along with gains on the College and Career Indicator.

Trustees also followed up on an after-school math tutoring program for migrant students supported through special funding. Trunnell confirmed that expanded tutoring began the week of Feb. 16, with transportation and supper provided.

## Budget Reductions

Facing projected structural deficits in the 2026-27 and 2027-28 fiscal years, the board approved about \$834,000 in budget reductions. The plan focuses on central office reorganization, a 10% reduction in unrestricted department budgets and elimination of some operations. District officials said no layoffs are required under the plan, though the board also approved resolutions to begin processes related to potential reductions in classified and certificated services due to lack of work or funds.

The meeting concluded with a superintendent’s report highlighting successful open houses, collaboration with the city and the elementary school district and continued implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports across campuses.

The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for March 19 at Galt City Hall, 380 Civic Drive ★

# ‘Night to Shine’ Returns with Record Turnout

Continued from page 1 experience.

Before attendees arrived, The Galt Herald spoke with those working behind the scenes to prepare guests for the evening. Uplift Live Confident Medicine, a Lodi-based business specializing in beauty and aesthetic medical services, participated by offering glam stations at its location at 777 S. Ham Lane. Honored guests were welcomed with a red carpet and complimentary bags filled with beauty and skin care supplies.

Fernanda Mendoza, who handles branding and marketing for Uplift Live Confident Medicine, said attendees were offered facials, makeup, hair styling and nail services. Parents and caretakers were also offered massages while they waited.

Mendoza said she was inspired to lead the effort after volunteering at Night to Shine in previous years and wanted to find another way to give back. She added that parents expressed gratitude for the care shown to their loved ones.

“Uplift, it says in the name; we try to uplift everyone from the inside out,” Mendoza said. “We are here to support our community; we’re here to give back.”

“I think now that word is going to get out about it, we’re going to have a bigger event next year,” said Micky Kammerer, one of the visionaries for Uplift Live Confident Medicine who also participated at the glam station event.

The Night to Shine celebration marked the second consecutive year the event has been held in Galt. Lead Pastor Tim Stevenson said the event outgrew its original location in Lodi and relocated after the church was offered use of Galt High School’s gymnasiums.

Stevenson said the larger venue was needed to accommodate not only the honored guests, “buddies” and volunteers but also parents and caretakers. Those guests were provided dinner and entertainment at Horizon Community Church on Fairway Drive and could watch a live feed of the event, allowing them



Honored guest Bradley Margetts walks the red carpet with their buddy at the entrance of the Galt High School gymnasium on Feb. 13 during Night to Shine. Photo by Courtney Bamert, Horizon Community Church



An honored guest from Night to Shine poses for a photo at Uplift Live Confident Medicine after getting glammed up for the evening event. Photo courtesy of Uplift Live Confident Medicine



Horizon Community Church Lead Pastor Tim Stevenson, left, welcomes an honored guest as they step off a limousine at Galt High School for the Feb. 13 Night to Shine event. Photo by Courtney Bamert, Horizon Community Church



An honored guest and their Night to Shine buddy pose for a photo while exiting a limo bus on Feb. 13. Photo by Courtney Bamert, Horizon Community Church

to feel comfortable while their loved ones participated at Night to Shine.

“The city has turned out,” Stevenson said, noting that city officials such as Councilmember Shawn Farmer and Vice Mayor Tim Reed typically participate by volunteering as buddies.

Stevenson said that as an amputee, he understands how it feels being perceived differently by others and added that the event is intended to create a welcoming environment for individuals with special needs.

“We all have a special need. Every one of us has

a disability of some kind; just some are more visible,” Stevenson said. “This is one way in the community that we can reach out to those who are sometimes overlooked.”

Horizon Community Church’s efforts were recognized Feb. 17 at the City of Galt meeting, where officials presented a certificate to church leadership for helping to bring the event to the community, noting it has become a “meaningful experience” for residents. ★



Fernanda Mendoza of Uplift Live Confident Medicine poses with a Night to Shine honored guest at the glam station at 777 S. Ham Lane before the evening event. Photo courtesy of Uplift Live Confident Medicine

# Roger's Review

By State Senator Roger Niello



## In Recognition of Montessori Month

Not every child learns in the same way or at the same pace. Having multiple educational options, traditional, charter, Montessori, homeschool or flextime, is the best way we can help all kids learn, thrive and find their success.

I have introduced Senate Constitutional Resolution 69 (SCR 69) this year to recognize February as Montessori Month in California and highlight the Montessori educational model and what it provides to our children. Senate Concurrent Resolution 69 recognizes and gives a shout-out to Montessori schools. Some are public, some are private, but they all provide an alternative learning environment for children who benefit from a different educational path to reach their full potential.

Montessori is a teaching method that has been around for more than a century. It has a child-focused approach developed by the late Dr. Maria Montessori, an Italian physician, for educating children and has been transforming schools around the world since 1907.

Dr. Montessori has ties

to California. She came to our state in 1915 to demonstrate her method at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco by using a "Glass Classroom" enabling spectators to observe this method of teaching.

That same year, Dr. Montessori spoke at the prestigious annual conference of the National Education Association in Oakland, California.

Today, in California, there are Montessori programs in 506 public and private schools serving a little over 49,253 students. Nationwide, there are approximately 3,754 public and private schools offering Montessori programs serving approximately 214,000 children.

Education in a Montessori classroom is child-centered and takes a self-directed learning approach. Students engage with specially designed materials in multi-age classrooms, fostering independence and a love of learning. They are taught to be deeply engaged in their work and respectful of themselves and their surroundings. They learn at

their own pace.

I was honored to recognize February as Montessori Month at the State Capitol. A big thank you to the California Montessori Project (CMP), a public charter that is tuition-free, open to all, and serving transitional kindergarten through eighth-grade students in the greater Sacramento Area. I appreciate all Montessori schools for the good work they do for children in our community who need an alternative path to learn, thrive and find their way to a happy, successful life.

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

## POLICE LOGS

During the time period of Feb. 17 to Feb. 23, Galt Police received and responded to a variety of calls, resulting in five arrests.

### Feb. 18

7:32 a.m., Burglary-Auto reported, F Street.

11:57 a.m., Theft reported, 4th Avenue: Subject with bike broke into unlocked vehicle. Reporting party did not want a report taken.

4:58 p.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, The Galt Place on D Street.

### Feb. 19

10:52 a.m., Theft-In-Progress reported: Walmart on Twin Cities Road: Truck stealing bales of cardboard from back lot.

5:02 p.m., Narcotics Violation/Adult

Arrest, Oak Avenue.  
9:57 p.m., Theft reported, Walmart, Twin Cities Road.

### Feb. 22

1:31 a.m., DUI/ Adult Arrest, Highway 99 Northbound/Arno Road.

2:05 a.m., DUI/ Adult Arrest, Edelweiss Way.

5:33 p.m., Vandalism reported, Posey Street: Front door kicked hard enough to crack the lock.

### Feb. 23

8:09 a.m., Burglary reported, 5th Street.

12:42 p.m., Burglary-Auto reported, The Galt Place on D Street: Truck lock broken; stereo taken.

5:03 p.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, F Street. ★

## Teen Center Seeks Adult Volunteers

By MPG Staff

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - Looking for a way to give back and support local youth? The Galt Teen Center is seeking adult volunteers, age 21 and older, to help chaperone the center during after-school hours at its

C Street location, which provides a safe space for local teens.

Those interested can contact 209-329-7403 or email galteencentergmail.com. The form is available to fill out at qrcod-edynamic.com/GTCvolunteer. Learn more at galteencenterg.org. ★

## Cal-Waste Honors Three Businesses for Recycling

Continued from page 1

Dhillon's father operated the store for more than 30 years before Navdeep took over operations in 2022.

Today, the family continues its long-standing commitment to serving the community while maintaining responsible recycling practices that help to reduce contamination and support an efficient recycling system.

Pizza Guys in Galt has proudly served the community since 2006 and is approaching 20 years in operation. Owned by Davis Tran, the locally operated franchise is known for

fresh pizzas, pastas, salads, wings and desserts.

With more than 20 years of hands-on restaurant experience, Tran leads with a strong commitment to hospitality, operational excellence and community engagement.

Tran attended the City Council meeting and accepted the award on behalf of Pizza Guys in Galt.

By recycling correctly and consistently, these businesses support a more efficient recycling process, reduce contamination and contribute to a cleaner and healthier Galt community.

Their dedication plays a vital role in ensuring recyclable materials can be properly processed and reused.

Cal-Waste thanks these businesses for leading by example and demonstrating how responsible recycling practices make a meaningful difference.

Their efforts help keep the Galt community clean while supporting long-term environmental sustainability.

For more information about proper recycling practices and sustainability initiatives, visit CalWaste.com. ★

## 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.

### 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/

contact.

### 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. ★

MEMORIAL

## LEROY MYRON VAN CONETT • 04/15/1935 – 02/09/2026

Leroy Myron Van Conett of Galt, CA, passed away peacefully on February 9th, 2026, with family and friends by his side. Although he is deeply missed, we know he is running up front with the best of them.

LeRoy was born in Lodi, CA, on April 15th, 1935, to Leland and Cecelia Van Conett. LeRoy enjoyed many things in life and was constantly in or scheming his next project. He was a kind man and always stood up for what was right. Leroy's greatest gift to those he knew was his capacity to help those around him succeed.

