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# The Galt Herald

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## Hunter Jailed for Smuggling Trophy of Endangered Species

By Idaly Valencia

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - A Galt man who smuggled the trophy of an endangered wild sheep into the United States after a big-game hunt in Pakistan has been sentenced to six months in federal prison and ordered to pay \$85,000 in fines.

According to a news release issued Jan. 7 by the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California, 51-year-old Jason Keith Bruce of Galt admitted to conspiring to smuggle a Ladakh urial trophy into the country nearly eight years ago.

The Ladakh urial is an endangered species of wild sheep native to the mountainous Ladakh region of India and Pakistan. A "Trophy," as defined by authorities, is "a whole animal, or a readily recognizable part of an animal, that is prepared for display."

Federal prosecutors said Bruce, a recreational big-game hunter, was a client of 45-year-old Pir Danish Ali, his co-defendant and the chief executive officer of a Pakistan-based hunting outfitter and guide company. An investigation by the U.S. Fish and

Continued on Page 3



Jason Keith Bruce was sentenced and fined for illegally importing an endangered wild sheep trophy into the United States. Photo by Elijah Pilchard/Pixabay

## Elementary School District Approves Reductions in Staff



By Idaly Valencia

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - The Galt Joint Union Elementary School District board met Feb. 18 to review staffing changes, including reductions in classified positions, and receive updates on student achievement and district finances.

In a closed session, trustees voted 5-0 to release up to nine intern teachers and one probationary certificated employee, effective no later than the end of the 2025-26 school year on June 30.

The meeting opened with a presentation from student leaders at Greer Elementary School. Principal Adam McLearan introduced three students who shared a student-produced video highlighting campus culture, leadership opportunities and the Mustang Market, a school store that rewards students for positive behavior.

During public comment, Maria Bernal, who works in a special day class for students with intensive needs, urged the board to consider the impact of staffing reductions in special education.

"We deserve transparency, we deserve fairness and our students deserve safe, fully staffed classrooms," she said, noting that cuts to classified staff increase workloads and raise safety concerns in classrooms serving students with higher academic, behavioral and medical needs.

One written comment came from Becca Toscano, a Bright Future Learning Center (BFLC) technician at Lake Canyon for the past 13 years.

Toscano expressed concern that proposed workday reductions for staff would affect families' access to before- and after-school programs, team preparation time and employee income.

"As a longtime employee of the district, I understand that difficult decisions must be made to cut costs and ensure appropriate levels of staffing," she wrote. "However, these cuts impact not only employee pay and well-being, but all other staff and student success."

Administrators then Continued on Page 4

## Food Pantry to Host 'Empty Bowls' Fundraiser



Galt Sunshine Food Pantry & Resource Center, Inc. will host its annual Empty Bowls fundraiser from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 7 at Littleton Community Center, 410 Civic Center Drive. Herald file photo

By MPG Staff

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - Looking to give back to the local food bank while sharing a meal with neighbors? Community members can support the Galt Sunshine Food Pantry & Resource Center, Inc. during its annual Empty Bowls fundraiser dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 7.

Organizers say the evening offers "so much more than a good meal."

The fundraiser is the pantry's primary source of funding, helping to sustain twice-a-month food distribution operations and support the expansion of its physical space to meet the growing needs of the community's most vulnerable residents.

In 2025, the Sunshine Food Pantry

served about 39,000 individuals and transitioned from operating inside Galt United Methodist Church to its own standalone building nearby. Proceeds from the event will go directly toward "keeping the lights on" at the pantry, from covering utility bills to ensuring there is enough food for those in need.

Continued on Page 3

# Class of 1981 to Reunite July 25



The Elk Grove High School's Class of 1981 will hold its 45-year reunion on Saturday, July 25 at The Rancho Murieta Inn & Spa, 7337 Murieta Drive. Courtesy photo

## Elk Grove High School Class of '81 Reunion Committee News Release

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - Elk Grove High School's Class of 1981 will celebrate its 45-year reunion on Saturday, July 25. The reunion committee has been working non-stop to plan a memorable event and this year is no exception!

The event will be held at The Rancho Murieta Inn & Spa, 7337 Murieta Drive in Rancho Murieta. The evening begins with a no-host bar at 5:30 p.m., followed

by dinner at 7 p.m. There will be dancing, raffle prizes, our favorite tunes and lots of fun!

Those interested in attending are encouraged to register early to get the best price. Early-bird registration will be available from now through June 30 at \$50. From July 1 to 17, registration will cost \$60. No registrations will be taken at the door. Registration is available online at forms.gle/Nrewx1N81R7xx7jPA.

For those who'd like to golf, there will be a separate event on Friday, July 24 at WildHawk Golf

Club, 7713 Vineyard Road in Sacramento.

Sign up for a foursome and spend the morning on the course. Tee time starts at 10:30 a.m. Single golfers

are welcome, and we will find a group for you.

This is not a walk-on event; those interested must register for golf when registering for the reunion.

Stay the night! There are a limited number of hotel rooms available for those who'd like to stay overnight.

Contact the Rancho

Murieta Inn & Spa directly at 916-354-3900 and mention Elk Grove High School Reunion to get a discounted rate (\$220/room). ★

# Sacramento County Public Defender Honored for Innovation

## Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The California State Association of Counties on Feb. 11 awarded the Sacramento County Public Defender's Office with a 2025 Challenge Award for its innovative Juvenile Pre-Trial Program.

California State Association of Counties' Challenge Awards highlight county programs from across the state that help solve complex issues.

"This award reflects our belief that when we invest in young people early, by understanding



The Sacramento County Public Defender's Office was awarded a 2025 Challenge Award on Feb. 11 by the California State Association of Counties for innovative work through its Juvenile Pre-Trial Program. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

their trauma, supporting their families and connecting them to services, we can change life trajectories

and strengthen our community," said Chief Public Defender Amanda Benson. "I am incredibly proud

of our team and our justice partners for embracing a model that prioritizes care, accountability and

opportunity for youth."

The Juvenile Pre-Trial Program launched in 2023.

The goal of the initiative is to assess youth in the juvenile justice system for trauma, mental health needs, educational challenges, family circumstances and other underlying factors.

Public defenders work alongside social workers to develop individualized release plans and connect youth and their families to community-based support.

By addressing root causes early, the program aligns with Sacramento County's broader goals

of improving community well-being, advancing equitable outcomes and responsibly reducing youth detention. Youth connected to these services are less likely to return to custody and more likely to be released sooner.

"The Juvenile Pre-Trial Program shows what's possible when we look beyond the case file and focus on the whole child," said Assistant Public Defender Reuben Moreno. "By building trust early and connecting youth to meaningful support, we're helping them succeed while improving outcomes across the system." ★

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



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# City-Wide Landscape Improvements Highlighted



A current view of landscaping along Stockton Boulevard, left, and a rendering showing the planned improvements for the road corridor. Photo courtesy of City of Galt

By MPG Staff

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - In its latest newsletter, the city highlighted several ongoing and upcoming landscape improvement projects focused on beautifying public spaces while prioritizing "sustainability, water conservation and long-term maintenance efficiency."

and will shift focus to the hillside behind the sidewalk leading to the sound wall. Planned improvements include removing existing vegetation, installing a drip irrigation system and planting drought-resistant plants and ground cover designed to create a sustainable, low-maintenance landscape.

landscape.

