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# The Galt Herald

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APRIL 10, 2026

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INSIDE**

**READERS' DELIGHT  
AND OUTDOOR FUN**



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RACE OR GAME  
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## Strolling the Saturday Market



The April Saturday Market featured a Touch-a-Truck and Safety Expo, where families could bring children to explore and climb on emergency vehicles, construction equipment and tractors while learning about community safety.

**Story and photos  
by Idaly Valencia**

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - With the return of the Saturday Market last month, the first Saturday in April brought a full lineup of vendors to the 4th Street Promenade, where hundreds of residents strolled through booths,

enjoyed warm weather and listened to free live music from the Saturday Market stage.

The market featured a mix of returning favorites, starting with Little Bird Bakery, a locally based cottage bakery specializing in sourdough breads and pastries.

Owned by husband-and-wife duo

Suliman and Khatera Safdari, the business has operated since 2024 and is known for its sourdough loaves and Brown Butter Sea Salt Chocolate Chip Cookies. The Safdaris said they set up shop each month at the market.

"We love seeing everybody; we've been doing this for three years now,

*Continued on page 3*

## City, Planners Review Update to Housing Design Standards



The March 30 special meeting at City Hall marked Galt's first joint study session between City Council members and planning commissioners. Photo by Idaly Valencia

**By Idaly Valencia**

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - The Galt City Council and Planning Commission met in a special meeting March 30 at City Hall to review an update to the city's municipal code for residential design standards in new housing.

The effort aims to establish consistent quality

and clearer expectations for home design in future developments while preserving flexibility for builders in Galt.

The meeting marked the city's first ever joint study session between City Council members and planning commissioners, held as an interactive workshop focused on developing clearer, measurable

standards for single-family housing projects.

City staff said Galt's current residential architectural guidelines are largely subjective and "discretionary," conditional upon opinion or interpretation, which makes it difficult to ensure consistent quality in new construction.

The proposed update would establish more

defined, objective standards that are easier for builders to follow and for the city to enforce in development projects.

Under the proposal, accessory dwelling units, junior accessory dwelling units and larger multifamily or mixed-use developments such as apartments and

*Continued on page 2*

## Assembly Republicans Push Cost Relief as Families Get Squeezed



Pictured is District 9 state Assembly representative and Assembly Republican Leader Heath Flora speaking at the March 25 California Assembly Republicans news conference. Photo courtesy of Assembly Republicans

**California Assembly  
Republican Caucus  
News Release**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - California families are paying more for gas, housing and everyday basics and, on March 26, Assembly Republicans announced a package of bills focused on lowering costs for working families across the state.

The affordability plan comes as Sacramento continues to delay action while costs keep rising.

"Californians should not have to choose between putting food on the table or filling up their car, said Assembly Republican Leader Heath Flora. "We need to cut costs now. Not tomorrow, not next week, not next month. Now."

Key parts of the affordability package include:

Eliminates taxes on tips for service workers (AB 1550, Sanchez);

Provides consumers with a partial sales tax exemption for the purchase of infant car seats (AB 1596, Davies);

Creates a personal income tax credit for first-time homebuyers (AB 1714, Tangipa);

Cuts electricity rates by targeting waste and utility spending (AB 2700, Gallagher); and

Expands nuclear energy to lower costs and increase reliability (AB 1757, Gallagher).

Leader Flora was joined by Assemblywoman Kate Sanchez (R-Rancho Santa Margarita), Assemblywoman Laurie Davies (R-Laguna Niguel), Assemblyman Tri Ta (R-Westminster), Assemblyman Stan Ellis (R-Bakersfield) and Assemblyman David Tangipa (R-Clovis) to roll out the plan.

"These are real solutions to help bring prices down," Flora added. "Californians need relief now, and we are focused on delivering it."

Flora serves in the 9th District seat in the state Assembly, representing parts of Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Sacramento counties, including Galt, Herald, Rancho Murieta and Thornton. ★

# City, Planners Review Update to Housing Design Standards

Continued from page 1

condominiums would not be included. Staff said those project types are either less common locally or fall outside the focus of the updated standards.

The proposed design guidelines, compiled partly from other cities, are meant to make new homes look more varied and less repetitive by setting clearer requirements for building shape, design details and exterior materials. Homes would be required to include varied roof forms, covered porches or patios and other architectural features intended to break up uniform exterior front-facing walls, or façades.

To limit sameness between home designs, no more than three homes with the same façade and color scheme would be allowed per block. The update also expands expectations to include rear and side elevations, not just front-facing designs.

Additional requirements would apply to windows, roofs, materials, parking and garages. Windows would need recessed detailing or trim. Rooflines would be required to extend at least 12 inches beyond exterior walls and include added spans to improve visual depth. Parking would not be allowed in front setbacks and would be limited to driveways.

Garages would not be allowed to occupy 50% or more of the front façade and would require lighting on both sides of garage doors. Larger, wider and deeper garages and driveways, along with standardizing certain features such as 8-foot garage doors were also discussed.

City Planner Kristyn Bitz noted that the lack of clear standards has been a challenge. She said the current code provides recommendations, not firm requirements, which makes it harder for the city to make sure certain design standards are actually followed by housing developers.

This gap has contributed to what Bitz described as “cookie-cutter development,” built identical or nearly identical, that lacks unique architectural character.

“We are not the only city that is struggling with this issue right now,” Bitz said. “Cities from every county across the state, north or south, big or small, are tired of ... ‘cookie-cutter development.’”

Bitz added that the proposed update to the city’s municipal code would also help prevent “bait-and-switch” situations, where a developer purchases a project and then moves forward with designs that



Community Development Director Jenny Carloni speaks during the March 30 joint special meeting of the City Council and Planning Commission. Photo by Idaly Valencia

differ from those originally approved.

While the city has more flexibility when projects require approvals such as rezoning, staff said state housing laws like Senate Bill 9 (SB 9) still limit local control by allowing developers to subdivide properties and “build smaller, unimpressive homes.” Staff also noted that while statewide efforts are intended to increase housing supply, they have also reduced the city’s ability to make its own decisions for residential developments.

The Summerfield development at Twin Cities and Marengo Road was used as a recent example illustrating the need for stronger standards. The project was approved last year despite concerns from both the Planning Commission and City Council over design changes, largely because existing guidelines did not include enough specific requirements to challenge the revised plans.

The Summerfield project was first brought forward in 2024 by Homes by Towne, with its initial design being approved by the council. After the project was later sold to a new developer, the plans shifted away from the original “executive style” housing concept.

When the new developer returned to the Planning Commission in June 2025 with updated designs, commissioners rejected the proposal, saying it fell short of expectations and did not reflect the original concept. They also noted the city’s General Plan called for high-quality and distinctive neighborhood design.

However, because the city’s current code lacked those enforceable standards, the City Council ultimately upheld the developer’s appeal following the Planning Commission’s denial. The developer argued the plans met all objective requirements and said concerns raised were “subjective.” The city approved the



Here is the sample photo used in the city staffs’ joint study session to demonstrate how the goal of the design guidelines might look. Photo courtesy of City of Galt

project last September to avoid potential litigation under state law.

“I was so disappointed when I read our development guidelines; I saw that they had absolutely no teeth whatsoever,” commissioner Dan Gerling said.

Bitz said discussions with other cities and planning teams have highlighted the need for stronger “ingredients” in design codes to help preserve community character.

“We got to make the ingredients better than what they are, so the resulting cookie we get is what we want,” she added.