LeRoy was known as the "Dragon from Galt" and began his illustrious racing career in 1955 at Stockton 99 Speedway. In the mid-1960's LeRoy began racing sprintcars, which led to eight Northern California Auto Racing Club (NARC) championships. LeRoy won 65 NARC features, and was particularly successful at

Calistoga's treacherous half-mile, winning five times in 1981. He attempted to qualify for the 1982 Indianapolis 500. LeRoy was inducted into the National Sprintcar Hall of Fame in 1999 and the West Coast Stock Car Motorsports Hall of Fame in 2023 for his achievements and dedication to motorsports.

Although a local legend and

racing hero to many, LeRoy's true passion was serving as mentor. The racing community can attest to the endless accounts of his assisting others to get them on the track, or simply those that would come to his garage to watch him work on his racecar. He had a true love for the sport and was a genuine advocate for the future of racing.

LeRoy is survived by his partner in life, Patti Threet, two grandsons, Ryan and Lee Van Conett, and four great-grandchildren, Ella, Aria, Joseph, and Liam. LeRoy donated his body to the UC Davis Body Donation Program to support the program's duty to serve the public education within our community.

Our family will be honoring LeRoy's request for a private family ceremony remembering and honoring his life. An end of life celebration will be announced at a future date.

## FEATURE YOUR EVENT!

### STAND OUT AND SELL MORE TICKETS!

# QUICK, EASY, TARGETED, EFFECTIVE!

## WWW.GALTHERALD.COM

- 1. GO TO 'EVENTS' IN MAIN MENU**
- 2. GET "FEATURED" FOR ONLY \$25/WEEK!**
- 3. LANDING PAGE FULL LANDING PAGE WITH ALL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION!**

**29 WEBSITES IN THE GREATER SACRAMENTO AREA TO CHOOSE FROM**

PRICING VARIES DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF WEBSITES WHERE YOUR EVENT APPEARS, LENGTH OF TIME YOUR EVENT IS FEATURED.

**COPY THE URL OF YOUR EVENT LANDING PAGE TO INCLUDE IN YOUR ADS, & EMAILS,**

CALL (916) 773-1111 OR EMAIL PUBLISHER@MPG8.COM FOR A QUICK QUOTE. EASY PAYMENT OPTIONS

# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



## Break the Losing Streak

As previously stated, the Sacramento Kings are setting records, albeit not the ones they want to.

Entering Monday night's game against the Grizzlies on the road, the Kings will try to call a halt to a 16-game losing streak and give the Sacramento fan base a reason for optimism.

Injuries, bad coaching and a front office that still needs to find their way have all contributed to the worst record in the NBA, and few pundits or fans expected to find this team in the NBA cellar.

Allowing Sabonis and Lavine to surgically repair their injuries ending the season for both, makes loads of sense as there remains no possibility of making the playoffs, and having both critical players healthy entering next season will be a welcome relief as the Kings look for a 180-degree turn.

Looking for bright spots is a little like looking for a needle in a haystack, but without question seeing Keegan Murry finally healthy and making a contribution nightly, is a more than welcome sight.

In the most recent game against the Spurs, Keegan led the Kings in scoring 20 points along with DeMar DeRozan, and although not the all-star that the Kings initially thought he might be, Keegan is making noises like he's going to someone to count on as the team continues to shuffle the deck.

What will the upcoming draft bring the cellar dwellers? Anyone's guess, but you can rest assured that GM Scott Perry has his sights set on coming up with a game changer.

We've seen franchises do it before, and you need look no further than the Oklahoma City Thunder or the Detroit Pistons to see the results. Yes, it can happen, and the only caveat is the past experiences in the draft that have been abysmal.

No more Willie Cauly-Stein's or Marvin Bagley's! What the Kings need is a can't miss, blue chipper that will impact this team in a positive way right out of the gate!

Can it be done? Yes, it absolutely can, if Scott Perry and staff are permitted to do their job without interference from the

ownership group. Let the people you've hired do their job and stand on the decisions they make.

Another DeAaron Fox or Tyrese Haliburton may be just around the corner, and goodness knows the Kings are overdue for something positive to happen.

Another key will be how they evaluate the talent that already exists. Will the Kings value Domantas Sabonis and realize what a true diamond in the rough they have? At this point no one knows and we can only wait and see what happens.

What everyone agrees on is bringing a 16-game losing streak to a halt and stemming a conversation of challenging the all-time futility record set by the Detroit Pistons. Although 16 is a fall cry from the 28-game losing streak set by the Pistons, it's just better to put that conversation to bed.

1st round draft choices need to be vetted carefully, and the Kings have yet to fully see what Devin Carter brings to the table. Everyone knows he can jump out of the gym, and at times his defense is all-star caliber, but can this 1st round draft choice get enough court time to prove his worth. We'll see, but I take nothing for granted.

Enter Killian Hayes, a 6'4" guard just signed to a 10-day contract. I wasn't aware the Kings needed another guard but here he is, nonetheless. What is interesting about Killian is that he was drafted #7 overall in the 2020 draft by the Detroit Pistons and is still only 24 years of age. Raised in France can he make a splash?

At the same time the Kings signed Patrick Baldwin Jr. to a 2-way contract and at 6'10" Patrick brings some much needed girth to the front line. Baldwin was signed by the Golden State Warriors 28th in the overall 2022 draft so Kings fans have renewed reason to show up for the March 3 contest at Golden One against the Phoenix Suns.

Yes, Scott Perry is trying, and that's better than giving up. Are these guys longshot? They are, and we need to turn out and give them the best we have.

Stay tuned Kings fans and don't lose heart.

All the best!

★

## California School Systems Face Red Ink Despite Boosts in Education Spending



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Educating California's nearly 6 million public school students is the state budget's second largest expenditure, and one that has increased sharply during Gavin Newsom's governorship.

The 2026-27 budget that Newsom proposed last month would spend \$88.7 billion on students, ranging from transitional kindergartners to high school seniors. When local property taxes and federal aid are included, the total would be nearly \$150 billion, an average of \$27,418 per pupil.

That's a 61% increase from the \$17,014 they were getting when Newsom became governor, but adjusting for 29% inflation during that period would cut the real gain in half.

Comparing California's school support to that of other states is difficult because there's always a lag in data collection. However, the Public Policy Institute of California, using data that are a few years old, reports that the state is no longer in the lower ranks in per pupil spending but is somewhere in the middle, perhaps a few thousand dollars above average.

Education officials constantly press for more state spending, which is governed by complicated formulas in a 1988 ballot measure,

Proposition 98. Newsom's budget calculates that the minimum Prop. 98 guarantee in state and local funds would be \$125.5 billion, but he wants to delay \$5.6 billion in payments to reduce the budget's deficit – essentially a loan from the schools to the state, one of many maneuvers he and the Legislature have used to close the gap between revenue and spending.

"This delay shifts costs to the future when the state must 'settle up' and meet this obligation," the Legislature's fiscal analyst, Gabe Petek, says in his overview of the schools budget, adding, "For the state budget, the settle-up proposal is similar to other forms of borrowing and spending delays – it provides temporary savings in the current year but increases costs in the future."

Calculating what the state is legally obligated to spend on schools, deciding what it will spend, massaging the numbers and framing the political optics is a time-dishonored feature of the annual budget process because it's such a big piece of the puzzle.

Meanwhile, however, school districts throughout the state are having remarkable difficulty in balancing their own budgets this year. They face declining enrollments due to demographic factors such as falling birth rates, lower immigration, population losses to other states, local resistance to school closures and pressure from unions for salary increases for teachers and support staff, to cope with their own inflationary pressures.

The fiscal angst is most obvious in urban school

districts, where enrollment declines are most severe and where unions are the strongest, often spending heavily to elect friendly school board members.

San Francisco's school system just underwent a teacher strike that was settled with an agreement that will raise costs by an estimated \$180 million-plus, leaving great uncertainty over how it will find the money.

Sacramento's schools have been teetering on the edge of insolvency for years due to outlays that are markedly greater than income. It could be compelled to accept a fiscal overseer if it needs a state bailout.

Los Angeles Unified, the nation's second largest school system, is facing a \$191 million deficit, the latest in a string of budget gaps.

Educators and their unions say their problems could be solved if only they had more state aid. But raising per pupil spending by \$1,000 would cost nearly \$6 billion a year, and increasing it to \$30,000-plus to match the top tier of states, such as New York, would cost at least \$30 billion.

With the state budget already plagued by chronic deficits in the \$20 billion range, just giving schools their constitutional level of financing will fall \$5.6 billion short under Newsom's budget.

Dan Walters is one of the most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends. ★

## Social Security Matters

### My Friend is 65; Shouldn't She Be Exempt from Medicare Payroll Taxes?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** My girlfriend is 65 and she just enrolled in Medicare. She is still working full time as a nurse, but they are still deducting Medicare taxes from her paycheck. I thought as soon as you started Medicare, that they would no longer take any Medicare taxes from her paychecks. Is that not correct? **Signed: Concerned Friend**

**Dear Concerned Friend:** Your understanding about Medicare payroll tax is, indeed, not correct. Medicare taxes are levied on everyone who works and earns, regardless of whether or not they are currently enrolled in the Medicare program. That is how Medicare has worked since it was first enacted in the mid-1960s and how it still works today.