## Stockton Boulevard Landscaping

In addition, the city announced upcoming landscaping work along Stockton Boulevard near Walnut Avenue.

Plans call for a drought-tolerant landscape design intended to reduce water use and minimize long-term maintenance. Existing turf will be removed and replaced with climate-appropriate plants requiring minimal irrigation, while new ground cover will help retain soil moisture, suppress weeds and improve soil health.

All new planting areas along Stockton Boulevard will be supported by drip irrigation systems designed to deliver water directly to plant roots, reducing waste and runoff. The city stated in the newsletter that this approach will lessen the need for frequent watering, mowing and trimming while creating a cleaner, greener appearance along the road corridor. ★

## Elm Avenue Improvements

The Elm Avenue project marked the first completed effort, with Phase 1 improvements spanning curb to sidewalk from Robin Lane (north side) westward to the end of city-maintained property. The work included removing overgrown vegetation, adding new plantings and shredded cedar mulch in bare areas, installing a drip irrigation system for efficient watering and planting Chinese Pistache trees to provide shade and visual appeal.

According to the city, Phase 2 of the Elm Avenue project is set to begin next

## Harvey Park Turf Renovation

The city also provided an update on turf renovation efforts at Harvey Park, located at the corner of C Street and Third Street.

Project highlights include removing turf areas that lacked viability and replacing traditional irrigation with a drip system to improve water management. Existing eucalyptus trees were preserved, while additional trees were planted to create a more symmetrical and visually appealing layout. The newsletter also noted that native plants and trees were incorporated to further support a sustainable

# Saturday Market Kickoff Set for March 7



The City of Galt announced in its latest newsletter that the Saturday Market will host a kickoff event from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 7 at the 4th Street Promenade featuring live music from Listen Hear Band. Photo courtesy of City of Galt

## City of Galt News Release

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - The City of Galt is excited to welcome the community back for the first Saturday Market of the season, and it's in full bloom!

Celebrate the start of spring with fresh air, vibrant flowers and a street filled with talented local makers in the heart of the community. Guests can stroll through garden favorites, spring décor, handmade goods, fresh finds and one-of-a-kind treasures, all while enjoying delicious eats from a variety of food vendors.

The March 7 kickoff event will feature live music from Listen Hear Band, performing from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the main stage. The Community Stage will

also host DJ Brian King, who will spin music throughout the entire event.

With spring sunshine, beautiful blooms and a vibrant community atmosphere, the Saturday Market is the perfect way to welcome the season.

The kickoff event will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the 4th Street Promenade. The Saturday Market series will continue the first Saturday of each month, March through November, bringing live entertainment, unique vendors and family-friendly fun to the Fourth Street Promenade.

For more information about the Saturday Market series, contact the City of Galt Special Events Division at 209-366-7115 or [jgarcia@cityofgalt.org](mailto:jgarcia@cityofgalt.org). ★

# Hunter Jailed for Smuggling Trophy of Endangered Species

*Continued from page 1*  
Wildlife Service (FWS) found that beginning in 2016 the two conspired to hunt a Ladakh urial and illegally import the resulting trophy into the United States.

The release said Bruce paid Ali \$50,000 for the hunting trip during which he killed a Ladakh urial, then initially returned to the United States without the animal trophy. He later traveled back to Pakistan and, on March 29, 2018, arrived at San Francisco International Airport carrying eight animal trophies in his personal luggage, including the Ladakh urial.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers

alerted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which detained the trophy. Prosecutors said Bruce and Ali then agreed to lie to the agency, claiming the animal was a different sheep species that is not endangered.

Authorities later determined the case was part of a broader pattern of fraud tied to Ali's hunting company.

Investigators found forged documents were used to import at least 97 animal trophies into the United States between 2013 and 2018.

Bruce was arrested and indicted in 2023 on charges including conspiracy to violate the Endangered

Species Act, making false statements and smuggling goods into the United States.

The Sacramento Bee reported that Bruce pleaded guilty Tuesday, Feb. 3 to one count of conspiracy. In the plea agreement cited by the Bee, Bruce acknowledged that he "worked with a hunting company in Pakistan to kill the Ladakh urial and bring it home, where he had it mounted in a trophy room at his home."

The Bee reported that Bruce was sentenced to six months in federal prison, ordered to pay \$85,000 in fines and given two years of supervised release after completing his term. ★

# Food Pantry to Host 'Empty Bowls' Fundraiser

*Continued from page 1*

The event will be held at Littleton Community Center, 410 Civic Center Drive. Dinner includes a variety of soups, salad and bread with ticket purchase. The evening will also feature live music, local artisan bowls for sale, a silent auction of gift baskets and other activities. Beer and wine will be available for purchase.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$5 for children ages 12 and under. Tickets may be purchased directly from Sunshine Food Pantry representative Faye Gaines at



The Empty Bowls fundraiser dinner, hosted by Galt Sunshine Food Pantry & Resource Center, Inc., will feature local artisan bowls for sale on Saturday, March 7. Herald file photo

209-200-2628 or by email about the pantry and its distribution days, visit [fayegaines@att.net](mailto:fayegaines@att.net)

For more information [shinefoodpantrygalt.org](http://shinefoodpantrygalt.org). ★

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# Elementary School District Approves Reductions in Staff

Continued from page 1

presented winter assessment data from the district's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and i-Ready diagnostics. Several grade levels across elementary and middle schools met or nearly met the district's 5% growth targets in reading, and multiple grade levels showed math gains during the first year of a new curriculum.

Principals from River Oaks, Greer, Lake Canyon, Marengo Ranch, Valley Oaks elementary schools and McCaffrey Middle School highlighted site-specific growth and outlined action steps, including targeted support for students near proficiency benchmarks, academic conferences and continued professional development tied to the new math program.

Superintendent Lois Yount noted that the district continues to rank near the top in Sacramento County, performing well in academics and English learner progress while maintaining low chronic absenteeism and suspension rates.

Chief Business Officer Alejandra Garibay reviewed Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed state budget with trustees, noting that while it projects a balanced budget for 2026-27, deficits are expected in future years.

Garibay said the

district's projected reserves would decline slightly over the next two years but remain above the state-required minimum. She also reported that the district received an unmodified opinion (the highest rating possible) in its annual independent audit, with no findings or material weaknesses.

Before acting on items regarding personnel changes, Yount recognized staff dedication and acknowledged the difficulty of necessary reductions.

"I recognize and I appreciate the hard work and dedication of our staff," Yount said.

"I know reductions are difficult, but sometimes they are necessary due to student enrollment, lack of work or lack of funding," she said, explaining that some of the potential reductions resulted from the district completing parity of salary and workdays.

Yount also noted that while compensation for the current school year has not been settled, the district anticipates salary increases for all staff members.

Trustees approved reducing one middle school Spanish teaching position from full-time to 0.6 full-time equivalent due to enrollment and course offerings. Reductions in workdays and hours were approved for several classified positions, including

a bilingual office assistant, seven health assistants, a licensed vocational nurse, four Bright Future Learning Center library technicians, an early childhood home visitor and two general education instructional assistants.

Based on projected enrollment and program needs for 2026-27, the district also recommended eliminating two special education instructional assistant positions (one currently vacant), five general education instructional assistant positions (one vacant) and one school social worker position (currently vacant).