Community Development Director Jenny Carloni said the updated standards would be applied citywide but could be adjusted in the future if specific areas require additional review or refinement.

Commissioners and council members raised questions about how the standards would work in practice. Some expressed concern that stricter requirements could increase construction costs or limit design flexibility for builders.

Gerling said overly rigid standards could also discourage developers from building in Galt or affect project profitability.

“So that’s just taking away from our profit margin, which is already astronomically high,” Gerling said.

In response, City Manager Chris Erias said it is a complex issue because the city is trying to improve the quality of housing developments, which requires stronger guidelines that may increase costs for builders.

He said developers would need to go beyond using a preapproved home design to quickly move projects through the process and instead create plans tailored to Galt’s expectations, which can require more engineering and architectural work.

“The architect could pick out various things in each of these categories

that, hopefully, come up with a variety of designs over the community and are dependent on the home builder,” Erias said.

Staff added that there will be an option to allow exceptions when appropriate.

“The goal is to try to get some good architectural features into these homes,” he added. “So, it’s a good idea to have these objectives stand.”

Councilmember Shawn Farmer said stronger rules would give the city a starting point when working with developers and reduce decisions based on opinion.

“Right now, we’re playing poker with no chips at all,” Farmer said.

The joint meeting also addressed design clarity and process improvements, highlighting past confusion when multiple, inconsistent plan sets were presented and developers showed different designs at different stages. They agreed that developers should submit complete, consistent plans and use clearer visuals (such as 3-D renderings) to make the process easier to understand and improve decision-making.

For neighborhood compatibility, councilmembers and commissioners acknowledged the need to differentiate between suburban and infill development, suggesting that one-size-fits-all design standards may not work.

Key points included supporting walkability and connectivity through pathways and smaller block sizes, ensuring new and existing neighborhoods are compatible and avoiding two-story homes directly behind single-story homes. Grading and elevation differences were also addressed to reduce impacts on existing residents.

Proposed standards for second-story homes would limit upper floors to no more than 50% of the first-floor footprint in single-story neighborhoods to reduce privacy and visual impacts.

While stricter guidelines could improve neighborhood quality, there was broad agreement that any updates must remain flexible enough to encourage development and comply with state law.

This first study session was meant to serve as an early, foundational discussion on updating the residential design standards. City staff used the meeting to gather input from elected leaders and commissioners as they continue to develop a formal proposal to amend the city’s code for objective design standards, which will later go before the City Council for consideration. ★

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

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

### Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten Birthdates:

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



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8:20 AM	8:45 AM	8:50 AM	8:55 AM	9:00 AM	9:25 AM	9:45 AM	9:50 AM	9:55 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM
10:20 AM	10:45 AM	10:50 AM	10:55 AM	11:00 AM	11:25 AM	11:45 AM	11:50 AM	11:55 AM	12:00 PM	12:00 PM
12:20 PM	12:45 PM	12:50 PM	12:55 PM	1:00 PM	1:25 PM	1:45 PM	1:50 PM	1:55 PM	2:00 PM	2:00 PM
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Shown is a 1970s-'80s snapshot of the former Sacramento County Fairgrounds, now the site of the Galt Market, featuring, from left, Domenico Menicucci, Kent and Peggy Shebelut, Shirley Roberts, Romilda Rausser-Nimmo, Skip Baker, Linda Carroll and Stacey Baker.

# A Blast from the Past



From left are Shirley Roberts, Kristy Roberts, Joanne Parson, Linda Parroll and Romilda Rausser-Nimmo. Photos courtesy of Romilda Rausser-Nimmo

# Strolling the Saturday Market

Continued from page 1

and being out with the community is really fulfilling," Khatera Safdari said.

A Galt resident of eight years, Khatera Safdari said the market has always stood out as a space where the community comes together, whether people are selling goods or shopping. The bakery can also be found via Instagram at @little.bird.bakery.

Near the stage, passersby had the opportunity to stop at a mobile hat bar inside a small white trailer. The business, Charlie Jo Hat Co., is owned and operated by Sammy Freitas.

Based in Lodi, the business offers customizable hats, including mesh caps and cowboy styles, which can be decorated with a wide selection of yarns, trinkets and bandanas to create one-of-a-kind designs. Freitas, who can be found on Instagram at @charliejohatco, also hosts



From left, residents Khatera and Suliman Safdari pose in front of their Little Bird Bakery booth at the Saturday Market.

private parties, corporate events, bridal showers, bachelorette parties and weddings.

Beth's Boutique, another Saturday Market regular, was present serving what owner Beth Bettencourt of Stockton calls "home-cooked happiness" through a variety of jams and jellies.

Flavors include cherry, spiced pepper, guava habanero and blueberry jalapeño, among several others. Her

business can also be followed on Instagram at @bethsboutiquejellyjam.

Beyond the vendor booths, families gathered for the Touch-a-Truck and Safety Expo, a free interactive event set up within the market where children explored emergency vehicles, construction equipment and a Cal-Waste truck. Local organizations joined this effort, hosted by the City of Galt, to give kids a hands-on look at public safety and the



Sacramento-based cover band All Good Vibes performs at the Galt Saturday Market stage.

vehicles that serve the community.

The Galt Police Department also participated, showcasing patrol vehicles and equipment alongside community members who brought out their own specialty vehicles, including tractors.

The Saturday Market is held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. the first Saturday of each month now through November at 4th and C streets.



Sammy Freitas, owner of Charlie Jo Hat Co., is pictured inside her small white trailer that serves as a mobile customizable hat bar next to the stage at the Galt Saturday Market.

# Help the family of a local hero

"Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Marzan. A Husband, Father, brother, Son and most importantly Hero. He lost his life while serving and protecting his country he loved. He was a lifelong member of the military, a family man and loving father. His unexpected and



unfortunate passing left many of his family, friends and fellow service members at a loss. This heartbreaking loss is not something the people Robert has touched and left his mark on will ever forget. He lost his life far too young and leaves behind his wonderful wife, and two



wonderful children. The hope for this fund is to help relieve some of the travel and housing expenses associated with this unforeseen tragedy. All funds and donations raised will go directly to the Marzan family. Rest in power Robert and may we meet again."



Go to [www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-the-marzan-familys-loss](http://www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-the-marzan-familys-loss) to make your doanation, or scan the QR code. Images provided by Go-Fund-Me.

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# Celebrating Student Engagement, Achievement at McCaffrey

By Crystal Grooms  
McCaffrey Middle School Principal

GALT, CA (MPG) - At McCaffrey Middle School, our students continue to shine both inside and outside the classroom through a wide variety of enriching activities, programs and competitions. From leadership conferences to college visits and outstanding performances in athletics and the arts. There is much to celebrate in our school community!

Our Future Farmers of America (FFA) students recently represented McCaffrey at the State Leadership Conference, where they developed valuable leadership, teamwork and agricultural education skills. This experience not only strengthens their knowledge of agriculture but also prepares them to be future leaders in their communities.

Students in our Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program had the opportunity to visit San Joaquin Delta College. This college field trip allowed students to explore campus life, learn about academic pathways and begin envisioning their futures beyond



McCaffrey Middle School Principal Crystal Grooms highlighted a focus on student engagement and achievement for March in the school district's latest newsletter. Herald file photo

middle school.

In addition, our aspiring STEM leaders participated in a visit to California State University, Sacramento through the Women in Engineering program. This experience inspired students to consider careers in engineering and related fields,

while connecting them with role models and hands-on learning opportunities.