FYI, everyone who works for an employer must pay "FICA" (Federal

Insurance Contributions Act) payroll tax of 7.65%. Most (6.2%) of that payroll tax goes to support Social Security, but 1.45% goes to support Medicare Part A. Self-employed individuals must also pay this tax under the Self-Employed Contributions Act (SECA) which is equivalent to FICA, except the self-employed individual must also pay the employer portion of the payroll tax. The Social Security portion of the FICA/SECA tax has an earnings cap (\$184,500 in 2026), but there is no cap on earnings for the Medicare portion of the FICA/SECA payroll tax. FYI, employers pay an equivalent amount of Social Security and Medicare taxes, and the Medicare portion of the payroll tax is paid on all earnings (there is no cap on earnings from which the Medicare payroll tax is withheld).

To ensure understanding, Medicare Part A provides healthcare coverage for inpatient hospitalization services, and Medicare Part B provides coverage for outpatient medical services (doctors, medical tests, etc.). That 1.45% of the FICA (and SECA) tax of the self-employed) is paid by those who work to help fund the

Medicare Part A program, which is premium-free for most Americans after age 65. For Medicare Part B, there is a separate premium which helps pay for Medicare outpatient healthcare services. The standard Medicare Part B premium for 2026 is \$202.90 per month, compared to Medicare Part A which is free to all who are eligible for Social Security benefits. But the 1.45% payroll tax which is being withheld from your girlfriend's paycheck is paid by everyone who has work earnings, even if they are enrolled in Medicare.

*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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. ★*



## The Greatest Sports Story Ever Told

tremely demanding style forged a group of college kids into a historic team. (The Olympics back then were for amateurs, although the Soviets were professional in all but name.)

Brooks was obsessed with Soviet hockey and wanted to turn its insights against it. His team would be physically tough, but would be able to skate and pass too, and be better conditioned than anyone else, giving it better legs in the third period.

The U.S. team compiled an impressive record during the exhibition season. But the Soviets were giants. They'd won the gold at every single Olympics since 1964. During this run, their combined Olympic record was 27-1-1, and they had outscored the opposition 175-44.

The U.S. played an exhibition game against the Soviets at Madison Square Garden right before the Games and got crushed 10-3.

At the Olympics, the U.S. managed a last-minute tie against Sweden and then manhandled a good Czech team, 7-3. As they racked up more wins, they caught the nation's attention, but the Soviets awaited in the medal round.

No one gave the U.S. a chance. Al Michaels says he was just hoping it'd still be close, say, the Soviets up 3-1, in the middle of the game.

Brooks delivered a famous pre-game St. Crispin's Day speech to his team: "This moment is yours." The coach's

grown children show the documentarians the card that he wrote his notes on -- surely one of the most precious relics in the history of U.S. sports.

The U.S. emerged tied with the Soviets 2-2 after one period, and survived an onslaught in the second, getting outshot 12-2 but trailing only 3-2. Then, magic happened in the third. Team captain Mike Eruzione scored his iconic goal to put the U.S. up 4-3.

Ten minutes of Al Michaels-narrated agony ensued as the U.S. had to protect the lead against an explosive Soviet team. The U.S. still had to beat the Finns for the gold. True to form, Brooks ran his team through punishing drills to prepare, even after they'd become national heroes.

Ordinary sports creates an ersatz nationalism, with fans feeling a deep connection to their own team, to its history, colors and past heroes. When this sports patriotism was combined with the real thing in 1980 -- especially when arrayed against an aggressive, malign rival power -- the effect was explosive.

The documentary shows the U.S. players walking down the street in Lake Placid. Forty-five years later, people still stop them and yell out their thanks. They showed that miracles happen, and did it for the red, white and blue.

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



WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS



# ABOUT TOWN

## Saturday, Feb. 28 and Sunday, March 1

**StocktonCon Winter** – 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days at 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 pottery 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 ap1209.org. 3800 Country Club Blvd., Stockton.

## A Who Done It Masquerade Ball

– 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Lodi Public Library. Join us for this "party to die for" for ages 18 and up, hosted by the library Teen Advisory

Board and sponsored by the Lodi Public Library Foundation. Waiver required; RSVP to amar-tin@lodi.gov to receive the waiver. 201 W. Locust St., Lodi.

## 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.

## Wednesday, March 4 March to Good Health

– 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Galt Market. Join us at our

community health fair and discover tips and tools to support a healthier you. This free community health fair offers blood pressure checks, health screenings, educational booths, live demonstrations, dental health resources and a flu vaccine clinic. Come take proactive steps toward a healthier you. For more information, please call 209-366-7168. 905 Meladee Lane.

## Friday, March 6 through Sunday, March 8

**2026 Delta Classic Gymnastics Invitational** – at the Lodi Grape Festival Pavilion. Hosted by Champion Gymnastics, Stockton. Tickets and more information, including a daily schedule, at championgymnastics-stockton.com. 413 E. Lockeford St., Lodi.

## Saturday, March 7 Galt Saturday Market

**Opens** – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the 4th St. 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.

## Roll, Win, and Give Back

– 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the LOEL Senior Center. Join us for a fun afternoon of Bunco, lunch and prizes. All proceeds go to American Association of University Women (AAUW) scholarships, supporting education and equity for women and girls in our community. Tickets and more information at aauwlodi.org. 105 S. Washington St., Lodi.

## 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.

## Friends of Walton Booster Club Crab Feed

– 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Presentation Church Hall. This benefit is for the Walton Special Center in Stockton Unified School District, serving the needs of children with severe to profound disabilities, ages birth to 22. Enjoy outstanding food prepared by Jason Kimball, followed by music and dancing after dinner. Tickets and more information at Walton.stocktonusd.net. 6715 Leesburg Place, Stockton.

## 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 is 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, March 2. 600 Chabolla Ave.

**Widowed Persons Social Club** – Feb. 27, 10 a.m.: Variety game day at Elk Grove United Methodist Church, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove. A small

donation to the church is expected. Contact Gerri at 916-698-1940.

March 2, 10:30 a.m.: WPSC Board Meeting at the Oaks Mobile Home Park Clubhouse, 116 Calle Entrada, Elk Grove. Open to all members.

March 2, Noon: Lunch at Super Taco Laguna, 4720 Laguna Blvd., Elk Grove. Contact Merrylyn at 916-549-4264.

March 5, Noon: No-host lunch & Bunco at Patty's Pizza, 8591 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact Lois at 916-212-4196 or Susie at 916-798-0007.

March 6, 10 a.m.: Hand and Foot card game at Elk Grove United Methodist Church, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd. A small donation to the church is expected. Contact Gerri at 916-698-1940.

A widowed person may attend up to three events while deciding if they wish to join WPSC. Contact Bonnie at 916-422-1522 if you are interested in membership.

**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 and bingo starts at 6 p.m. All proceeds go to two non-profits: 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. 27: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (G) English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.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)

Tuesday March 3: Family story time, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. (WG) Adult book group, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. This month we will be reading and discussing "All the Way to the River" by Elizabeth Gilbert. (WG)

Wednesday, March 4: English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (G)

Friday, March 6: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (G) English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (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., District56 Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove.

**VFW Post 2073** – second Thursday. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., District56 Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove. ★

There are hundreds of **LOCAL EVENTS** Waiting to be discovered at [galtherald.com/calendar](http://galtherald.com/calendar)

Theater Concepts Crafts Cultural Fitness Groups Dining Museums Gatherings Clubs Festivals Expos Classes Spiritual Support Groups

**LOCAL ARREST RECORDS** Find out what's happening in your local area Arrest Logs updated daily [GALTHERALD.COM](http://GALTHERALD.COM)

**LEGAL ADVERTISING** 2508 Garfield Ave. • Ste. A Carmichael, CA 95608  
Legal Advertising 916-483-0946  
The Galt Herald Adjudicated For and By the County of Sacramento, Case No. 93246 - October 14, 1910

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT BFN2026-01070  
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

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE**  
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ALBERT J. LOPES  
CASE NO. 26PR000371  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, credi-

tors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Albert J. Lopes.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Joseph A. Lopes, in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, requesting Joseph A. Lopes be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause

why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows April 16, 2026, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 129; Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse, 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor.

You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: John R. Quiring, 9296 Madison Avenue, Orangevale, CA 95662; 916-794-6279  
Publish: Feb 27, March 6, 13, 2026  
LOPES 3-13-26



Call to place your legal advertising

916-773-1111

# SMUD Boosts Rebates for Heat Pumps

*Program helps Sacramento customers save energy, improve comfort and cut carbon*

## SMUD News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - SMUD announced new, increased rebate levels for residential heat pump installations beginning in February. These enhanced rebates represent an increase in existing programs. They're designed to help customers transition to clean, efficient electric heating and cooling technology while offsetting the recent expiration of federal tax credits and state incentive programs.

These rebates include up to \$4,000 for gas-to-electric heat pump water heater conversions, up to \$3,000 for gas-to-electric heat pump HVAC system conversions and \$1,000 for electric-to-electric heat pump water heater and heat pump HVAC upgrades.

"These rebates demonstrate our commitment to making clean energy affordable and accessible for every Sacramento family," said Lora Anguay, Chief Zero Carbon Officer. "Heat pumps are a reliable technology that reduce carbon emissions, boost energy efficiency and deliver about



SMUD's heat pump programs are a cornerstone of our 2030 Zero Carbon Plan and goal to electrify 154,000 homes by 2030. Photo courtesy of Freepik

\$500 a year in real savings. By increasing our rebates, we're removing cost barriers and helping our community take part in our shared clean energy future."