Trustee Katherine Harper asked if any positions could be reinstated if enrollment changes in the future. Yount confirmed that is possible, especially for special education aides as well as Bright Future Learning Center positions.

The board also received updates from the Cities and Schools Together (CAST) committee, including plans for active shooter training at Liberty Ranch High School during spring break and continued collaboration with the Galt Police Department on campus safety and traffic concerns.

The next regular board meeting for the Galt Joint Union Elementary School District is scheduled at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 18 at Galt City Hall, 380 Civic Drive. ★

MEMORIAL

**DONALD ARTHUR GRENNELL • 07/27/1930 - 12/30/2025**

In loving memory of Donald A. Grennell  
Survived by his wife Shirley, and daughters, Karen, Janet and Joni. Our beloved father passed away peacefully on December 30, 2025 at the age of 95. We will remember our father as being a loving, soft spoken, generous very handsome man with a wonderful quirky sense of humor. We will miss his funny one-liner jokes that always came out of nowhere, and the punch line never forgotten. His ability to make everyone in his life feel loved, special and protected will leave a very big hole in our hearts.

Don was in the Navy, then spent 20 years as a Deputy Sheriff, but his true passion was to build things with his own two hands. Upon retiring at the age of

barn for our horses, sheds for all his tools, pens for livestock and even an oil pit to change the oil in all our cars. Our lives growing up in Herald on our 10 acres was a very special, magical time. While we didn't know it at the time, we were very lucky girls to have had the upbringing that we did. Our Dad understood the chaos of the world and wanted to protect his wife and 3 daughters from it all. He did just that.

He was the go-to handyman for his friends, neighbors and church. His ability to fix anything (even when sometimes he should have left it to the professionals!) was his legacy, but his love for the lord, his family and friends was paramount.

We will miss you Dad.

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## 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. ★

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# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



## The Losing Streak is Over!

It may only be a footnote in the history of the Sacramento Kings, but fans are thrilled to see a record setting 16-game losing streak finally come to an end.

Rookies Precious Achiuwa and newly discovered Daequon Plowden rose to the occasion and handed the Memphis Grizzlies an unlikely loss by the score of 123-114.

A collective sigh of relief could be heard throughout Sacramento as the Kings showed their loyal fans that there is still talent and fortitude in Kings town.

Coming off the bench was Daequon Plowden, a literal afterthought in the Kings rotation, who put up 19 big points and five rebounds in just 26 minutes of action, and his contribution could not have come at a better time.

Precious Achiuwa had his best game as a pro putting up 22 points and 12 rebounds, and combined with Russell Westbrook's 25 points and seven assists, the Kings were too much for the shorthanded Grizzlies.

Desperately shorthanded with Sabonis, Murray and Lavine sidelined with injuries, Sacramento played with energy and enthusiasm, ending once and for all a losing streak that needed to come to an end.

As veterans are sidelined, coach Christie had little choice but to turn to his bench, and his most recent addition to the floor has shown remarkable results.

Daequon Plowden is not only raising eyebrows, but he also actually helped carry the team in their second win of the week over the Dallas Mavericks. All Plowden did was hit all 10 of his shots from the field, and three being from beyond the arc. Plowden has been riding the pines all season, and his 19 points and four rebounds were a key to the victory.

Once again Precious Achiuwa made his presence felt, adding a new career high 29 points and 12 rebounds. What was even more remarkable was converting of all three of his 3-point shots, and his scoring prowess led the Kings to a 130-121 victory over Dallas.

Although taking a step back in Sunday night's loss to the L.A. Lakers, the Kings will be a welcome sight at Golden One Arena Tuesday night as they face the Phoenix Suns.

With Domantas Sabonis, Zach Lavine and De'Andre Hunter all sidelined for the remainder of the season, Kings fans will get a good opportunity to see what the youngsters on this team can contribute to real NBA action.

The entire franchise has eyes on first-round draft choice Nique Clifford as he continues to get significant playing time, and his results continue to be mixed. No question that he brings a solid defensive presence, but his night in and night out scoring has been a mixed bag. Nique's seven points per game and 40 percent shooting from the field will need to improve if he has any hope of becoming the future starting point guard for the Kings.

As for last year's second-round draft choice Maxime Raynaud, his 10 points and 55 percent from the field this season have people looking in his direction, and many are wondering how high the ceiling can be for this young 7-footer.

At 6'8" and 240 lbs. Precious Achiuwa continues to impress, and this 26-year-old big man needs to get every opportunity the Kings can give him.

Not to be ignored is the first-round draft choice of two years ago, Devin Carter, who after what seems like a season on the bench is finally getting some playing time. Carter is one of the most impressive defensive players on the Kings squad and comes with a bevy of athleticism. Devin needs to be a more consistent scorer, and the Kings will have a nightly performer to recon with.

So, pick out your favorite player who is not injured, and start rooting Kings fans. Now is your opportunity to see what the little used bench players have to offer. If there is a diamond in the rough now is the time to find it.

Hat's off to veterans to De'Mar DeRozan and Russell Westbrook that have played with quality and style, while putting up significant numbers. The young players on this team have a rare opportunity to receive some valuable schooling from future hall-of-famers!

Stay tuned Kings fans, because more wins are just around the corner!

All the best! ★

## California's Reading Reforms Drive Push for Better Math Skills in Early Grades



By Dan Walters,  
CALMatters.org

Last year, after decades of often bitter debate, California took an important step toward raising the abysmal levels of reading ability among many of its public school students.

The Legislature passed and Gov. Gavin Newsom — who struggles with dyslexia — signed legislation that encourages phonics when teaching reading to elementary school students.

It stopped short of a phonics mandate, which would have been fully justified, to temper opposition from educators still clinging to discredited methods, such as “whole language.”

Rather, Assembly Bill 1454 requires the state to provide training for teachers and instructional materials centered on phonics, or the “science of reading,” to use its current name. It would still allow local schools and their teachers to use other methods.

The Legislature and Newsom acted when the low reading skills of California's kids, as determined by nationwide testing, became too obvious to ignore.

Reading comprehension among California's fourth-graders ranked 37th among the states in the 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress. Just 29% of the state's students showed proficiency, down two percentage points

from 2022.

Raising reading achievement is vital because it is the precursor to all other forms of learning. Thus, California's low reading levels may be partially responsible for the state's equally unacceptably low ranking on mathematics; just 39% of fourth graders were proficient.

That's why a new effort to upgrade math skills via legislation is — or at least should be — high on the Capitol's must-do list. State Sen. Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson, a San Diego Democrat, introduced Senate Bill 1067, backed by education reformers who supported the phonics bill.

SB 1067 would require local school districts to screen primary school students for difficulty in math skills as a first step toward a statewide effort to upgrade instruction and comprehension.

“California is facing a real and urgent math achievement crisis, and we cannot afford to wait until students are already far behind to act,” the senator told EdSource, an education website that first revealed the new effort. “We know the achievement gap in math is evident as early as kindergarten. We also know that students who miss foundational math skills in grades K through 2 rarely catch up.”

Weber Pierson comes by her interest in improving education naturally. Her mother, Secretary of State Shirley Weber, was a persistent advocate of no-nonsense education while serving in the Legislature, often clashing with the state's entrenched education establishment — even the powerful California Teachers Association.

Weber grew up as a sharecropper's daughter in rigidly segregated Arkansas but moved to California with

her family in 1951, earned a doctorate and was a college teacher before running for the Legislature.