Athletics continue to be a strong point of pride at McCaffrey. Our boys' and girls' soccer teams are demonstrating determination and teamwork as their seasons start. Similarly, boys' and girls' basketball

showcased impressive skill and sportsmanship on the court. The McCaffrey girls' volleyball team brought energy and competitiveness to every match, while our cross-country runners showed perseverance and dedication in every race.

The arts are thriving as well, with our band and choir students delivering outstanding performances that highlight their talent and commitment. Their hard work continues to enrich our school culture and bring our community together through music.

Finally, we are proud of our KDOG student broadcasters who participated in Students Educational Video Awards (SEVA). Through this program, students developed communication skills, leadership qualities and a deeper understanding of technology and broadcasting.

At McCaffrey middle School, we are committed to providing opportunities that empower students to explore their interests, build confidence and prepare for the future.

We are incredibly proud of all our students for their hard work, enthusiasm, and achievements. ★

# Sacramento County Strengthens Weather Preparedness

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County is strengthening its commitment to keeping residents safe during severe weather events.

The County's Office of Emergency Services (OES) has officially renewed its StormReady designation through September 2030. StormReady is a recognition from the National

Weather Service (NWS) that highlights strong emergency preparedness and communication systems.

The StormReady program helps communities build the infrastructure and coordination needed to protect lives and property before, during and after extreme weather. To earn and maintain this designation, agencies must meet criteria that include 24/7 emergency operations and monitoring; Established

emergency communication systems; and ongoing public education and outreach efforts.

Sacramento County OES coordinates closely with regional and federal partners to ensure timely alerts and response strategies. Staff work year-round to prepare for hazards such as flooding, extreme heat and severe storms.

"This recognition reinforces the strength of our emergency systems and our



The county's Office of Emergency Services has once again earned its StormReady designation from the National Weather Service, recognizing its strong emergency preparedness and communication systems. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

commitment to protecting the community," said Jason D'Alessio, Emergency Operations Manager for Sacramento County OES.

In addition to the StormReady renewal, Sacramento County OES is also recognized as a Weather-Ready Nation

Ambassador, a program led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This designation highlights the County's role in promoting weather awareness, safety education and community resilience.

Residents are

encouraged to stay connected, sign up for local alerts and make emergency plans to help keep themselves and their families safe.

Learn more about the Sacramento County-NWS partnership at [weather.gov/stormready](http://weather.gov/stormready). ★

## MEMORIAL

CAROLYN MARIE HADDEN • 05/17/1943 — 03/31/2026

Carolyn Hadden was called home by Jesus on Tuesday March 31st at her home with her daughter Mikki in Pioneer, CA. She was showered with love by her children and grandchildren. Her family is comforted as she has joined her husband Lonnie DOD 9/2023 and son Jeff DOD 5/2025 in their heavenly home.

Carolyn was born Carolyn Marie Klements on July 15, 1943 in Aspen, CO.

She was raised in Silverton, CO where she met and married her forever love Lonnie (Sonny) Hadden. They were married September 17, 1960 and soon started their family. They moved their small family of 2 girls to California in 1963 where they expanded their family with 3 boys. They settled in Galt/Herald area in 1969.

Together with Sonny, they raised 5 children, Terry McBroom married to Curtis, Mikki Williamson married to Randy, Lonnie Hadden married to Tawnya, Jeff Hadden married to Peggy, and John Tom (JT) Hadden.

Carolyn and Sonny absolutely loved being with their 15 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren (with another on the way). Kids, especially babies ALWAYS brought smiles to their faces. Carolyn always loved



the Lord, the Catholic Church and serving others. She and Sonny delivered Meals on Wheels for many years. She sang in the Galt Community Choir, taught catechism, served with the Daughters of Isabella, and loved decorating the church and hall for holidays and special occasions. She spent countless hours praying for her family, friends and country.

Carolyn was very social and appreciated her time with friends, playing Bunco with her good friends for 30 years and bowling with friends and family for over 50 years!

Carolyn and Sonny bowled a couple leagues each week, Match Club each month along with

several tournaments throughout the year.

Our wonderful Mom and Dad wished to be buried together at the Galt Cemetery.

Please join us in celebrating her wonderful life on Wednesday April 15, 2026 at St Christopher's Catholic Church in Galt with a rosary service at 10:30am, funeral mass at 11:00am followed by a graveside service at Galt Cemetery.

Please also join us at 1:00pm to gather for a meal and fellowship at the Lodi Moose Lodge 3824 E Woodbridge Rd Acampo, CA 95220

In lieu of flowers the family is requesting donations be made to an Alzheimer's or cancer charity.

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7 day minimum, 700 free miles/week, 30¢/mile over 700 Expires 4/30/2026

# Get Ready for California's 2026 Primary

## Your Questions About Voting, Answered

By CalMatters Staff  
CalMatters.org

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Where do I vote? Am I registered to vote? Does everyone get a ballot in the mail? Get the answers to your election day questions ahead of California's June 2 primary election.

**How do I vote? Does everyone get a ballot in the mail?** Yes. Under state law, vote-by-mail ballots are sent to every active registered voter.

**When will I receive my mail-in-ballot?** Counties will begin mailing ballots May 4.

**How do I return my mail-in ballot?** Mail it to your county elections office; to be counted, ballots have to be postmarked on or before June 2 and received by election offices by June 9. Drop it off at a ballot drop box, vote center or polling location anywhere in the state. Ask someone you trust to do it for you, but that person can't receive payment for doing it.

**Can I vote in person? Where is my polling place or vote center?** Yes, although mailing your ballot as soon as possible is the best way to get your vote counted fast. You can find out where to vote in the following ways. Visit <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>, text "VOTE" to GOVOTE (468-8683), call the secretary of state's hotline at (800) 345-VOTE, check your county Voter Information Guide or contact your county elections office

If you live in one of 30 counties, you'll have increased options, including as many as 10 days of in-person early voting.

**How do I register to vote? Am I registered to vote?** You can check the secretary of state's website (<https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>). You'll need to enter your name, date of birth and either your California driver license, identification card number or the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you don't have those available, contact your county elections office or the secretary of state via email or phone at 800-345-8683.

If you've changed your name since the last time you voted, or if you moved and didn't notify the Department of Motor Vehicles or U.S. Postal Service, you may have to register again. If you haven't voted in several consecutive general elections, your registration may have been canceled.

**How do I register?** Visit <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>. You'll need the same information as above.



Where do I vote? Am I registered to vote? Does everyone get a ballot in the mail? Get the answers to your election day questions ahead of California's June 2 primary election. Photo courtesy Freepik

If the DMV has your signature on file, you'll be able to complete the process online. If not, you'll need to print, sign and mail your completed application to your county elections office. You can also pick up a paper application at elections offices, any DMV office and at many post offices, public libraries and government offices. You'll be contacted when your application is approved, or if you need to provide more information.

**What happens if I miss the voter registration deadline?** The last day to register online for the primary election is May 18. If you are registering or re-registering less than 15 days before May 18, you must complete same-day voter registration and request your ballot in person at your county elections office or polling location.

**How do I change my political party if I'm already registered?** You'll need to re-register to vote.

**What if I need help with voting? What if I need voter information in a language other than English?** The secretary of state's office has voter instructions in the following languages: Spanish, Hindi, Chinese, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai and Vietnamese. Your county elections office may offer additional languages.

**When will I receive my voter guide?** The statewide voter

information guide will be available online by April and will be mailed to voters later that month.