SMUD's heat pump programs are a cornerstone of our 2030 Zero Carbon Plan and goal to electrify 154,000 homes by

2030. Heat pumps are highly efficient compared to traditional gas systems, providing heating and cooling while cutting energy bills, improving indoor comfort and reducing household carbon footprints. Through SMUD's Advanced Home Solutions program, more than 23,000

gas-fired space and water heating systems have already been replaced with high-efficiency electric heat pumps.

The increased rebates come at a critical time, as recent federal tax credits expired on Dec. 31, 2025, and state incentive programs have run out of funding.

For more information about SMUD's heat pump rebates and to apply, visit [smud.org/GoElectric](http://smud.org/GoElectric).

## About SMUD

As the nation's sixth-largest, community-owned, not-for-profit electric service provider, SMUD has been providing low-cost, reliable electricity to Sacramento County for more than 75 years. SMUD is a recognized industry leader for its innovative energy efficiency programs, renewable power technologies and for its sustainable solutions for a healthier environment. In 2024, SMUD's power supply was about 62% carbon free, which is largely influenced by the weather and amount of hydroelectricity produced. SMUD's goal is to completely eliminate carbon in its electricity production by 2030 while maintaining reliability and keeping rates among the lowest in California — on average, 50% lower than its neighboring, investor-owned utility. For more information on SMUD's Zero Carbon Plan and its customer programs, visit [smud.org](http://smud.org) ★

## The Problem with California's Proposed Mileage Tax



Josh Hoover

By Assemblyman Josh Hoover

I was disappointed last month when the Assembly passed AB 1421 (Wilson) over strong bipartisan objections. This legislation sets the stage for a new per-mile tax on drivers across our state—a move I opposed for its potential burden on everyday Californians without adequate safeguards.

Advocates for AB 1421 downplay the risks, insisting it's merely a directive to "study" the contours of a mileage-based fee or road user charge. Indeed, the bill's language focuses on preparing

research and recommendations for such a system. But let's be candid: In Sacramento, we don't commission studies on policies we have no intention of pursuing. This "study" is a thinly veiled precursor to implementation, and it demands scrutiny.

What concerns me most is the rush to explore this without ironclad protections for taxpayers. That's why I joined my colleagues in pushing ACA 12 (Wallis). This proposed constitutional amendment would mandate a two-thirds vote threshold for any state or local mileage tax, ensuring broad consensus. It would also ban "double taxation" by exempting drivers who already contribute through the gas tax. Regrettably, the supermajority in Sacramento rejected it on the floor, sidelining these essential guardrails.

To gauge public sentiment, I recently surveyed hundreds of constituents in my district. The results were unequivocal: A staggering 96% opposed any per-mile tax

lacking protections against double taxation. Even if the gas tax were entirely eliminated, more than 67% would still reject a mileage-based system. However, support shifted modestly when the tax was framed as applying solely to zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs), which currently evade the gas tax: 49% favored it, while about 40% opposed.

This nuance reveals a core inequity. Drivers of traditional gas-powered vehicles bear a disproportionate share of funding our roads through fuel taxes, whereas ZEV owners pay only a marginally higher registration fee. As electric vehicles proliferate—encouraged by state incentives—this imbalance will only worsen, eroding the revenue base for infrastructure maintenance.

Yet AB 1421 fails to confine the tax to ZEVs. Instead, it opens the door to a blanket levy that ignores the realities faced by low-income and rural residents. Many in these communities commute

longer distances to work, school, or essential services, meaning they'd shoulder a heavier load under a miles-traveled model. Compounding this, serious privacy issues loom: Accurately tracking every mile driven could invite intrusive surveillance, eroding personal freedoms without clear data protections.

Make no mistake, our roads desperately need investment. California ranks a dismal 46th nationally in road quality, despite imposing the highest gas taxes in the country. As a member of the Assembly Transportation Committee, I've consistently fought against diverting these revenues to non-transportation uses. We must prioritize fixing potholes, streets, and highways with existing funds before inventing new taxes.

Imposing a mileage tax without robust taxpayer safeguards isn't progress, it's a regressive hit on those least able to afford it. In a state already grappling with

sky-high living costs, from housing to groceries, this would further strain hardworking families, commuters, and small businesses. As lawmakers, we owe Californians better: a transparent, equitable solution that rebuilds our infrastructure without punishing drivers. Let's demand accountability and reject half-measures like AB 1421. Our roads and our residents deserve no less.

Assemblyman Josh Hoover is a member of the Assembly Transportation Committee and represents the 7th Assembly District in Sacramento County, which includes the cities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, and Rancho Cordova and the unincorporated communities of Carmichael, Fair Oaks, Foothill Farms, Gold River, Mather, McClellan Park, North Highlands, Orangevale, and Rosemont. You can follow him on X @joshua\_hoover or contact his office at Assemblymember.Hoover@assembly.ca.gov. ★

## County Launches Improved 311 Connect Website

### Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento County has launched an improved 311 Connect online portal designed to make it easier for residents to manage service requests and access County services in one convenient location.

Residents can access the upgraded 311 Connect portal using a single Sacramento Countywide user profile — the same account many already use for services such as My Utilities and Revenue Recovery.

The portal offers a more seamless, secure, and user-friendly experience, with new features that include simplified access through a single, easy-to-use website to manage 311 Connect services. It also provides service request management, allowing users to view, update, and submit new service requests. In addition, the portal supports multi-account management, enabling users to manage multiple accounts from one centralized location.

Introducing Cami, Sacramento County 311's new digital assistant! Cami is here to help answer questions and make your experience even smoother. Learn more and explore new features to get the most of the new portal

by watching our video [Introducing Cami - 311 Digital Assistant](#).

### What Residents Can Expect

As part of the transition, existing usernames will remain the same. Residents will receive an email with a password reset link to activate their new Countywide profile. The link will expire seven days after it is sent. If the link expires, users can simply select "Forgot Password" on the login page to reset it.

All existing profile information and service request history will automatically transfer to the new portal, allowing residents to pick up right where they left off.

### How to Prepare

To ensure a smooth transition, residents are encouraged to log into their current Sacramento County 311 Connect account and verify that their email address and phone number are up to date.

Once users receive the emailed link, they will need to click the password reset link in their email, enter their existing username and update their new Sacramento County profile with any missing contact details.

Residents should watch their inbox for the password reset email and prepare to explore the new 311 Connect portal. ★

### Sacramento County Office of Education News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The search for the next Sacramento County Superintendent is underway, and community members are invited to play an important role in the process.

Superintendent David W. Gordon has announced he plans to retire on June 30, 2027, and the Sacramento County Board of Education has initiated the recruitment and selection process for a new superintendent. To guide this work, the Board has partnered with Leadership Associates, an executive search firm, to assist with this important effort.

The Board is emphasizing transparency, collaboration and community voice. Families, students, educators, district partners and residents across Sacramento County will have several opportunities to share what they believe the next superintendent should bring to the role.

The public can share their feedback in

multiple ways: by completing online surveys, attending community forums, and/or joining virtual sessions. Small in-person group discussions are being scheduled with SCOE employees and key educational partners by invitation.

To ensure a collaborative and inclusive process, the Board is requesting public input through an anonymous online survey available now through March 2. The purpose of the survey is to gather feedback from stakeholders on the qualities and characteristics they believe are most important for the next superintendent to possess.

The survey also seeks community perspectives on Sacramento County Office of Education strengths, challenges and the broader education community.

To learn more and complete the survey visit <https://www.scoe.net/superintendentsearch/>.

Feedback will help shape the leadership profile used to guide the Board's recruitment and selection process. ★



## Improved Information Access With 2026 Website Debut

### Sacramento County Office of Education News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOPE) has unveiled a redesigned website, providing a new navigation structure that offers visitors more direct access to information by highlighting key programs and services

through an extensive drop-down navigation menu, reducing the need for multiple clicks to access resources.

"This redesign improves access to information for our stakeholders and puts additional security measures in place," said Executive Director Xanthi Soriano. "All the hard work that's gone into planning and building the new site will make it easier to navigate and

more visually engaging, giving SCOPE programs an even stronger online presence and reinforcing our efforts to make information accessible to all site visitors."

Planning for the redesign started in 2022 with development work beginning in 2024. SCOPE's Communications Office collaborated with Catapult CMS, a Roseville-based company

specializing in content management solutions for K-12 school websites. The semi-custom design, which leverages shared code to efficiently ensure compliance with browser updates and technology changes, is meant to present information in a visually appealing but accessible way.

The Catapult CMS templates are designed specifically for K-12 schools

and offer an inclusive online experience, ensuring accessibility by meeting ADA guidelines and WCAG Level AA standards. The website is now being hosted through Amazon Web Services.

Visitors are encouraged to explore the new website and to check back for additions as the site is fine-tuned. Archives and expanded information will be added in the coming months. ★

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## 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.

## 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](mailto: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 Café located in the Chabolla Community Center, 600 Chabolla Ave.

The cafe is open at 11:30 a.m. Mondays through

Fridays for adults age 60 and older.

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

## 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. ★



**Glenn Guenard & Ross Bozarth**  
are dedicated to the victims of accidents.

We help with serious injuries that require serious representation.

We are the Law Offices Of Guenard & Bozarth.