“I don't fear that I'm going to get lynched at night or that someone is going to bomb my house. I don't fear that,” Weber told CalMatters in a 2017 profile. “What my predecessors stood for and fought for was a whole lot harder than what I'm fighting for today.”

Oddly, Southern states have lately been the most active in owning up to their educational deficiencies. Mississippi's success in improving reading skills inspired other states to improve reading. Alabama, meanwhile, has done the same vis-à-vis math skills, beginning with screening students to spot those in danger of failing, as EdSource notes.

Weber Pierson's bill would confront math in the same way. The state Board of Education would appoint a panel to develop a list of screening instruments, leading to statewide adoption of screening.

“Screening is the right first step because you cannot effectively address a problem you have not identified,” Weber Pierson told EdSource.

It's a process that California should adopt for all of its persistent issues, rather than the scattergun approach officialdom tends to take.

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

## Social Security Matters

### I Lost Money as a Widow

### and Ex-spouse by Not Knowing the Rules



By Russell Gloor,  
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I just found out, as someone who was collecting widow's benefits on my second husband (a very small amount) for some time, that I was, all along, entitled to divorce benefits from my first husband which are much more. I thought I had to wait until my first husband passed before I could collect anything from him. Now I learned I have the right to collect as a divorcee. All of these years I have been missing out on a bigger benefit because I didn't know this. Please make this clear and stress it for others in my position. **Signed: Lost Benefits**

**Dear Lost Benefits:** I am truly saddened that you lost out on benefits from your first husband for such a long time. Although you could not collect an ex-spouse benefit from Husband #1 while you were married to Husband #2, as soon as your current husband died you again became eligible for ex-spouse benefits from Husband #1. Basically, the rules say you cannot collect benefits from an ex-spouse if you have remarried and remain married. In other words, you cannot be “currently married” to collect benefits from an ex-spouse.

But the death of Husband #2 meant that you were now eligible to collect ex-spouse benefits from your first husband — husband #1. I hope when you later filed for your ex-spouse benefits you asked for six months of retroactive benefits.

In your situation, when your Husband #2 died, you actually had a choice — either collect your surviving spouse benefit from your recently deceased husband #2, or to collect a regular ex-spouse benefit from your first husband if that is more than your benefit as your second husband's widow. Regular ex-spouse benefits from your first husband are available even though he is still living (and, indeed, even if he remarried) because you are no longer married to husband #2.

This, however, is not always the way things work out for someone who has had multiple marriages. It all depends on the SS benefit each former spouse was entitled to. That's because your survivor benefit as your 2nd husband's widow is based on the full (100%) amount he was receiving from Social Security when he died. In contrast, your benefit as your first husband's ex-spouse while he is still living will be based upon half (50%) of his full retirement age SS entitlement. And often, 100% of a deceased person's SS benefit is more than 50% of another living person's amount. But not always.

It's important to also know that if you claim any SS benefit before reaching your personal full retirement age (FRA), the monthly

amount will be reduced. Benefits as a spouse (or a surviving spouse) do not reach maximum until the spouse reaches FRA, which is somewhere between age 66 and 67 depending on the spouse's year of birth. It's also important to know that if a surviving spouse is working, any SS benefit received will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET), which limits how much can be earned before SS benefits are affected. For 2026, the earnings limit for those collecting early SS benefits is \$24,480 and, if that limit is exceeded, Social Security will take away some of your benefits. Note that the earnings test goes away when you reach your full retirement age.

Finally, be aware that if your first husband also predeceases you, you will then become eligible for a surviving ex-spouse benefit from him, even if he has remarried.

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



## Jack Hughes or Eileen Gu?

we must fight for Western civilization, while Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez rendered “Western culture” in sneer quotes, as if it were a fiction or contemptible concept.

The right is naturally drawn to the patriotic or nationalistic attitude, whereas the left is more cosmopolitan, tending to believe that attachment to one's own is narrow-minded and patriotic displays are crude and simplistic.

Cosmopolitanism has a long history. As I note in my book “The Case for Nationalism,” the term “cosmopolitan” has its root in the Greek word “kosmopolites,” or citizen of the cosmos or world.

The fourth-century B.C. Cynic philosopher Diogenes is the first recorded person to use what has now become a cosmopolitan cliché: “When he was asked where he came from, he replied, ‘I am a citizen of the world.’”

That was a radical, or even senseless, statement since the Greeks considered citizenship possible only through the polis, or city. During the Enlightenment, the cosmopolitan idea was expressed in the notion of Weltbürger, or world citizen. This tendency has been given stark expression by the likes of the novelist Virginia Woolf, who urged the rejection of “pride of nationality,” and the titanic Russian writer LEO Tolstoy, who thought it “obvious that patriotism as a sentiment is bad and harmful, as a doctrine it is stupid.”

Cosmopolitanism has always been open to the charge that — whatever its real or purported idealism — it cultivates a disregard for

what's near, immediate and tangible in favor of what's far off.

Behind cosmopolitanism is what the British writer Paul Gilroy has called “the principled and methodical cultivation of a degree of estrangement from one's own culture and history.”

The problem is that no one is really a citizen of the world, rather of particular nations that have formed us in obvious and subtle ways. Yes, people emigrate and there are literary and intellectual exiles, but most of us have an attachment to home that feels natural and important.

One reason that people were so moved by the U.S. hockey team was the palpable bonds of the players — to one another, to their country, to the memory of their tragically deceased former fellow player Johnny Gaudreau. These weren't bonds that were chosen, so much as accepted and embraced; they were true to their teammates and nation.

In contrast, Eileen Gu claims to be true to herself. If asked if she is proud of the accomplishments of her countrymen, she might have to ask, “Which countrymen?”

It is certainly the case that the Olympics bring athletes around the world together, but the Games themselves are testament to the enduring power of patriotism. It was, after all, a unique kind of sports joy to witness the triumph of our boys in red, white and blue.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*  
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# Fool's Gold?

*California has waged a quiet, persistent campaign against the indispensable ingredients of a successful modern economy*

By Garvin Walsh, California Globe

California has long been known as the Golden State. In 1968 the Legislature made the nickname official, capturing a fitting label for a place associated with promise and prosperity. Yet over the past two decades, political choices have fostered habits that are steadily tarnishing that brand.