**What am I voting on?** The June primary election is the first opportunity for Californians to choose which candidates will appear on the general election ballot in November. Unlike some other states, California's primaries are nonpartisan, so the top two vote-getters in each race will advance to the November election, regardless of political party.

The ballot is packed with state and federal races, most notably the race to succeed Gov. Gavin Newsom, who is term-limited and cannot run for reelection. In addition to the governor's race, voters will be asked to choose candidates for Congress, the state Legislature and a slate of statewide offices including insurance commissioner and treasurer.

**Can I leave work to vote?** Yes. California requires time off for voting if employees don't have enough time outside work hours. You can take as much time as you need, but employers are only required to pay for a maximum of two hours. Employers may require advance notice. The time off must be at the beginning or the end of your shift. Employers are required to post a notice about this 10 days before a statewide election.

**How can I track my ballot?**

Visit [california.ballottrax.net/voter/](https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/) to register for California's BallotTrax tool, where you can check your ballot status and opt in to receive email or text notifications.

**Is my ballot safe?** Yes, voting by mail or dropping your ballot in an approved drop box is a safe and efficient way to vote. Fraudulent voting is uncommon and incredibly difficult given California's strict voter verification procedures. Mail-in ballots will only be sent to voters whose address and identity have been verified by county election officials. Their vote will only be counted once those officials verify that the voter's signature on the envelope matches the one on file.

You can find more information about California's election and voting process on the secretary of state's website. The office takes any allegations of election fraud seriously. Anyone can submit a complaint using the following form [sos.ca.gov/elections/publications-and-resources/voter-complaint](https://sos.ca.gov/elections/publications-and-resources/voter-complaint).

**What if I have special circumstances? What should I do if I marked my ballot wrong, or otherwise messed it up?** If you haven't turned it in yet, you can exchange your mail ballot for a new one at an elections office, ask an election official at the polling place for a new ballot, or

vote using a provisional ballot. If you have mailed or turned in your ballot, there's no way to fix it. Contact your county elections office for a new ballot.

**What if the signature on my ballot doesn't match the one on file?** County election officials check the signatures on the return envelope against signatures on your voter registration card to make sure no one tries to improperly cast your ballot. It still remains confidential; the ballot is separated from the envelope before it is counted.

Voters with ballots with missing signatures or ones that don't match are notified and given an opportunity to correct the problem before the election is certified.

**What happens if I don't receive my ballot?** Contact your county elections office.

**Help! I dropped off my ballot to a drop box in the wrong county.** Don't worry - the county will pass it on to the correct elections office.

**I forgot to detach the stub from my ballot. Can I open the sealed envelope and reseal it myself?** You can, but the secretary of state's office recommends contacting your local county elections office. They'll ultimately be processing your ballot, and they can offer the best guidance on whether you should reopen it or just leave the stub attached. ★



## Election Information

June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election

Vote Early and Vote by Mail



**May 4** Ballots begin to arrive by mail. Official Ballot Drop Boxes are now open.



**May 18** Close of registration. Register today!



**May 23** 11-Day Vote Centers open through Election Day.



**May 30** All Vote Centers open through Election Day.



**June 2** Election Day! Last day to turn in your ballot.

### Vote Early! Don't wait for Election Day.

Take advantage of early voting and avoid the lines! You can return your ballot in the mail, at any Official Ballot Drop Box, or at any Vote Center. No postage is necessary.

### Track your Ballot!

Sign up for "Where's My Ballot?" with BallotTrax, a free ballot-tracking and alert system. It is available to all voters who wish to track the status of their Vote by Mail ballot from printed to accepted. Scan the QR code or visit [www.wheresmyballot.com](http://www.wheresmyballot.com)



Vote Early! Vote by Mail.

# POLICE LOGS

During the time period of March 30 to April 6, Galt Police received and responded to a variety of calls, resulting in 11 arrests.

## March 30

1:43 a.m., Possess Burglary Tools/Adult Arrest, Pringle Avenue/North Lincoln Way.

5:36 a.m., Burglary-Auto reported, Bridle Path: Work truck broken into.

6:32 p.m., Identity Theft reported, Galt Vista Apartments on 5th Street: Reporting party filled out a job application containing her personal information and realized after the fact that the job application was a scam.

8:06 p.m., Narcotics Violation/Adult Arrest, Caroline Avenue/

Maple Street.  
9:47 p.m., Theft reported, North Lincoln Way: Debit card information stolen.

## March 31

6:27 a.m., Burglary reported, Winterhart Street/Coombes Street: Subjects cut a hole in the back of trailer to gain access.

10:42 a.m., Theft reported, McDonald's on Pine Street.

11:29 a.m., Theft reported, Young Court: Ring taken.

4:33 p.m., Vehicle Accident-Injury reported, Carillion Boulevard/Lake Canyon Avenue.

## April 1

11:30 a.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Little Ferns on Twin Cities Road.

4:10 p.m., Battery reported,

Raley's on Twin Cities Road: Male adult in red Honda complained to reporting party about his driving; subject allegedly slammed reporting party's car door onto reporting party's head, elbow and knee.

## April 2

10:42 a.m., Theft reported, Peak Manufacturing, Inc. on Ellinwood Court: Reporting party did not want to file report; document only.

4:23 Recovered Stolen Vehicle, Hudson Bay Apartments on Lake Park Avenue.

5:33 p.m., Identity Theft reported, Oldenburg Way: Unknown subject opened credit card account.

9:31 p.m., Extortion reported,

Golden Heights Drive.

## April 3

11:18 a.m., Identity Theft reported: Hamstead Drive: Unknown subject applied for credit.

9:16 p.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, AmPm Store, East Stockton Boulevard.

10 p.m., Domestic Violence/Adult Arrest, I Street.

## April 4

8:36 a.m., Hit and Run/Non-Injury reported, Hanoverian Circle.

6:56 p.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, North Lincoln Way.

7:22 p.m., Narcotics Violation/Adult Arrest, D Street/4th Street 5th Street Alley.

## April 5

5:13 a.m., Weapon-Possession/Adult Arrest, Auto Zone on C Street.

12:17 p.m., Burglary-Auto reported, Crescent Drive: Car break-in and theft of a bag.

7:53 p.m., Vehicle Accident-Injury, Marengo Road/Twin Cities Road.

## April 6

12 a.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Auto Zone, C Street.

12:21 a.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, AmPm Store, East Stockton Boulevard.

8:30 a.m., Theft reported, Bay Terrace Drive: Theft of catalytic converter.

1:48 p.m., Hit and Run/Non-Injury reported, Whitaker Way.★

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## 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.

## 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.

## Volunteers Sought for Senior Resource Center

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

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

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

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

## Sunshine Food Pantry Donations

Sunshine Food Pantry is a food closet that helps

provide for residents.

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

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

## Nar-Anon Family Group Meetings

Narcotics Anonymous (Nar-Anon) family group

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

## TOPS Weekly Meetings

TOPS, Taking Off Pounds Sensibly, meets 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.

## 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. ★

# MEETING MINDERS

## Saturday, April 11

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

## Wednesday, April 15

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, April 16

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.