We have over 80 years of experience on our legal team... the most experienced law firm in Elk Grove. If you are looking for results Call GB Legal 24/7/365 at 916-714-7672 or visit [gblegal.com](http://gblegal.com)

**WE CAN HELP!**

The Law Offices of Guenard & Bozarth represent injured people. Our Office is located at 8830 Elk Grove Blvd. in the heart of Elk Grove.

**Insurance Companies Know Them Because They Have Paid Them Hundreds of Millions of Dollars**

# Living Trust Attorney

**Robert "Jeff" Busch**  
*Living Trusts – Wills – Powers of Attorney*  
*Trust Administration – Probate*

2228 Longport Court #110 • Elk Grove, CA 95758  
**(916) 859-0370 • [www.RobertBuschLaw.com](http://www.RobertBuschLaw.com)**



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

<h3>Concrete</h3> <p><b>Perez Landscaping &amp; Concrete</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Concrete Finishing/Stamping</li> <li>•Landscape installation and Design</li> <li>•Sodding, •Planting</li> <li>•Irrigation •Retaining Walls</li> <li>•Yard maintenance.</li> </ul> <p>Free estimates. Fore more info. call <b>916-834-2352</b> email <a href="mailto:Elverperez@att.net">Elverperez@att.net</a> Lic #14-00016214</p>	<h3>Home Improvement</h3> <p><b>ALL PHASE HOME REPAIR</b> Elk Grove, CA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Electrical •Plumbing</li> <li>•Fencing •Fans •Decks</li> <li>•Doors •Windows •Tile</li> <li>Flooring •Trim base-board</li> <li>•Sheetrock •Dry Rot</li> <li>Texture •Painting</li> <li>•Lighting •Concrete</li> <li>•Sprinkler Repair</li> <li>•Framing and more!</li> </ul> <p>All phases of home repair &amp; any construction needed- Big or small. Quality work guaranteed! Low prices- free est. Serving Elk Grove, Rancho Murietta, Galt, Wilton, Herald, Sac. &amp; Surrounding Areas CSLB#1134987 <i>Bonded &amp; Insured</i> <b>(916)287-6164</b></p>	<h3>Landscaping</h3> <p><b>CREATE YOUR PARADISE</b></p>  <p>Winter Yard Cleanups, Complete Landscape Design/ Installation, Sprinkler System Installs/Repairs, All Types Concrete Work, Fence Installation, Retaining Walls- All Types, Drainage Systems-all types, Landscape Lighting, Residential/ commercial</p> <p>American Landscape Design &amp; Installation. Est. 1987 American Construction &amp; Property Maintenance Company</p> <p>WE ACCEPT VISA &amp; MASTER CARD <b>(916)612-0776</b> Lic#690968</p>	<h3>Automotive</h3> <p><b>Elk Grove Shell</b></p>  <p><b>Your Local Full Service Auto Repair Shop Committed to Customer Satisfaction</b></p> <p><b>Specializing In:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oil Changes</li> <li>• Smog Repair</li> <li>• Smog Inspection</li> <li>• Safety Inspection</li> <li>• Transmission Service</li> <li>• Brakes</li> <li>• Wheel Alignment</li> <li>• Check Engine Light Diagnosis</li> <li>• Tires</li> <li>• Tune-Up</li> <li>• Batteries</li> <li>• 30, 60, 90K Service</li> <li>• Brake &amp; Lamp Station</li> </ul> <p><b>Mon-Fri, 8-5 • 916-685-7796</b></p> <p>8901 Elk Grove Blvd.</p> 	<h3>Roofing</h3> <p><b>PREMIER ROOFING INC.</b> <i>Se Habla Espanol</i> LIC# 1097848</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROOF REPAIR</li> <li>• ROOF MAINTENANCE</li> <li>• COMPLETE RE-ROOF</li> <li>• NEW ROOFS</li> <li>• GUTTER CLEANING</li> </ul> <p>CELL 209.810.6233</p> <p><b>209.745.7565</b> <a href="mailto:1premierroofing@gmail.com">1premierroofing@gmail.com</a></p>	
<h3>3DR CONCRETE</h3> <p>All your concrete needs. Bobcat services, driveway repair. Comm. &amp; Res. Lic. # 968987 Insured (209) 570-7304</p> <p>Visit: <a href="http://mpg8.com">mpg8.com</a></p>	<h3>Landscaping</h3> <p><b>YARD CLEANUP</b></p> <p>Sod installation Landscape installation Lawnmowing services Fence repair Call for free estimate 916-271-7265</p>	<h3>YARD CLEANUP &amp; DECORATIVE ROCK</h3> <p>One time cleanup pruning. Also bark, weed control, sod, seed, pruning, sprinkler systems, hauling, etc. Mobile homes, commercial or residential. Local gardener.</p> <p><b>916-205-9310 or 916-627-9000</b></p>	<h3>Roofing</h3> <p><b>JIM MOYLEN ROOFING</b></p> <p>1981 License # 407605 A+ Rating with BBB. Specialize in Re-Roof, Prompt Repairs, Low Slope Roof, Seamless Gutter Installation.</p> <p>Free Estimates! Open Monday-Saturday <b>916-531-2793 Cell</b> <b>Tile Repairs</b></p>	<h3>SACRAMENTO VALLEY ROOFING &amp; GUTTERS INC.</h3> <p><b>RESIDENTIAL &amp; COMMERCIAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NEW ROOF INSTALL</li> <li>• TEAR OFF &amp; REROOF</li> <li>• ROOF REPAIR</li> <li>• OVERLAY ROOF INSTALL</li> <li>• DRY ROT REPAIR</li> <li>• SEAMLESS GUTTER INSTALL</li> <li>• GUTTER REMOVAL &amp; INSTALL</li> <li>• GUTTER REPAIR &amp; INSTALL</li> <li>• GUTTER GUARD &amp; INSTALL</li> <li>• DOWNSPOUTS INSTALL</li> <li>• CUSTOM COLORS</li> </ul> <p><b>FREE ESTIMATES!</b> <b>916-719-8288</b></p> <p><b>RAMON M. FOREMAN/OPERATOR</b> LIC# 1072137 <b>WE ARE BONDED AND INSURED</b></p>	
<h3>Construction Work</h3> <p><b>GARRY CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p>Free Estimates Lic. #558941 Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Sheetrock, Painting, Concrete, Redwood Decks, Roofing, Kitchen/Bath Remodel</p> <p><b>Jim Garry</b> General Building Contractor <a href="mailto:garryconstruction@sbcglobal.net">garryconstruction@sbcglobal.net</a> 916-486-1871 916-835-1734 cell</p>	<h3>BRILLIANT LANDSCAPE</h3> <p>Artificial Turf Fencing Retaining Wall Concrete Drainage Irrigation Planting Tree Trimming</p> <p>209-251-9387 LIC# 1108441</p>	<h3>Painting</h3> <p><b>Shelton Painting, Inc.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repaints: Exterior &amp; Interior</li> <li>• Dry Wall Repair</li> </ul> <p>Free Estimates <b>(209) 745-7897</b> 3 Generations of Quality Painters #908019</p> <p>We accept Visa &amp; Mastercard</p>	<h3>Roofing</h3> <p><b>ROUT ROOFING</b> Specializing in Res Roofing &amp; Repairs We Hand Nail for Quality! Free Estimates <b>916-423-1288 or 209-748-5588</b></p> <p><b>BBB</b> Since 1975 Lic.#302302</p>	<h3>Tractor Work</h3> <p><b>MAC Industries DIRT WORK</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Excavations •Utility Trenching •Foundations-All types</li> <li>•Laser Grading &amp; Dozer work •Driveways •Building Pads •Drainage-All Types</li> <li>•Field Mowing / Firebreaks •Flail •Bushhog</li> <li>•Septic System Installation •Drilling •Foundations</li> <li>•Post •Tree holes •Trenching •Irrigation</li> <li>•Drainage •Rototilling •Disking</li> </ul> <p>License #919198 &amp; Insured Michael- 916-747-9667 Bill- 916-869-1019</p>	
<p><b>Yard Sale? Garage Sale?</b></p> <p>Advertise in your local community newspaper! Call (916) 773-1111</p>				<p>Visit: <a href="http://mpg8.com">mpg8.com</a></p>	<p><b>MPG</b></p> <p>Advertise in your local community newspaper Call (916) 685-5533</p>



# Happy National Strawberry Day!



to propagate. Most likely the word strawberry comes from the Old English strewberige because the plant sends out runners to start other plants, but others contend the practice of planting strawberries with straw or finding them growing wild among matted hay or straw led to their name. And yet, other pundits believe the name came from the practice of selling the berries skewered on a piece of straw in open-air markets as a treat.

Strawberries are native to North America, and indigenous peoples used them in many dishes. The first colonists in America shipped the native larger strawberry plants back to Europe as early as 1600. Early Americans did not bother cultivating strawberries because they were abundant in the wilds.

Cultivation began in earnest in the early part of the 19th century, when strawberries with cream quickly became

considered a luxurious dessert.

New York became a strawberry hub with the advent of the railroad, shipping crops in refrigerated railroad cars. Production spread to Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida and Tennessee. Now 75 percent of the North American crop is grown in California, and many areas have strawberry festivals, with the first one dating back to 1850.

Strawberries are so universal: They can be eaten fresh off the vine, in a fresh pie, in a cooked pie, in jam, frozen in ice cream, smoothies, etc. I really enjoy eating fresh sliced strawberries with a cream puff.