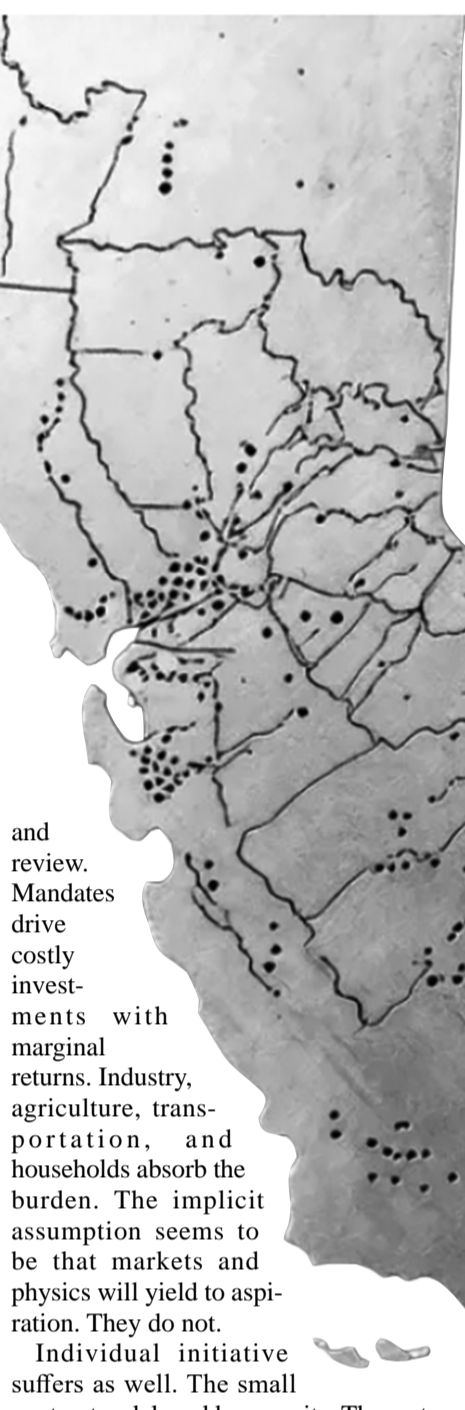
California entered the United States in 1848 after the Mexican-American War. The Gold Rush brought explosive population growth, and by 1850 California was admitted as the 31st state. What followed was a remarkable modern era marked by sustained population increases and world-leading economic expansion. Natural resources, agriculture, industry, tourism and technological innovation powered the rise. For generations, Californians shared a broad optimism grounded in individual enterprise and upward mobility.

Those days are gone. For years the state has waged a quiet but persistent campaign against the three indispensable ingredients of any successful modern economy: capital, energy, and individual initiative.

The pattern is clear. Capital is treated with hostility rather than respect. Investors and employers operate within an intensifying regulatory thicket – layered mandates, expanding compliance regimes, and punitive taxation. Starting or expanding a business in California requires navigating a complex maze that deters many would-be builders. When companies relocate, shelve projects, or choose not to launch here at all, our California dreams are stifled. Capital is mobile. It flows toward stability and predictability and away from hostility.

Energy policy reflects the same mindset. Affordable, reliable power is the lifeblood of a sophisticated economy. California is rich in energy resources, yet policy has inhibited their development in favor of ideological signaling. The result is paradoxical: a resource-rich state that

imports much of its energy, burdening residents with the highest costs in the nation. Infrastructure projects stall under litigation



and review. Mandates drive costly investments with marginal returns. Industry, agriculture, transportation, and households absorb the burden. The implicit assumption seems to be that markets and physics will yield to aspiration. They do not. Individual initiative suffers as well. The small contractor delayed by permits. The restaurateur juggling wage mandates, benefit requirements, and inspection rules. The

entrepreneur deciding where to incorporate and hire. The cumulative message is unmistakable: ambition is narrowly constrained by distant regulators. Over time, that message dulls the instinct to build. Families and businesses vote with their feet.

This trajectory is especially short-sighted because California's expansive public sector depends entirely on private enterprise. Government does not generate wealth; it redistributes what the private sector produces. Tax revenue arises from payrolls, profits, property values, and capital gains.

Schools, infrastructure, social services, and environmental programs rest on taxable economic activity. Even nonprofits and advocacy organizations rely on private wealth. Philanthropy presupposes profit. Grants presuppose tax receipts. Redistribution presupposes production.

Eroding the base while enlarging the superstructure defies economic arithmetic.

For much of the past twenty years, one party has held overwhelming control in Sacramento. The Democratic supermajority has shaped the current policy framework and

therefore owns its outcomes: rising living costs, chronic

housing shortages, business outmigration, and budget volatility tied to a narrow band of high earners.

This is not a claim that Republicans would govern without fault. Concentrated power tempts any party. A Republican supermajority would display its own excesses. The structural problem is dominance itself. When competition fades, correction slows. Insulation breeds certainty and corruption, and invites overreach.

California's identity was forged not by bureaucratic choreography but by the confidence that individuals, given room to act, would generate prosperity sufficient to support both private ambition and public goods. That confidence has been replaced by suspicion of the very mechanisms that built the state. The opportunity culture of the Golden State has morphed into a system of constraint.

Extending the metaphor, the old fable of the golden goose endures because it captures a timeless truth. A productive economy yields steady returns when allowed to function. Overburden it, squeeze it, or treat it as an adversary, and output declines. Destroy it, and the stream of benefits ends.

California earned its golden reputation because millions mined, farmed, engineered, manufactured, financed, coded, and invented. They converted natural advantage into sustained growth. If leadership continues to treat capital, energy, and initiative as liabilities rather than assets, the shine will continue to fade.

Rotation in power would not solve every problem. It would, however, restore accountability. And accountability – more than rhetoric – is what keeps a golden state from becoming fool's gold. ★

California has long been known as the Golden State. For generations, Californians shared a broad optimism grounded in individual enterprise and upward mobility. Photo courtesy of Grok/California Globe

## ABOUT TOWN

### 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](http://championgymnastics-stockton.com). 413 E. Lockeford St., Lodi.

### Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8

**San Joaquin County Reptile and Exotic Pet Show** – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, Stockton. Join us for a weekend filled with wonder as local and regional exhibitors bring a diverse array of reptiles and exotic pets for you to admire and experience closer than ever before. Don't miss out on this thrilling adventure. It's an opportunity to shop, learn, explore, and discover the beauty and diversity of the exotic pet world. Tickets available on Eventbrite.com. 1658 S. Airport Way, Stockton.

### 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 first Saturday each month, March through November. More information at 209-366-7115.

**Used Oil Filter Exchange** – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at O'Reilly Auto

Parts. For every oil filter recycled, you can receive a new one for free (limit two). Not for use by commercial automotive maintenance or repair facilities. For more information, call 209-366-7260. 10370 Twin Cities Road.

**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](http://aauwlodi.org). 105 S. Washington St., Lodi.

**Biodiversity Hike** – noon to 1:30 p.m. at Delta Meadows. Join a State Parks interpreter to learn about native and invasive species, the importance of biodiversity, and how the history of the Delta Meadows property has influenced the plants and animals that live there today. Admission and participation in the program are free. Meet in the Delta Meadows parking lot at noon. Walnut Grove.

**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 \$5 children 12 and under. There will also be a silent auction of gift baskets along with artisan bowls available for purchase. Tickets can be purchased by calling Faye

Gaines at 209-200-2628 or via email at [fayegaines@att.net](mailto: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](http://Walton.stocktonusd.net). 6715 Leesburg Place, Stockton.

### Friday, March 13

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

### Saturday, March 14

**Swap Meet & Car Show** – 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Galt Market grounds. Turn those old parts into cash. Swap meet spaces are only \$20 pre-registered or \$25 day of show. Free parking, \$5 admission, kids 12 and under are free. Call 209-513-8651 for more information. 610 Chabolla Ave.

**March Kids Corner Activity** – 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Lodi Community Art Center. Get creative with this free monthly art class

designed to inspire young artists and families. This month, participants will learn the basics of paper quilling and craft their own unique creation. Make a card, bookmark or small canvas to take home. 110 W. Pine St., Lodi.