## Friday, April 17

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

## Tuesday, April 21

CANCELED: Galt City Council, 6 p.m., Council Chambers. ★

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 FBNF2026-01868  
Nathan Silveira Flores, 9786 Twin Cities Road, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Flores Club Lambs" 9786 Twin Cities Road, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 6, 2026  
Publish: March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 2026 FLORES 4-10-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-02199  
Daniel R Moreno, 788 Buttercup Circle, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Data Linx Solutions" 788 Buttercup Circle, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County

March 19, 2026  
Publish: March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 2026 DATA 4-17-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-01692  
Martin Padilla, P.O. Box 289, Wilton, CA 95693 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Padilla Performance Prospects" 13020 Cherokee Lane, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 27, 2026  
Publish: March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 2026 PADILLA 4-17-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-01719  
Field Latitude, LLC, 2108 N. Street Suite N, Sacramento, CA 95816 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Jonathan Fine Art Photography/Beutler Beutler Photography" 2108 N. Street Suite N,

Sacramento, CA 95816. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 2, 2026  
Publish: April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026 BEUTLER 4-24-26

## ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE  
CHANGE OF NAME  
#26CV005822

Diane, Kathleen, Dolce has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Diane Kathleen Dolce to Kathleen Diane Dolce.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on September 24, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 54, located at 813 6th Street,

Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.

Dated: March 9, 2026  
Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of the Superior Court  
Publish: March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 2026 DOLCE 4-10-26

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (UCC SEC. 6105)  
ESCROW NO. 16077L  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s), business address(es) to the seller(s) are: N.B. TORREZ INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, 905 C STREET, SUITE 140, GALT, CA 95632  
Whose chief executive office is:

3437 EAST COLLIER ROAD, ACAMPO, CA 95220  
Doing Business as: CHOPPING BLOCK DELI (Type - CAFE)  
All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the seller(s) within the past three years, as stated by the seller(s), is/are: THE HANGOUT

The name(s) and address of the buyer(s) is/are: CAMMY JADE KRUEGER AND/OR ASSIGNEE, 6433 POTOMAC STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92139

The assets to be sold are described in general as: ALL STOCK IN TRADE, FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT AND GOODWILL and are located at: 905 C STREET, SUITE 140, GALT, CA 95632

The bulk sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: CAPITOL CITY ESCROW, INC.,

3838 WATT AVENUE, SUITE F-610 SACRAMENTO, CA 95821-2665 and the anticipated sale date is APRIL 28, 2026

The bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.

[If the sale is subject to Sec. 6106.2, the following information must be provided.] The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: CAPITOL CITY ESCROW, INC., 3838 WATT AVENUE, SUITE F-610 SACRAMENTO, CA 95821-2665 and the last date for filing claims by any creditor shall be APRIL 27, 2026, which is the business day before the sale date specified above.

Dated: MARCH 20, 2026  
CAMMY JADE KRUEGER, Buyer(s)  
5133539-PP  
THE GALT HERALD 4/10/26

## NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Notice is hereby given by Galt Joint Union Elementary School District ("District") that it will receive up to, but no later than the Due Date and Time stated below, sealed Proposals for Preconstruction Services and Lease-Leaseback Services (LLB) for the Project(s) generally described as: Valley Oaks Elementary School MPR RR and Admin Building Additions.

### Project Description

The proposed project consists of two (2) increments, as follows:  
INCREMENT 01: Addition of a gender-neutral, single occupant, student (ages 5-8yo) restroom to the existing MPR building (Building F) as well as the reconfiguration of the existing staff parking lot (Lot 02); this will include general site improvements including, but not limited to, new fencing, bike parking, seating, and planting. Inc 01 site work will include, but not be limited to, regrading, utilities, asphalt and concrete paving, and one (1) new EV parking stall. The restroom addition to Building F will be located off the East-South entrance, and will include the creation of a vestibule, demolition of the existing front door, and addition of a new entry to the MPR Building at the same location. Scope of work for this restroom will include alterations to the perimeter of the building, roof overhangs, grading, and fire protection system.

INCREMENT 02: Expansion of the existing 1965 Administration Building (Building B) to the West, as well as site improvements at the front of the building. The project's scope of work for Building B includes alterations to the building envelope, roof structure, and existing MPE and FA systems, as well as demo of interior partitions and exterior finishes, with the exception of the existing electrical and fire alarm panels, and mechanical units. The expansion will include a staff break room, kitchenette, a staff work room, and a new lobby. Site work will include but not be limited regrading, utilities, concrete paving, landscaping, and site furnishings (bike parking and seat walls).

### Proposal Due Date and Time

2:00 p.m. on Monday, April 29th, 2026 at Galt Joint Union Elementary School District, 1018 C Street Suite 210, Galt, CA 95632

### Request for Proposal Documents Available

On the District's website:  
<https://www.galt.k12.ca.us/Our-District/Facilities-and-Planning/Formal-Bids/index.html>

### Submittal of Proposals

All Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished by the District. Proposals must conform with, and be responsive to, the Request for Proposal Requirements. Only Proposals submitted to the District prior to the date and time set forth above shall be considered. Proposals will be opened privately.

### Pre-Qualification of Contractors

In order to submit a Proposal, contractors must possess a current and active B license and be prequalified by the District by April 17th, 2026. There are additional Lease-Leaseback (LLB) contractor qualifications, such as LLB experience as identified in the Prequalification Questionnaire. Documents can be found at: <https://www.galt.k12.ca.us/Our-District/Facilities-and-Planning/index.html>

### Anticipated Project Requirements

Contracts will require a 100% performance bond, a 100% labor and materials bond. All projects are subject to the State Labor Code and the District's Labor Compliance Program requirements, including all Department of Industrial Relations requirements. For questions regarding the State Labor Code refer to Sections 1735, Discrimination of Employment and 1770, 1773, 1773.11 Prevailing Rates of Wages. Contractors who have been pre-qualified may be required to submit certifications of compliance with the procedures for implementation of the Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise Contracting Goals. Contractors are allowed according to PCC sec. 22300 to submit "securities of lieu of retention".

### Waiver of Irregularities

The District reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals or to waive any irregularities or informalities in any Proposal or in the Request for Proposal process.

### DVBE Participation Goal

The District has established a Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Participation Goal of 3%. All Proposers will be required to submit DVBE Worksheets that confirm outreach efforts to meet this goal.

### Award of Contract

A Contract for Preconstruction Services and Lease-Leaseback Construction Services, if awarded, will be by action of the District's Board of Education to the responsive Proposer providing the Best Value to the District. The District reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals or to waive any irregularities in any Proposal or in the Request for Proposal process.

### Bid Advertisement Dates

April 3, 2026 and April 10, 2026

### Mandatory Pre-Submittal Conference/Job Walk

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 1:30 p.m., Valley Oaks Elementary School, 21 C Street, Galt, CA 95632

# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



## The Season is Almost Over

The time has come to reflect on the 2025-26 season for the Sacramento Kings, and without a doubt it was a season of ups and downs.

Injuries are a part of the game, and every team has their fair share, but the Kings were decimated like never before and never recovered from the ubiquitous effect it had on the entire team and its fan base.

After inexplicably trading away Jonas Valanciunas, the Kings decided to roll the dice with rookie Maxime Rayaud, and gamble that he could capably hold down the fort in the event of an injury to Domantas Sabonis; a gamble that was ill conceived and was nothing more than a cost-saving measure that invariably left the Kings shorthanded.

Yes, Maxime had his bright spots, and if nothing else the organization had the opportunity to allow this 7-foot rookie to get his feet wet in the NBA. Baptism by fire it was, and in my book, Maxime proved himself a capable back-up center. As for a starting NBA center, I don't believe that's what the Kings have in their second-round draft choice of a year ago.