\*\*\*

On another note, in the heartland of America, when winter's chill begins to retreat, making way for the vibrancy of spring, a week arrives that sparks a unique blend of pride, enthusiasm and unity among the agricultural community. This is the last day of FFA (Future Farmers of America) week. It's a special period when the spotlight turns toward the young hearts and minds who will shape the future of agriculture. FFA Week, celebrated during the week of George

Washington's birthday, recognizes and appreciates the tireless efforts of FFA members while also promoting agricultural education and leadership.

The celebration of National FFA week focuses on several key topics. Firstly, it emphasizes the significance of agricultural education and the development of leadership skills among youth.

FFA helps students to gain valuable experiences that prepare them for future careers in diverse fields, including farming, science, business and technology. By promoting these opportunities, FFA Week encourages more young people to explore and engage in agricultural pursuits.

Another important aspect of FFA Week is fostering community involvement and service. FFA chapters across the nation participate in projects that benefit their local areas, reinforcing the organization's motto of "Living to Serve."

These activities help to build stronger communities and develop responsible citizens who are aware of the needs around them.

Congratulations to two very strong FFA chapters: Galt High and Liberty Ranch.

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

## CALL A PROFESSIONAL

### AUTO BODY

We Express Excellence in Auto Repair

All Insurance Claims Welcome  
**Auto Body EXPRESSIONS**  
 Written Lifetime Warranty

685-5078  
 9734 Dino Dr., Elk Grove  
[www.autobodyexpressions.com](http://www.autobodyexpressions.com)

### FURNITURE

**Galt FURNITURE** COMPLETE HOME FURNISHING

Financing Available Now On Approved Credit No Interest for 12-18 Months

Open: Mon-Sat 9am-7pm, Sunday 12:00 Noon-5pm  
 835 "C" Street #100, Galt • (209) 745-1827 • Fax (209) 745-9596

### TIRES

**RADIAL TIRE**  
 OF ELK GROVE

RV Service Hours: Mon-Sat 8am-5pm

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

9810 Waterman Rd., Elk Grove • 686-6651

### AUTO GLASS

**McSparren Auto Glass**  
 "Your one stop shop for auto glass"

- Windshield Chip Repair
- Direct Insurance Billing
- Tractors, RV's & Semi's

Family owned and operated since 1986

LODI (209) 333-2601 | GALT (209) 745-4941  
 STOCKTON (209) 466-4901 | (209) 745-4941

### GARAGE DOORS

**ROBBINS'** QUALITY GARAGE DOORS

Residential • Commercial • Service • Repair  
 Installation • Automatic Gate Systems

Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

Kenny Robbins 630 Fairway Ste. #110 Galt, CA  
 (209) 744-1159 CA State Lic. 632916 Fax (209) 744-1160

### TREE SERVICE

• Full-Service Tree Removal  
 • Artistic Shaping and Trimming

**Jordan's TREE SERVICE**  
 CSL #1076959

- Stump Grinding
- 24-Hour Emergency Service

[www.jordanstreeservice.net](http://www.jordanstreeservice.net) • [jordanstreeservice@yahoo.com](mailto:jordanstreeservice@yahoo.com)

Claudia Jordan (209) 210-8221 Local, Woman-Owned Company Nacho Gutierrez (209) 2108022

Call (209) 745-1551 to advertise with us today!

The Galt Herald  
 Messenger Publishing Group

### STUMP GRINDING

**BEST PRICE Stump Grinding & Tree Service**

CALL Jessie - FREE ESTIMATES 209-210-0625

### WATER WELLS

**BOB LIEBIG PUMP SERVICE**

10062 NEW HOPE ROAD, GALT  
 Contractor's License No. 425554  
 PHONE (209) 745-2787

**The Galt Herald**  
 Serving Galt and Sacramento County since 1901

It is the intent of *The Galt Herald* to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

*The Galt Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or materials. The entire contents of *The Galt Herald* are copyrighted. Ownership of all advertising created and/or composed by the Galt Herald is with the publishing company and written permission to reproduce the same must be obtained from the publisher.

Subscriptions should be mailed to *The Galt Herald*, 217 Fourth Street, Galt, CA 95632. Subscription rate is \$52 per year within Galt, \$72 within Sacramento County.

The Galt Herald is published weekly. Call our main office (916) 773-1111 for more information. Visit [www.MPG8.com](http://www.MPG8.com).

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.

**Publisher, Paul V. Scholl**

*The Galt Herald* is a member of **Messenger Publishing Group**

To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email to: [Publisher@mpg8.com](mailto:Publisher@mpg8.com). Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher". If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

**Worship with us!**

Grace & Discipleship ~ Revelation 12:17  
**Galt Adventist Church**  
 916-613-6113  
 Pastor, Abel Alvarado  
 619 Myrtle Ave. Galt, CA 95632

English and Spanish Services

Educating for Eternity  
**Galt Adventist School**  
[galtadventistschool@gmail.com](mailto:galtadventistschool@gmail.com)  
 Lisa Willis, Principal

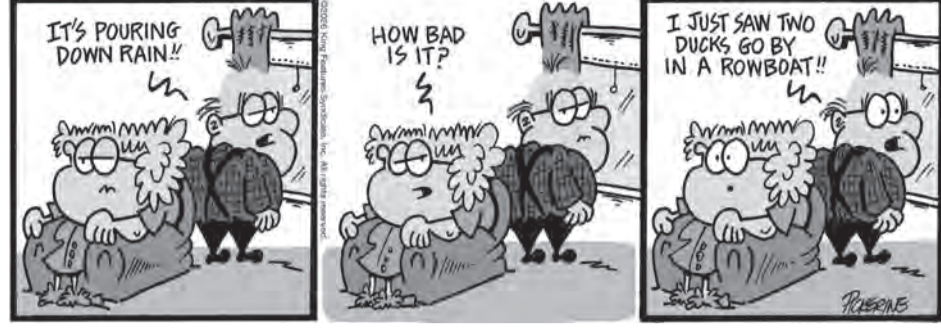
**Herald Baptist**  
 Where truth changes lives.  
 Where God's Word is taught.  
 Where God meets you - where you're at.  
**9:45 a.m. - Bible School**  
 For All Ages  
**11 a.m. - Family Worship Hr.**  
**Pastor Scott McCann**  
 Hwy. 104 & Conley Rd. One mile east of Arcohe School  
**(209) 748-2242**

To advertise contact us at  
**209-745-1551 or [lezet.vidauri@mpg8.com](mailto:lezet.vidauri@mpg8.com)**

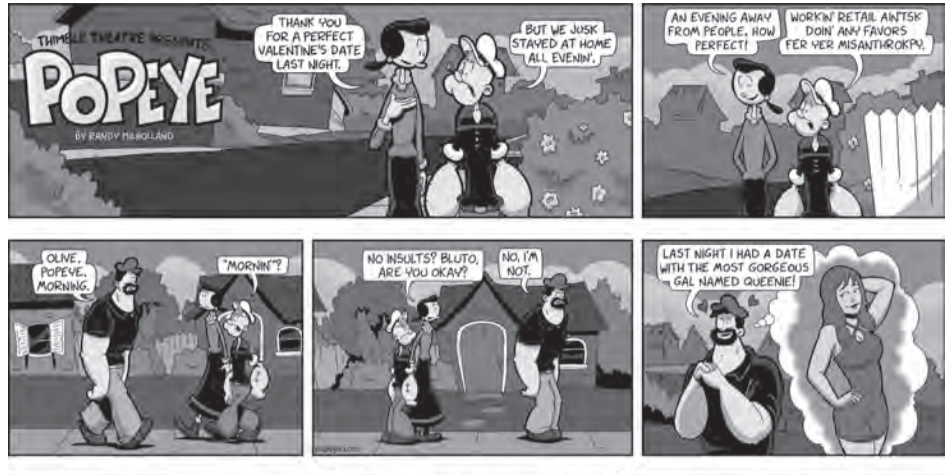
**WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS**

# COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb



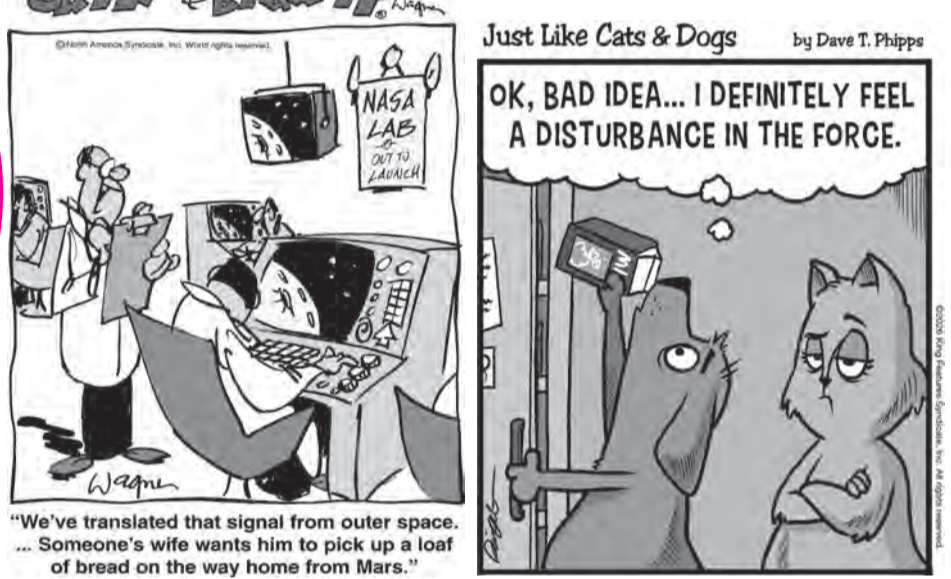
by Gary Kopervas



TIGER



by Bud Blake



**Do You Need **MPG** Your Legal Ads Published? We can help.**

Call us now to place your legal advertising!