**2nd Annual Crab Feed to Benefit Lodi Animal Shelter** – doors open at 5:30 p.m. at the Grape Festival Grounds, Chardonnay Hall. Enjoy a no-host bar, raffle and silent auction hosted by Lodi Animal Services Foundation. Funds raised directly support the well-being of animals in need. Tickets available at [thelASF.org](http://thelASF.org). 413 E. Lockeford St., Lodi.

### Ongoing Events

**Blood, Sweat and Gears Car Club** – 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Foothill Pizza in Lockeford. Fourth Friday each month, cruise-in pizza and pistons. All years, makes and models welcome. Next event, Friday, March 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 9. 600 Chabolla Ave.

**Widowed Persons Social Club** – 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.

March 11, Noon: No-host lunch followed by beginners' Pinochle at Original Mike's, 9139 East Stockton Blvd. Contact Evelyn at 916-685-9669.

March 13, 10 a.m.: Pinochle at Elk Grove United Methodist Church, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd. A small donation to the church is expected. Contact Jim at 916-768-1923.

March 14, 10:30 a.m.: Coffee gathering at Peet's Coffee, 7127 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact Evelyn at 916-685-9669.

A widowed person may attend up to three events while deciding if they wish to join WPSA. 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 nonprofits: the local Park Council and the Wilton History Group. 9717 Colony Road at Dillard Road, Wilton.

### Library Events

Sacramento County Libraries have the following upcoming events at (G) Galt Marian O. Lawrence Library, 1000 Caroline Ave. and (WG) Walnut

Grove, 14177 Market St.

Friday, 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)

Tuesday March 10: Family story time, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. (WG)

Wednesday, March 11: English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (G)

Friday, March 13: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (G) English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (G)

### Veterans Meetings

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

**American Legion Post 233 and Auxiliary Unit 233** – fourth Thursdays; dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., Elks Lodge, 9240 Survey Road, Elk Grove.

**Post 233 Family Breakfast** – first Saturdays, 9 a.m., Mimi's Café. 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 Mondays, 5:45 p.m., 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. ★

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## POLICE LOGS

During the time period of Feb. 24 to March 1, Galt Police received and responded to a variety of calls, resulting in two arrests.

### Feb. 25

2:44 p.m., Identity Theft reported, Vauxhall Avenue: Unauthorized charge to PayPal account.

4:26 p.m., Theft reported, 7th Street: Stolen

plate. 4:28 p.m., Battery/Adult Arrest, Park Terrace Drive.

### Feb. 26

7:15 p.m., Battery/Adult Arrest, Days Inn on North Lincoln Way.

### Feb. 28

8:35 p.m., Fraud reported, Best Western Inn on North Lincoln Way: Female subject promised to

pay off debts in exchange for purchasing multiple Apple cards.

### March 1

4:58 a.m., Attempt Theft/Tamper reported, Vintage Oak Avenue: Silver Honda Civic pulled up directly next to reporting party's Suburban.

9:18 a.m., Vandalism reported, The Galt Place, D Street. ★



Legal Advertising  
916-483-0946

## LEGAL ADVERTISING

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

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

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-01140  
Robb Roberts, 14100 S Lincoln Way, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "DCR Rentals" 215 4th Street, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 6, 2026  
Publish: March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026  
DCR 3-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-01496  
Magda Guerrero, 913 Lake Canyon Avenue, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Rosegate Real Estate" 913 Lake Canyon Avenue, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 23, 2026  
Publish: March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026  
ROSEGATE 3-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-01447  
M Nunez Distributing LLC, 841 Bay Heights Court, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "M & N Transport" 841 Bay Heights Court, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 20, 2026  
Publish: March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026  
TRANSPORT 3-27-26

### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ALBERT J. LOPES  
CASE NO. 26PRO00371  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, 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 rep-

resentative, 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

### TRUSTEE SALE

T.S. No.: 2025-19507-CA APN: 150-0640-001-0000 Property Address: 1151 PADDINGTON CIR, GALT, CA 95632  
**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 5/10/2024. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.** A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: **BOBBY EUGENE VOCQUE II AND PHYLLIS VOCQUE, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS JOINT TENANTS** Duly Appointed Trustee: **Nestor Solutions, LLC** Deed of Trust Recorded **5/13/2024 as Instrument No. 202405130718 in Book - Page -** of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of **Sacramento** County, California Date of Sale:

**4/14/2026 at 1:00 PM** Place of Sale: **At the main entrance to the County Courthouse, 720 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814** Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **\$756,286.46** Street Address or other common designation of real property: **1151 PADDINGTON CIR GALT, CA 95632** A.P.N.: **150-0640-001-0000** The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. **NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. Please be advised that the Trustee may require entity or trust bidders at this trustee's sale to provide information, documentation and/or certification of the vesting instructions and the data required to be reported pursuant to FinCEN regulations effective for transfers of residential real property to covered transferees on or after March 1, 2026. The required information must be provided to the trustee **before** a trustee's deed upon sale will be issued for covered transfers. These federal regulations will require reporting if a trustee's deed is issued on or after March 1, 2026, even if the foreclosure sale is conducted prior to March 1, 2026. Additional information regarding these regulations and the required transferee information and certifications can be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers> and [https://www.fincen.gov/re-faqs#D\\_5](https://www.fincen.gov/re-faqs#D_5). **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present

at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call or (888) 902-3989 or visit these internet websites or [www.nestortrustee.com](http://www.nestortrustee.com), using the file number assigned to this case 2025-19507-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO TENANTS:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call or (888) 902-3989 or visit these internet websites or [www.nestortrustee.com](http://www.nestortrustee.com), using the file number assigned to this case 2025-19507-CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: 2/26/2026 **Nestor Solutions, LLC 214 5th Street, Suite 205 Huntington Beach, California 92648 Sale Line: (888) 902-3989 Amanda Guillen, Trustee Sale Officer** This communication is from a debt collector. It is an attempt to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If you are a California resident, you may have additional rights under the Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. You may request, in writing, detailed information about your debt, including the balance, interest, fees, assignment history, and date of delinquency, at no cost to you. If you are currently in bankruptcy or have received a discharge in bankruptcy, this communication is not an attempt to collect a debt. It is for informational purposes only. EPP 47053  
Pub Dates 03/06, 03/13, 03/20/2026  
THE GALT HERALD 3-20-26

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# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## Volunteers Sought for Senior Resource Center

The Commission on Aging is looking for volunteers to operate a computer and are willing to answer questions from seniors in person, over the phone, on social media and by email at the Galt Senior Resource Center.

Volunteer slots are available in two-hour increments for up to four hours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, excluding holidays.

Volunteers will be trained and can contact commission members with questions.

The resource center is at the Chabolla Community Center, 600 Chabolla Ave. If interested, call 209-294-3308 and leave a message or inquire in person.

## TOPS Weekly Meetings

TOPS, Taking Off Pounds Sensibly, holds meetings every Wednesday at Grace Presbyterian Church, 10 N. Mills Ave., Lodi. Meeting time: 10-10:45 a.m.

Weigh-ins: 9-9:50am. No charge for first meeting.

## 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.

## 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.

## Nominate Your Neighbor

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

yard project? Does your neighbor have the best flowers in town or the best-looking yard?

The Galt Beautification Committee wants to know.

Send an email with pictures and why you are nominating your neighbor to [planningdivision@cityofgalt.org](mailto:planningdivision@cityofgalt.org).