Their first-round draft choice Nique Clifford has been praised by many and certainly was given all the playing time he wanted, but like his counterpart, Nique had some glaring holes in his NBA game.

Appearing in 68 games, Clifford averaged nearly 25 minutes per game while scoring just 7.7 points per game. His 31 percent from 3-point land was one of the reasons the Kings rank dead last in 3-point shooting this year, and although his 41 percent from the field is not impressive, it's his 68 percent from the free throw line that is truly glaring.

I expected more from Clifford, and although I'm not giving up on him, no starting point guard in the NBA can put up such numbers and expect to play on a winning team.

So, what does that say about the role of the point guard as it relates to the Sacramento Kings? Are they still looking? I would hope so, because there is no one talking about Russell Westbrook coming back next season, and without him, that leaves Devin Carter to split time with Nique Clifford.

The Kings find themselves in the same

position they were in a year ago, when they signed Dennis Schroder to be the starting point guard for the team. It wasn't long before he was replaced by Russell Westbrook in the starting lineup and eventually traded as he never seemed to find any rhythm with the team.

So, as the Kings find themselves in a quandary with regards to their point guard, the question begs, what will they go after in what has been lauded as one of the best draft classes in many years?

Both Dylan Cardwell and Precious Achiuwa have not only acquitted themselves well this season, they have opened eyes all over the NBA. Resigning these young big men will be a source of focus during the off-season, as well as drafting someone that can give the Kings more front court depth.

Domantas Sabonis remains the foundation piece that barring injury, is the one spot on the team that can be counted on day in and day out. Consistency is his middle name, and no team needs consistency more than the Sacramento Kings.

Daequon Plowden and Killian Hayes have been late season bright spots, but both represent solid bench players and not the starters that the Kings need.

Well, Scott Perry, time to put on that GM hat and show this fan base how you can build a team capable of making the playoffs every year.

Time to become the ossified GM that the Kings need. And that doesn't extend to just the players, as the coaching staff remains a mystery.

Free throw shooting remains a source of embarrassment, and that is a direct result of coaching.

It's time to form new habits and build a culture of winning. Easier said than done and staying away from injuries will be constantly on the watch list.

Three games to go Kings fans, but it's likely your hometown ballers will secure a high round draft choice in the upcoming NBA draft.

Keep the faith Sacramento because even just one player can tip the scales and bring light to a team in real need.

All the best! ★

## This isn't a Race for California Governor; It's More Like a Game of Chicken



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Political media habitually use "race" to describe contests for public office. However the word implies movement and therefore would be inaccurate if applied to this year's election of a new governor.

Sixty-one names will be on the June 2 primary ballot, including 10 leaders who profess to be serious about seeking the office.

However, they aren't racing. Rather, the eight top-polling Democrats seem to be in a children's game, sitting in a circle staring at each other, waiting for someone to blink. Meanwhile, the two top Republicans are taking potshots at each other, potentially undermining the GOP's only chance to elect a governor for the first time in two decades.

For weeks voter polls have found that three Democrats are locked in a tie, albeit at a puny level, around 10%, while the other five Democrats are buried in single digits.

California's top-two primary election system has all candidates listed on the same ballot, regardless of party, with the two top finishers then advancing to the November general election.

Given the size of the field, anyone garnering around 20% in June would probably earn a place in the runoff — or about twice what the three

Democrats at the top — Katie Porter, Eric Swalwell and Tom Steyer — currently have.

With mail voting set to begin in a month, the calendar is beginning to be a factor. Every ballot that's mailed removes that voter from having his or her mind changed. One should expect, therefore, that those with even semi-realistic chances of making the cut would be waging all-out campaigns by now.

However, the only highly visible campaign is that of billionaire Steyer, who's not only hopping around the state for personal appearances but shelling out millions of his own bucks for television and internet ads.

Much of Steyer's campaign is aimed at Swalwell, who has obtained substantial union support, most prominently from the California Teachers Association. Swalwell also benefits from the threats of Donald Trump's FBI to release files from its investigation of Swalwell's relationship with a supposed Chinese spy.

Steyer and Swalwell seem to be vying for the most left-leaning bloc of Democratic voters, while Porter is coasting on the name identification gained during her losing campaign for the U.S. Senate two years ago and hoping that being the only woman in the trio will lift her into one of the top two finishes.

Democratic Party leaders are openly worried, though, that the two Republicans — Steve Hilton and Chad Bianco — could finish 1-2, thereby ensuring the election of a GOP governor. They would like the five lower-tier Democratic candidates to

publicly surrender, thereby enhancing chances that a Democrat would make it to November.

However, members of that Democratic quintet show no signs of quitting, and if they continue to soldier on, despite scant support, the possibility of a 1-2 Republican primary finish continues.

The GOP's only chance of achieving such an upset would be for Hilton and Bianco to operate as a team, pushing their support — 16% and 14% respectively in the latest poll — to the magic 20% level. However, they are campaigning as opponents, even though if just one of them makes the November ballot he would almost certainly lose to whichever Democrat survives the primary.

This static, who-will-blink-first scenario does contain one surprising aspect — the failure of San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan to unleash the blitz he needs to climb into contention, despite having apparently unlimited support from wealthy Silicon Valley figures who want a tech- and business-friendly governor.

On Wednesday, Politico reported there was a shakeup in the Mahan campaign due to what were termed differences over strategy. Maybe that explains why his campaign has been so anemic after his much-ballyhooed late entry. He hasn't been racing much either.

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'll Be 65 Soon and am Working.

Must I enroll in Medicare?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I will be 65 in October and I am working full-time. My goal is to work until age 67, which is my full retirement age, or until age 70. I heard I have to apply for Medicare Part A only. Is this true or will I be penalized? And do I have to go to the Social Security office to do this, or can I do it online? And then will they be still giving me my Medicare through the next five years of working, or do I have to pay for something? I will have my own healthcare insurance. Thank you for your help. **Signed: Confused**

**Dear Confused:** There are two things you should be aware of:

1. You do not need to claim Social Security benefits when you enroll in Medicare

2. You do not need to enroll in Medicare at age 65 if you have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants)

Thus, it is perfectly okay for you to delay taking your Social Security benefits until age 67 (your SS full retirement age), or even until age 70 when you will get the maximum SS benefit you are entitled to. And if you now have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer,

you can delay enrolling in Medicare until such time as your employer's healthcare coverage ends. When you stop working, you will enter a Medicare Special Enrollment Period (SEP), during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty.

Whenever you decide to enroll in Medicare (or Social Security), you will not need to visit your local SSA office to do so. You can enroll in Medicare either online at [www.ssa.gov/medicare/](http://www.ssa.gov/medicare/) sign-up or you can call SSA at 1.800.772.1213 to make an appointment to enroll in Medicare on the telephone. Similarly, when you are ready to claim Social Security, you can do so online at [www.ssa.gov/apply](http://www.ssa.gov/apply) or you can call 1.800.772.1213 to make an appointment to apply for SS over the phone. To apply online, however, you should first create your personal "my Social Security" online account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). Creating your online SS account now (at age 65) will facilitate later online enrollment and will also provide you with an estimate of your SS benefit amounts at various ages — e.g., now at age 65, at your FRA of 67, or at age 70. And that should help you decide when it is best for you to claim Social Security.

A few final points:

- You should verify with your employer's health insurance provider that they don't require you to enroll in Medicare at age 65. Most employer plans don't, but some do.