**916-773-1111**

All legal ads published by Messenger Publishing Group.

**STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • THE OSCARS**

- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
1. Traction aid
  6. Freddy's street
  9. Reach a high
  13. Italian bowling
  14. Entrepreneur Gary Vaynerchuk's alias, Gary
  15. Jolly good one
  16. Parallel grooves
  17. Many, many moons
  18. "Take it back!"
  19. \*"Song Sung Blue" Best Actress nominee
  21. \*Movie with most 2026 Oscar nominations
  23. Make a seam
  24. Vampire's tooth
  25. Tai's partner
  28. South American monkey
  30. Naphthenic acid + palmitic acid
  35. Pilot's stunt
  37. Forbidden, to a baby
  39. Vampire of Greek mythology
  40. Italian wine region
  41. Not Astroturf
  43. Alpine lift
  44. Sports figures, e.g.
  46. Cantina pot
  47. Email folder
  48. Not vivid and bright
  50. Nessie's abode
  52. \*Jamie Foxx won for his role in this 2004 biopic
  53. Eagle's nest
  55. Unreliable newspaper
  57. \*2026 nominated film with Stone and Plemons
  61. \*Chlo Zhao's nominee
  64. Newton or Stern
  65. Romanian money
  67. Star-crossed one
  69. To the point
  70. a.k.a sodium hydroxide
  71. Novelist Zola
  72. Formerly, formerly
  73. Aye-aye
  74. "He \_\_\_\_\_ it like it is"
- DOWN**
1. Not NBC or ABC
  2. Reluctant
  3. Pantyhose hue
  4. DNA and RNA, e.g.
  5. Cups and saucers
  6. 20-20, e.g.
  7. \*"One Battle After Another" Best Actor nominee
  8. High IQ society
  9. \*#7's nominated co-star
  10. "Anything \_\_\_\_\_?"
  11. Wing-shaped
  12. K to Romans, pl.
  15. Like athlete's foot
  20. Behind on rent, e.g.
  22. Night spot
  24. At last
  25. Necklace fastener
  26. Popular garden perennial
  27. I to Greeks, pl.
  29. \*2026 nominated Benicio del \_\_\_\_\_
  31. Benatar and Morita
  32. Fly in \_\_\_\_\_, or a reminder of the past
  33. Tarzan's swing rope
  34. \*Fictional table tennis champ
  36. \*Nominated "F1" star
  38. Nobel Peace Prize

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13					14				15				
16					17				18				
	19				20			21	22				
25	26	27		28		29		30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39			
40					41			42		43			
44				45		46				47			
48					49		50		51		52		
				53		54		55		56			
57	58	59	60					61			62	63	
64						65	66			67			68
69						70				71			
72						73				74			

**WORD SEARCH**

CLEAT ELM PEAK  
 BOCCE VEE FELLA  
 STRIA EON UNSAY  
 HUDSON SINNERS  
 SEW FANG  
 CHI TITI NAPALM  
 LOOP NONO LAMIA  
 ASTI GRASS TBAR  
 STATS OLLA SENT  
 PASTEL LOCH RAY  
 AERY RAG  
 BUGONIA HAMNET  
 ISAAC LEU LOVER  
 TERSE LYE EMILE  
 ERST YES TELLS

**Switch & Get \$25**

Off First Month of New Service!  
 USE PROMO CODE: GZ590

**Consumer Cellular**

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

**Classified Advertising**

Sell Your Stuff!  
 Reach 1000's of Readers Every Week!

**MPG**

916.773.1111

**PUZZLE**

6	5	2	7	8	4	1	9	3
9	7	4	2	1	3	6	5	8
3	8	1	6	9	5	2	4	7
4	9	7	8	5	1	3	2	6
5	1	6	3	7	2	4	8	9
8	2	3	9	4	6	5	7	1
2	4	9	1	3	7	8	6	5
7	3	5	4	6	8	9	1	2
1	6	8	5	2	9	7	3	4

- capital**
42. Sacrum, pl.
45. Communicating with spirits event
49. Hawaiian flower garland
51. \*Inspiration for #61
- Across**
54. Pep gathering
  56. Lawn ornament
  57. Angler's hope
  58. \_\_\_\_\_-friendly
  59. Needlefish, pl.
  60. Brewer's kiln
  61. Color wheel elements
  62. Like fairytale step-mothers?
  63. Be a snitch
  66. Payment for an eye
  68. Hi-\_\_\_\_\_ graphics

**SUDOKU**

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

**SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB** 1-855-576-5653

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. See cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. COLR 1000100. HD-CR 1000000 00/2024

				4	1			
7	4	2		3				
8								7
9			5		3			6
1	6				4	8		
8	3		4				7	
2							6	
			4		8	9	1	
	8	5						

© StatePoint Media

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

# Hawks Honor Seniors; Playoff Run Continues with Golden 1 Arena Dream Alive

Story and photos by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - The Liberty Ranch Hawks girls' basketball team celebrated Senior Night on Feb. 11 in dominant fashion, crushing crosstown rival Galt 54-10 in their final regular season home game. The victory was a fitting tribute to three seniors who have helped to build the Hawks into a league championship program, and it served as a powerful statement heading into a playoff run that could end on the grandest stage in Sacramento basketball.

Before the opening tip, seniors Madisyn Robbins, Haley Smith and Peyton DeSalvatore were honored alongside their families in an emotional ceremony recognizing their contributions to the Liberty Ranch program. Three seniors may be a small class, but their impact on this team has been immeasurable.

Once the celebration concluded, the Hawks took care of business in emphatic fashion. Liberty Ranch exploded out of the gate, outscoring Galt 16-0 in the first quarter and never looking back. The Hawks extended their advantage to 28-3 by half-time before continuing to pour it on in the third quarter, outscoring the Warriors 20-5 to put the game completely out of reach. Galt's stats had not been posted at time of deadline.

Senior Haley Smith delivered a standout performance on her special night, finishing with 13



Liberty Ranch basketball seniors, with Coach Karrin Blevins, are Madisyn Robbins, Haley Smith and Peyton DeSalvatore

points while dishing out six assists and recording three steals. Smith's ability to impact the game in multiple ways has been a hallmark of her career, and her Senior Night performance was a perfect reflection of the complete player she has become.

Senior Madisyn Robbins was equally impressive, contributing 12 points while pulling down a game-high 10 rebounds and recording a remarkable 11 steals. Her defensive intensity disrupted everything Galt attempted offensively, and her three assists added to an all-around effort that perfectly encapsulated her value to the Hawks.

Senior Peyton DeSalvatore, while not appearing in the scoring column, contributed seven rebounds and two assists, demonstrating the selfless team-first approach that has defined her career at

Liberty Ranch.

Junior Kamrynn Blevins provided offensive support with 10 points and four assists, while freshman Lacey Smith added six points and sophomore Cruz Gregorio chipped in four points and three assists. The depth of Liberty Ranch's roster was on full display throughout the evening.

The victory capped a regular season in which Liberty Ranch once again claimed the league championship. But the Hawks have their sights set on something much bigger: a repeat section championship.

Having captured its first-ever section title last year, Liberty Ranch is hungry to defend that crown. The Hawks enter the playoffs as the second seed and have already advanced to the semifinals, where they will face third-seeded West Campus on Tuesday.



Galt's Nella Feilbach jumps for the ball against Liberty Ranch's Madisyn Robbins.



The crosstown teams battle for the rebound.



Haley Smith cuts the final net to celebrate the league championship.

Win that game, and the Hawks will play for the section championship at the Golden 1 Arena on Friday: the home of the Sacramento Kings.

The prospect of returning to that stage has energized the entire Liberty Ranch community. For the three

seniors honored on Senior Night, the opportunity to close out their careers with a repeat section championship would be the ultimate reward for years of dedication and hard work.

The Hawks have the talent, depth and momentum to make that dream a

reality. With Robbins and Smith leading the way and a deep roster of talented underclassmen supporting them, Liberty Ranch is playing its best basketball at exactly the right time.

Golden 1 Arena awaits. The Hawks are ready to defend their crown. ★

# Hawks Fall Short in Heartbreaking Section Championship Shootout

Story and photos by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Liberty Ranch Hawks girls' soccer team's quest for back-to-back section championships came to a heartbreaking end Saturday when it fell to West Campus 6-5 in a penalty kick shootout after 100 minutes of scoreless soccer in the CIF Section Championship game. The loss was as cruel as it was dramatic, ending a remarkable season for a team that had dominated every opponent it faced until the very last kick.

The Hawks entered the championship as the No. 1 seed, having completed a perfect 14-0 league season and earning the top ranking in the CIF playoffs. West Campus, seeded 10th, arrived as a significant underdog, but quickly proved it belonged on the same field as the Hawks.