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

## 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. ★



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# Twist, Lick and Dunk



Did you know? – Most Oreos are packaged in three rows of 13 cookies; half of the people who eat Oreo cookies pull them apart before they eat them; there are more than eighty-five flavors of Oreos like Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie, Red Velvet, Churro and Lemon, for example; Oreo cookies are produced in 18 countries and are found in more than 100 countries all over the world; and more than 40 billion Oreo cookies are made each year. If they were stacked together, they would be able to circle the earth five times! Pretty cool for a couple of chocolate wafers and a bit of white cream. My favorite – the original Oreo and yes, I do twist it apart, eat the white cream and then eat the crunchy chocolate wafers.

\*\*\*

Know what else we celebrate on March

6? Frozen food. From crispy fries to creamy treats, frozen food offers a convenient culinary adventure, ready to satisfy cravings at a moment's notice.

Originally, the slow process of freezing food on ice in a closed container would cause the large ice crystals to form on the food and ultimately degrade the quality, flavor and texture of the food. It wasn't a "protective coating" like my grandmother would tell me when I said the food tasted funny.

Clarence Frank Birdseye II, a biologist for the United States government, set up Birdseye Seafoods and developed the quick-freezing process that included specialized prepackaging. After earning the first frozen foods freezing patent in the United States in 1927, Clarence Birdseye created the Birdseye company.

He and his company are now considered one of the founders of the frozen food industry. Another was the Swanson company, which became the first frozen food TV dinner in 1950. Once microwaves became accessible to the general public throughout the 1970s and '80s, President Ronald Reagan memorialized frozen foods by proclaiming National

Frozen Food Day as a United States holiday in 1984. Now we have air fryers that give a whole new meaning to crisp and greaseless.

I think I will air fry some frozen shrimp and fries, add a salad for dinner tonight and have couple of scoops of Oreo ice cream for dessert.

\*\*\*

This weekend Daylight Saving Time starts. As in "Spring Forward, Fall Back." Ugh! One less hour of sleep this Sunday.

Why can't the time be left alone? Our animals don't have a care, no schedules (trains, airports, buses, clocks, etc.) need to be updated. California voted to get rid of Daylight-Saving Time.

I am beginning to sound like a broken record!

Daylight-Saving Time tops my list of "What fries my Pie'." It is up there with unmade beds, left open cupboard doors and gates, laundry left in the dryer so long it wrinkles, and unhung clothes and yes there is more. But there's another time and a place to talk about them.

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

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# LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE



## So Close: Hawks Fall One Win Short of Golden 1 Return

Story and photos  
by Paige Lampson  
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Liberty Ranch Hawks girls' basketball team's dream of returning to Golden 1 Arena for a repeat section championship came to a heartbreaking end Monday night when they fell to third-seeded West Campus 63-53 in a semifinal thriller that wasn't decided until the final minutes. Despite a valiant comeback effort that had the Hawks within one point late in the fourth quarter, West Campus pulled away to advance to the section championship.

The Hawks entered the game riding a wave of momentum, having dominated their first two playoff games. Liberty Ranch cruised past Sacramento 76-49 in the first round before dismantling Amador 64-18 in the quarterfinals. A section championship rematch at Golden 1 Arena seemed well within reach.

The game started as a true battle between two evenly matched teams. The first quarter ended in a 19-19 deadlock, setting the stage for a dramatic evening. With one minute remaining in the first half, the score was still tied, but West Campus found its rhythm in the closing seconds and took a 33-25 lead into halftime.

The Hawks refused to fold. Liberty Ranch clawed its way back in the third quarter, outscoring West Campus to pull within three points at 42-45 heading into the fourth. The comeback was complete enough that with 5:10 remaining, the Hawks had pulled to within one point at 48-49, sending the home crowd into a frenzy and putting the Golden 1 dream back within reach.

But West Campus, led by the outstanding Naomi Johnson, had other plans. The senior poured in a game-high 27 points on 10-of-18 shooting, adding seven rebounds and four steals in a performance that ultimately proved to be the difference. Junior L. Justice added 18 points and a remarkable 19 rebounds, giving West Campus a dominant inside presence that Liberty Ranch couldn't contain down the stretch. With 1:55 remaining, West Campus had pushed the lead back to six at 52-58, and the Hawks couldn't recover.

Senior Haley Smith led Liberty Ranch with 19 points, hitting three three-pointers and converting six of nine free throws in a gutsy performance. Smith's 67% free throw shooting and eight rebounds reflected her determination to keep her team in the fight until the final buzzer.



Taking advantage of a rare open key, senior Haley Smith soars to a layup.



Hawk Madisyn Robbins gets those points in a pinch.



Head Coach Karrin Blevins instructs during a timeout.



Cruz Gregorio battles her way into the key.

Senior Madisyn Robbins contributed 14 points on an efficient 7-of-12 shooting performance, while freshman Lacey Smith added 12 points and eight rebounds. The Smith sisters combined for 31 points, doing everything they could to carry the Hawks to victory. The sight of senior Haley and freshman Lacey competing together on this stage was one of the evening's most compelling storylines, with both leaving everything on the floor.

Junior Kamrynn Blevins finished with two points but contributed seven assists, consistently finding open teammates and keeping the Hawks' offense moving. Sophomore Cruz Gregorio added six points off the bench.

Liberty Ranch was

outrebounded 36-27, and West Campus' ability to dominate the glass proved crucial in the game's final stretch.

The Hawks' 12 turnovers also contributed to their inability to complete the comeback.

While the loss stings, the Hawks' season isn't quite over. Liberty Ranch now advances to the state playoffs, where the team will have the opportunity to compete against the best programs in California. The experience gained in this hard-fought semifinal loss will serve them well as they prepare for the next challenge.

The Golden 1 dream may have to wait another year, but for this Liberty Ranch team, the best may still be ahead. ★

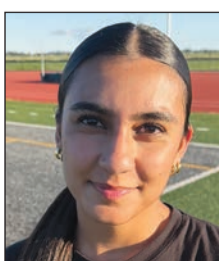


Freshman Lacy Smith is ready to score three.

### GALT HERALD ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Hunter Owen  
Liberty Ranch Soccer



Marwa Yosra  
Liberty Ranch  
Track & Field



Evianna Barrera  
Galt High Softball



Tiger Myrick  
Galt High Swimming

# Record Broken: Myrick Sets All-Time School Mark in Season Opener

By Paige Lampson  
Sports Editor

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - The Galt High School swim team opened its 2025 season on Friday, Feb. 28 against Bradshaw Christian with a performance that will be remembered for years to come. Sophomore Tiger Myrick stole the show, shattering the school's all-time record in the 100 Butterfly and setting the tone for what promises to be an exciting season under new Head Coach Erica Atkins.

Myrick touched the wall in 59.24 seconds in the 100 Butterfly, breaking the previous all-time school record and surpassing the Section qualifying time in the process. The performance earned him first place in the event and announced his arrival as one of the most talented swimmers in the region. What makes the achievement even more remarkable is that Myrick is only a sophomore, and this isn't the first time he's



Coming and going, Tiger Myrick is on his way to a new school butterfly record. Courtesy photos

rewritten the record books at Galt High. Last year, as a freshman, Myrick set a new JV record, signaling that something special was developing in the Galt pool. Friday's performance confirmed it.