- You don't need to enroll in Medicare Part A or Part B now as long as your employer's coverage is creditable. And it's

okay to enroll in Medicare a couple of months prior to your employer's creditable healthcare coverage ending (when you stop working), requesting that your Medicare coverage starts when your employer's healthcare ends. This will ensure that there is no gap in your healthcare coverage. If your employer coverage is creditable, you will not suffer a Medicare Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling after age 65.

- If you claim Social Security benefits at any time prior to your full retirement age (FRA) and are still working, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET), which limits how much you can earn before they take away some of your benefits. The AET lasts until you reach your FRA (67), after which you can earn as much as you like without your SS benefits being affected.

- Whenever you claim your Social Security benefits, you will be required to take Medicare Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services. Medicare Part A is free because you are also eligible for Social Security. But you don't need to enroll in Part A at age 65 unless you also claim Social Security.

- Medicare Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services (doctors, medical tests, etc.), is optional if you have creditable employer coverage as explained above. You do not need to enroll in Medicare Part B (for which there is a monthly premium of \$202.90 in 2026) until your employer's creditable healthcare coverage ends, even if you claim Social Security earlier. ★



It's not just Israel.

One of the least convincing arguments of opponents of the Iran war is that it is a conflict initiated by the Jewish state for its own benefit -- the U.S. is just along for the ride.

This view not only discounts the U.S. interest in defanging Iran but also neglects that there are other countries in the region besides Israel and Iran and that they, too, have a stake in the outcome of this war.

If there's anything that Iran has succeeded in doing over the first month of battle, it is further demonstrating the intolerable threat that it represents to the region.

The so-called Gulf Cooperation Council states -- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates -- have the misfortune of being located just across the Persian Gulf from Iran, putting them on the front line of the war.

A key element of Iran's strategy has been to impose economic pain on these states to force them to press the United States into staying its hand.

While the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz is indirectly harming the United States by driving up the global price of crude and other materials, it is a direct blow to the Gulf states, since the Saudis, Kuwaitis and Emiratis send the majority of their oil

through the waterway.

The Iranians have struck the Gulf states with missiles and drones by the thousands. The ongoing blitz is damaging energy infrastructure and destroying the reputation of the Gulf states as an oasis of calm and economic development in an otherwise turbulent region.

There's no insurance policy against having a fanatic millenarian state as a neighbor, while nothing quite concentrates the mind like an unprovoked drone attack on one of your luxury hotels -- or your airports, oil fields and data centers.

Iran likes to pretend that it is only striking at military infrastructure, but that's absurd.

As long as Iran is run on its current basis, it is a grave danger to these countries, which, prior to the war, tried to keep their heads down or even get closer to Iran as a way to mitigate the threat.

This is the approach that the Saudis tried after an Iran-backed attack hampered the country's oil production in 2019.

That experiment is now done. According to published reports, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman, privately urged Trump to launch the war even as the Saudis talked up diplomacy in public, and now MBS has been telling Trump to go all the way and topple the Iranian government.

The New York Times relates that the Saudi

leader "is concerned that if Mr. Trump pulls back now, Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Middle East will be left to confront an emboldened and furious Iran on their own."

The UAE has been a particular Iranian target. Its ambassador to the U.S. wrote in The Wall Street Journal recently, "We need a conclusive outcome that addresses Iran's full range of threats: nuclear capabilities, missiles, drones, terror proxies and blockades of international sea lanes."

One is tempted to conclude that the Gulf states are "all neocons now." That would be overstating it, though. Despite getting hit by Iran, Oman is maintaining its traditional posture as a mediator and Qatar is always a bad actor.

Much depends on how the war ultimately turns out, but it is easy to see the Gulf states looking to the United States for greater security guarantees and warming up further to Israel, which is demonstrating the military might to confront an Iran that has no compunction about lashing out at states that are doing it no harm.

It may be easy for hostile U.S. observers to portray the Iran war as about Israel and only Israel, but the Gulf states unfortunately know better -- and have the battle damage to prove it.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.

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## Iran's Other Enemies

# ABOUT TOWN

## Continuing through Thursday, May 21

**Fireworks Vendor Applications Accepted** – The City of Galt is accepting applications for organizations that wish to sell fireworks on city property. Applications for fireworks permits are available in the City Clerk's Office, 380 Civic Drive, city's website, cityofgalt.org, or email clerk@cityofgalt.org. All applications and required attachments must be completed and received by the City Clerk's Office no later than 5 p.m. Thursday, May 21.

Applicants must be a community-based, resident 501(c) (3), (4), (6) or (7) nonprofit organization promoting and providing services to residents and/or businesses.

The lottery will be held Monday, June 1 in the City Clerk's office and will determine the rank order for placement at the bottom of the master list for those eligible nonprofit organizations not already included in the master list.

## Continuing through Monday, April 13

**Sacramento Kennel Club AKC Dog Show** – doors open at 7 a.m.; events begin at 8 a.m. daily at the Lodi Grape Festival Grounds. The event features conformation, obedience, rally trials and Fast CAT (Coursing Ability Test) competitions hosted by Dog Sports America. Northern California Sporting Group will hold two trials each day on April 9 and 10; Fast CAT will be April 11 through 13. 413 E. Lockeford St., Lodi.

## Friday, April 10 through Monday, April 13

**Paranormal Cirque Voodoo** – at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds. This one-of-a-kind show blends jaw-dropping acrobatics, mind-bending illusions, eerie characters and dark humor into a performance that will leave audiences shocked, thrilled, and wanting more. No one under age 13 admitted. Tickets and full schedule at visitstockton.org. 1658 S. Airport Way, Stockton.

## Friday, April 10

**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 welcome; ask your tour guide. 24 S. Sacramento St., Lodi.

**Live Music at Barsetti Vineyards** – 6 to 9 p.m. Barsetti Vineyards Tasting Room. Phil & da Pinots playing tunes from the 1960s, '70s, '80s and '90s. One drink minimum. More at barsettivineyards.com or call 209-747-3861. 400 4th St. Ste. 150.

## Saturday, April 11

**Shred Event** – 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Galt Market grounds. Protect your personal information: Don't toss it; shred it. Residents may bring up to three standard storage boxes or one garbage bag of documents for shredding. Must be a City of Galt resident (within city limits); bring proof of residency or a utility statement. For more information, call 209-366-7130. 610 Chabolla Ave.

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 10k/5k/2k Run/Walk** – Registration opens at 7:30 a.m.; walks begin at 9 a.m. at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza. Join us as we honor his life and legacy through movement, unity and purpose. Proceeds directly support NAACP Stockton Branch and our Health Disparity and Mental Health Advocacy programs, along with essential Branch operations. Registration and more information at visitstockton.org. 2 E. Oak St., Stockton.

**USS Lucid Spring Open House** – 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. across from Louis Park. Join us for a guided tour of this U.S. Navy ship berthed in Stockton. Enjoy a moderated Q&A panel with real-life sweep sailors. Suggested donation of \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. RSVP required at Eventbrite.com. 3100 Monte Diablo Ave., Stockton.

**Lodi Art Hop** – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Veterans Park. Enjoy live music in the park, an outdoor art market and easy access to nearby gallery exhibits. 305 W. Pine St., Lodi.

**Used Oil Filter Exchange** – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at AutoZone 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. 1018 C St.

**Literary Crawl** – 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Miracle Mile. Get ready for a fun in-person event celebrating all things literature. Wander between local spots, enjoy readings, chats with authors and discover new favorite books. Full schedule and more information at stocktonmiraclemile.com. Pacific Avenue from Alpine to Harding, Stockton.