From the opening whistle, the game was everything a championship match should be. Fast, physical and fiercely competitive, both teams displayed exceptional technical skill, with dribbling and ball movement that kept the crowd on the edge of their seats. The physical intensity was unlike anything Liberty Ranch had experienced all season, with more slide tackles than any previous game as both teams left everything on the field. Neither defense would yield, and despite the Hawks creating quality chances throughout the match, the scoreboard



Senior Cathy Madrigal uses everything she has to defend her position.



Captain Faviola Vasquez manages to grab a header despite being pulled down by a West Campus player.

remained blank through regulation and into double overtime.

With the game still deadlocked after 100 minutes of battle, the championship would be decided by penalty kicks. Junior goalkeeper Kennie Thomas stepped up to the spot, ready to be the hero her team needed. The first round of penalty kicks ended in a tie, pushing the shootout into sudden death: the most nerve-wracking scenario in soccer.



Freshman starter Brooke Sparks dribbles around a fallen player.



Junior captain Juliana Romero dribbles toward the goal as the defenders rush to protect.



Goalie Kennie Thomas dives and blocks a penalty kick.

In sudden death, West Campus converted one more penalty than the Hawks, winning the shootout 6-5 and claiming the section championship. It was a devastating conclusion to a season that had been nothing short of extraordinary.

For a team that had won the section championship the previous year, the loss cut deeply. These Hawks had worked all season to defend their title, and to see it slip away on penalty kicks – a format that can feel more like a lottery than a true measure of quality – made the defeat even more difficult to process.

Head Coach Rob Huarte, the longest-tenured coach at Liberty Ranch, found perspective and pride in the aftermath of the heartbreaking loss.

"I am incredibly proud of this team," Huarte said. "They played disciplined, relentless soccer for 100 minutes and kept a very strong opponent off the scoreboard the entire match. Our defense battled, our goalkeepers were amazing, and offensively we created quality chances. To then step up and score five PKs against the top goalkeeper shows their character and courage. They never let us down for a second. I am unbelievably proud of how the team represented our program and the standard they've built."

Huarte also offered a message of hope for the future.

"The best part is we return eight starters and a goalkeeper for next season, and this kind of experience builds something special. We'll be back even stronger."

Those words will resonate deeply with a group of players who poured their hearts into this season. The pain of Saturday's loss will fade, replaced by the hunger and determination that comes from falling just short of a championship. Liberty Ranch's program has established a standard of excellence under Huarte's leadership, and with eight starters and goalkeeper Kennie Thomas returning, the Hawks will be a force to be reckoned with next season.

For now, this team deserves recognition for an incredible season. A perfect 14-0 league record, a No. 1 seed in the section playoffs and a championship game appearance that went the distance: These achievements speak to the quality and character of this group. They played with heart, skill and determination every step of the way, and their community couldn't be prouder.

The section championship may have slipped away on penalty kicks, but the legacy of this Liberty Ranch team is secure. They'll be back. ★

## GALT HERALD ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Brooke Sparks Liberty Ranch Soccer



Isaac Flores Liberty Ranch Soccer



Austin Loza Galt High Soccer



Izzy Galt High Wrestling

Photos by Paige Lampson

# LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE



PRESENTED BY THE GALT HERALD

## Warrior Heart on Full Display as Galt Claims Section Championship



The division 5 CIF Section Champion Galt High soccer team poses for a photo.

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

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Galt High School Warriors boys' soccer team is the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division 5 Champion, capturing the title in a dramatic and hard-fought 2-1 victory over Dixon on Saturday at Sacramento City College. The Warriors, who entered the playoffs as the No. 1 seed after winning the league championship, delivered a performance that embodied everything that makes Galt soccer special: heart, determination and an unbreakable connection to their community.

The championship game was everything a title match should be. Fast, physical and fiercely competitive, both teams gave everything they had from the opening whistle. Galt struck first when Austin Loza found the back of the net, assisted by Edgar Zavala, giving the Warriors a 1-0 lead heading into halftime. The advantage was slim, but the Warriors had shown they could create and convert opportunities against a talented Dixon squad that entered the match as the No. 3 seed.

The second half brought the drama that championship games are made of. Dixon came out with renewed energy and purpose, pressing forward and eventually finding the equalizer that tied the score at 1-1. Suddenly, everything the Warriors had worked for was in jeopardy, and the momentum had shifted to the Rams.

But Galt refused to fold. In a moment that will be remembered for years, Zavala delivered the championship-winning goal, assisted by Angel Muñoz, restoring the Warriors' lead and sending the Galt supporters into a frenzy. With the score 2-1, Dixon threw everything it had at the Warriors in a frantic final stretch, playing with fierce desperation as the Rams searched for the equalizer. The game grew increasingly physical as Dixon pressed forward, but Galt's defense rose to the occasion, repelling wave after wave of attacks.

Goalkeeper Adam Preciado was standing between the posts, making three crucial saves that proved vital in preserving the championship victory. His composure and shot-stopping ability gave the Warriors' defense the confidence to hold firm under intense pressure.

When the final whistle blew, the crowd exhaled and erupted simultaneously, as the players ran



Sophomore Austin Loza tries to bicycle the ball into the goal.



Galt goalie Adam Preciado jumps up and saves the ball.



Noah Stratton jumps high to win the header.

across the field in celebration of a championship that belongs to the entire community.

For Head Coach Julian Para, the victory carries a deeply personal significance. A Galt High soccer alum himself, Para won a section championship as a player wearing the same Warriors jersey. To now deliver that same experience to his players, in the community he grew up in, is a story that transcends sports.

Para's words after the match captured the spirit of the moment perfectly. "This section title is special because it is for the community and the people that have always supported us," Para said. "We could not have done it without the support of our people. When the final whistle blew, we were very happy for each other, we celebrated amongst each other,

but we quickly turned our celebration with the people that love Galt High School as much as the players, our supporters. The Warrior Heart was on full display on Saturday.

Being able to be a part of this experience and seeing the smiles we were able to put on people's faces meant the world. We love the city."

The Warriors' championship run was a testament to the program Para has built, one rooted in community pride, hard work and a genuine love for the city of Galt. From winning the league championship to entering the playoffs as the top seed and ultimately capturing the section title, this team delivered on every stage.

Congratulations to the Galt High School Warriors: CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division 5 Champions. The city is proud. ★

## Back to Back! Hawks Repeat as Section Champions



The Section Champion Liberty Ranch boys' soccer players, posing with their banner, hold up twos for two-time champions.

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

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Liberty Ranch Hawks boys' soccer team has done it again. The defending CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division 4 champions repeated as section champions Saturday evening at Sacramento City College, defeating second-seeded East Union High School 1-0 in a tense, hard-fought championship match that showcased everything that makes this program special.

The Hawks entered the playoffs as the fourth seed after finishing second in league behind crosstown rival Galt High School. Placed in a different division than the Warriors for the postseason, Liberty Ranch used that chip on its shoulder to fuel a championship run that culminated in one of the program's greatest achievements: back-to-back section titles.

What followed was a

The championship game was a showcase of two elite programs operating at the highest level. Fast, physical and tactically brilliant, both teams created chances but neither could find the breakthrough in the first half. The game went into halftime scoreless, with the tension building as both benches searched for the tactical adjustment that would unlock the deadlock.

Liberty Ranch found its moment in the middle of the second half. In a scramble at the goal mouth, the ball bounced off the East Union goalkeeper and junior Isaac Flores was in the right place at the right time, pouncing on the rebound and driving it into the net. The goal, assisted by junior Humberto Dominguez, sent the Hawks' supporters into celebration and put Liberty Ranch in the driver's seat with the championship on the line.

What followed was a

masterclass in defensive resolve. East Union, a second-seeded program with the talent and determination to match its ranking, pressed forward relentlessly in search of the equalizer. The Hawks' defense absorbed wave after wave of attacks, refusing to yield and protecting their slim advantage with the kind of disciplined, organized defending that championship teams are built on. Every clearance, every tackle, every blocked shot was a testament to the preparation and character of this Liberty Ranch squad.

When the final whistle blew at Sacramento City College, the Hawks erupted in celebration, knowing they had accomplished something truly special.

Head Coach Garrett Arechiga reflected on the magnitude of the achievement with pride and gratitude.

"Definitely a proud moment for our boys, our staff and our program," Arechiga said. "We set out the season with the goal to repeat as section champions, and we did it. It was a tough road, but our boys rose to the occasion and accomplished something a lot of programs cannot say they've done. We could not have had the season we had without the support of our boosters, faculty and of course the parents."

Arechiga's words capture the collective effort that goes into building a championship program. Behind every successful team is a community of supporters who make it possible, and Liberty Ranch's back-to-back titles are a tribute to everyone who has invested in this program.

For Flores and Dominguez, the goal and assist that decided the championship will be remembered forever. For the entire Hawks roster, the feeling of repeating as section champions – something few programs ever achieve – is a reward for the countless hours of work put in throughout the season.

The road wasn't easy. Coming in as the fourth seed and defeating a second-seeded East Union team on the biggest stage proves that seedings and regular season records mean little when championship soccer is played. Liberty Ranch rose to the occasion when it mattered most, delivering a performance worthy of champions.

Back to back. The Liberty Ranch Hawks are CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division 4 Champions again. ★



Leyton Munoz battles in the midfield.



Hunter Owen stops East Union's progress toward the goal.



Hawk Aiden Rivera outmaneuvers his opponent and gets the ball out of Hawk territory. ★