Myrick wasn't finished after his record-breaking butterfly swim. He also captured first place in the 200 Freestyle, demonstrating the versatility and endurance that makes him such a formidable competitor. With two first-place finishes in his season opener, Myrick has established himself as a swimmer to watch not just in the league, but throughout the section.

On the girls' side, junior Courtney Brouwer delivered an outstanding performance of her own, claiming first place in the 200 Individual Medley with a time of 2:30.42. The 200 IM is one of the most demanding events in competitive swimming, requiring proficiency in all four strokes across four laps.

Brouwer's victory showcased her technical skill and conditioning, providing the Warriors' girls team with a highlight performance in a competitive meet.

The Galt girls' varsity team battled hard throughout the meet, ultimately



finishing with a score of 78-92 against Bradshaw Christian.

While the final score didn't go the Warriors' way, the effort and competitiveness displayed throughout the meet gave Coach Atkins plenty of reasons for optimism.

Atkins, taking the reins of the program for the first time, offered an encouraging assessment of her team's season-opening performance.

"Although the final score did not go our way, the energy, effort and sportsmanship made it a strong start to the season," Atkins said. "We are proud of our swimmers and excited for

the rest of the season."

Atkins' arrival brings fresh energy and perspective to a program that clearly has talent worth developing. With a record-breaking sophomore leading the way and a competitive girls' team showing fight against a tough opponent, the foundation is in place for a strong season.

The combination of Myrick's record-breaking performance, Brouwer's individual medley victory and the competitive showing from the girls' varsity team paints an encouraging picture for Galt swimming in 2025.

As the season progresses

and swimmers continue to develop under Atkins' guidance, the Warriors appear poised to make their presence felt throughout the league.

For Tiger Myrick, the record is just the beginning.

A sophomore with a school record and a section qualifying time already on his resume, the ceiling for his high school career is extraordinarily high.

If Friday's performance is any indication, Galt swimming fans are in for an exciting few years watching one of the program's most talented athletes develop into a championship-caliber competitor.

The Warriors will look to build on this season-opening performance as they continue their schedule, with Atkins working to mold her roster into a cohesive and competitive team. The record books have already been rewritten once this season; don't be surprised if it happens again before the year is through. ★

# Hawks Show Promise in Preseason Despite Tough Losses



Sophomore Mason Gomes pitches for the Hawks.



Alec Ortega fields the ball and tags the runner out at first.

Story and photos  
by Paige Lampson  
Sports Editor

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - Baseball season is back, and the Liberty Ranch Hawks have hit the ground running in 2026. With a 4-2 preseason record heading into their first league game against Union Mine on March 11, the Hawks have shown flashes of talent while identifying areas to improve before league play begins.

Liberty Ranch opened strong, defeating Burbank 8-1, Rio Linda 6-2, Franklin 11-7 and Marysville 3-0 before dropping games to Center 8-2 and Destiny Christian 4-2. The losses provided valuable lessons for a team still finding its identity in the early weeks of the season.

The Center game was a tale of missed opportunities and pitching struggles.

Liberty Ranch collected eight hits, matching Center's total, but couldn't generate the timely hitting needed to compete with Center's balanced attack. Sophomores Mason Gomes and Max Tapia were the offensive bright spots, each collecting two hits and accounting for both Hawk runs. Gomes posted an impressive .750 on-base percentage while Tapia reached base at a .500 clip. Seniors Alec Ortega, Cole Maguire, Derek Nelson and Landon Peterson each contributed one hit, showing the Hawks can generate offense throughout their lineup.

However, nine strikeouts against Center's pitching staff highlighted an area needing improvement. Center's K. Howerton-Abernathy was dominant in relief, striking out seven Hawks over three innings,

while starter A. Hernandez worked four effective innings to secure the victory.

On the mound, senior Jaydn Scelzi was Liberty Ranch's most effective pitcher, working two solid innings and allowing just two earned runs. Senior Derek Nelson was sharp in his one inning of work, retiring the side without allowing a hit. The Hawks struggled with command overall, issuing six walks in seven innings that Center's lineup converted into costly runs. The staff's combined 6.00 ERA is a number the Hawks will look to improve significantly before league play begins.

Defensively, three errors contributed to additional scoring opportunities for Center, and the Hawks' .903 fielding percentage reflects a team still working out early-season kinks.



Derek Nelson tries to slide into third, but there is a foot blocking the bag.

Tightening up the defense will be a priority heading into league competition.

Despite the setbacks, there are plenty of reasons for optimism. The four preseason victories demonstrated offensive versatility, including an 11-7 slugfest against Franklin and a dominant 3-0 shutout of Marysville. The mix of experienced seniors and promising underclassmen like Gomes and Tapia suggests this team has the depth to be competitive when it matters most.

With their league opener against Union Mine on March 11 approaching quickly, the Hawks have time to address their



Max Tapia catches a throw to third.

pitching consistency and defensive miscues. If Liberty Ranch can limit the walks, tighten the defense and find reliable arms for the rotation, this team has

the talent to make a serious run at the league title.

The preseason has served its purpose. Now it's time for the real thing. ★

# Galt High Graduate Mason Jones Competes in Multi-Events at UNC Charlotte

By Paige Lampson  
Sports Editor

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - When Mason Jones walked across the stage at Galt High School, few could have predicted the athletic journey that awaited him. Today, the Galt native is a senior at the University of North Carolina Charlotte, competing on a track scholarship and taking on two of the most demanding disciplines in all of track and field.

Jones competes in the Heptathlon during indoor track season and the Decathlon during outdoor track, making him one of the most versatile athletes in the UNC Charlotte

program. These multi-event disciplines are widely considered the ultimate test of a complete athlete, requiring proficiency in sprinting, jumping, throwing and distance running. The Heptathlon consists of seven events over two days of indoor competition, while the outdoor Decathlon pushes athletes through 10 events across two grueling days. To compete at the collegiate level in either discipline is a remarkable achievement; to compete in both is a testament to Jones' extraordinary athleticism and work ethic.

The hurdles are among the most technically demanding events in track

and field, requiring a precise combination of speed, timing and coordination. Jones' ability to compete in this event as part of his multi-event repertoire reflects the breadth of his athletic skill set and the years of dedicated training that have brought him to this level.

Off the track, Jones is pursuing a degree in Kinesiology, the study of human movement and physical performance. It's a fitting academic choice for an athlete who has dedicated his life to understanding and maximizing the capabilities of the human body. The degree will open doors in fields ranging from sports



Mason Jones is pictured competing in the hurdles for UNC Charlotte. Courtesy photo

medicine and physical therapy to coaching and athletic training, giving Jones a strong foundation for life after competition.

As a senior, Jones is in the final chapter of his collegiate career, and the

experience he has gained competing at the Division I level has shaped him into both an elite athlete and a well-rounded individual. Earning and maintaining a track scholarship at a Division I program

requires not just athletic ability, but academic commitment, discipline and the mental toughness to balance the demands of being a student-athlete.

For the Galt community, Jones represents the best of what local athletics can produce. His journey from the tracks and fields of Galt High School to the competitive arenas of collegiate track and field is an inspiration to every young athlete in the area who dreams of competing beyond high school.

As Jones prepares for his final collegiate season, the Galt community will be watching and cheering him on. His story is a reminder that with talent, dedication and the right opportunities, local athletes can compete and succeed at the highest levels.

Congratulations, Mason. Galt is proud of you. ★