**Spring Concert** – 6 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Galt. We invite you to experience a free soulful night of music performed by singer-songwriter Bill Chacon. 653 A St.

## Sunday, April 12

**After Easter Car Show** – 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Old Lockeford Springs Golf Course. Rev up for this show hosted by the Port City F-100 Elites Truck Club. Proceeds from entry fees benefit the Children's Home of Stockton. No spectator fees, so come stroll the lineup and soak it all in. Food will be available for purchase to keep you fueled while you check out the classics, customs and crowd favorites. 16360 N. Highway 88, Lockeford.

**Line Dance Class & Karaoke Band Practice** – noon to 4 p.m. at Barsetti Vineyards Tasting Room. There is no charge for the class with purchase of wine. Then at 1 p.m., the band takes off with practice and karaoke. Attendees are also welcome to join in by singing or playing an instrument with the band. One drink minimum. For more information, visit barsettivineyards.com or call 209-747-3861. 400 4th St. Ste. 150.

**VACES Spring Festival** – 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Stockton Ballroom. Enjoy this free, fun, family event celebrating Asian cultures. Your host is the Vietnamese American Cultural and Educational Society nonprofit organization. Food, games, fashion show, lion dance and more! For more information, call 209-227-0511. 9650 Thornton Road, Stockton.

## Tuesday, April 14 through Sunday, April 19

**California Bluegrass Association Spring Campout** – at the Lodi Grape Festival grounds. Join us for pickin' and singin' with good friends old and new. Bring your RV to stay a while or join us just for a day. California State Old Time Open Fiddle & Picking Championships on Friday and Saturday. Tickets and more

information at californiabluegrass.org. 413 E. Lockeford St., Lodi.

## Thursday, April 16

**Books, Bubbles & Brews** – 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Lodi Public Library. Raise a glass and experience the library like never before at this lively evening of drinks, music and community connection. This fundraiser for ages 21 and over invites guests to sip, savor and support the library's growing programs and resources. Tickets available at Eventbrite.com. 201 W. Locust St., Lodi.

## Ongoing Events

**Galt Café & Cars** – every second Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at Café Latte. Open to cars, trucks, bicycles, motorcycles and anything else with wheels. Next event is Saturday, April 11. 1000 C St.

**Widowed Persons Social Club** – April 10, 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.

April 11, 10:30 a.m.: Coffee gathering at Peets Coffee, 7127 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact Evelyn at 916-685-9669.

April 16, 11:30 a.m.: Lunch and 12:30 p.m. general meeting at Golden Corral, 7700 W. Stockton Blvd.; \$24 includes lunch. Contact Pat at 916-802-4524.

## 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. Dinner at 6 p.m.

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

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

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

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# Readers' Delight and Outdoor Fun



National Bookmobile Day began in 2010. It was created by the American Library Association, the Association for Rural and Small Libraries and the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services. These groups wanted to shine a light on mobile libraries and the people who run them. Every year, the day falls during National Library Week in April.

It highlights how bookmobiles help people who may not live near a public library.

Bookmobiles have a long and interesting past. In 1905, librarian Mary Lemist Titcomb in Marland started the first one in the United States.

Her team used a horse-drawn wagon to carry books to people in remote areas. Later, these wagons became motor vehicles; they could then travel farther and reach more places. Over time, mobile libraries became key to bringing books

to small towns, rural areas and neighborhoods without easy access to reading materials.

The launch of National Bookmobile Day gave people a reason to talk about these services. It gave communities a chance to say thank you to the bookmobile staff. These workers do more than just hand out books. They help connect people with knowledge, stories and tools that support learning.

Their work continues to make a real difference every day. Thank you, bookmobile librarians.

\*\*\*

Hit the green and practice your swing. Never played golf, or are you having terrible weather? Find a mini golf course or even fire up a golfing video game at home. It is National Golfer's Day!

Some people believe that the word "golf" is derived from the phrase "Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden." However, very few words commonly used in the English language today gained their origins from acronyms. Other possibilities include the Dutch word "kolf," a kind of stick or club, or "goulf," a Scottish word meaning "to strike or cuff."

No matter the origin of the word, the game we currently recognize as golf originated in Scotland, somewhere in the 14th century.

The earliest recorded use of the term in reference to the game was a ban enacted in 1457 by King James II, who thought that young men spent too much time golfing and not enough time practicing archery!

The earliest golf club (building, not stick) was established in 1552 after the ban was lifted in 1502. J.R.R Tolkien, the author of the "Lord of the Rings" books, had a different opinion. According to him, the game was invented when a hobbit used a club to knock the head off the goblin Gollum, which sailed through the air and landed in a hole!

National Golfer's Day was founded to celebrate the love of golf. It takes place on this date as a nod to the founding of the Professional Golfers' Association on April 10, 1916. My son and grandson really enjoy playing golf.

And a lot of business is discussed on the golf course, so it is good to know the rudiments of how to play golf. FORE!

Until new week - be strong, be courageous and make a memory. ★

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## 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.

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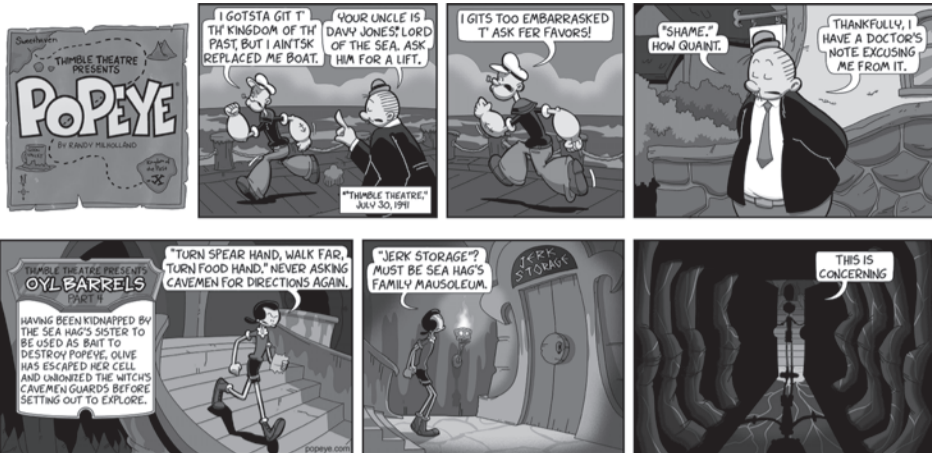
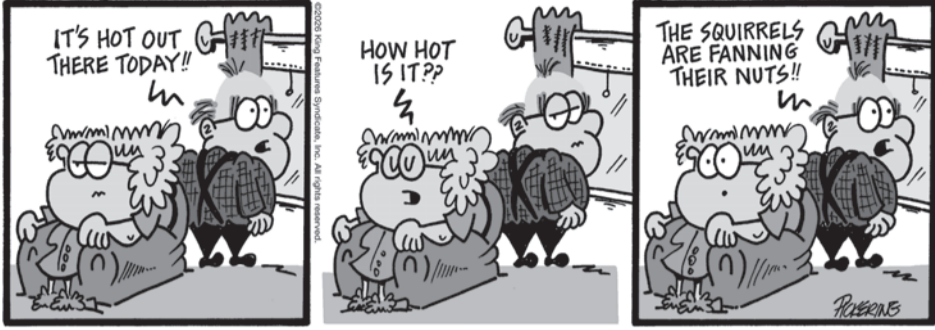
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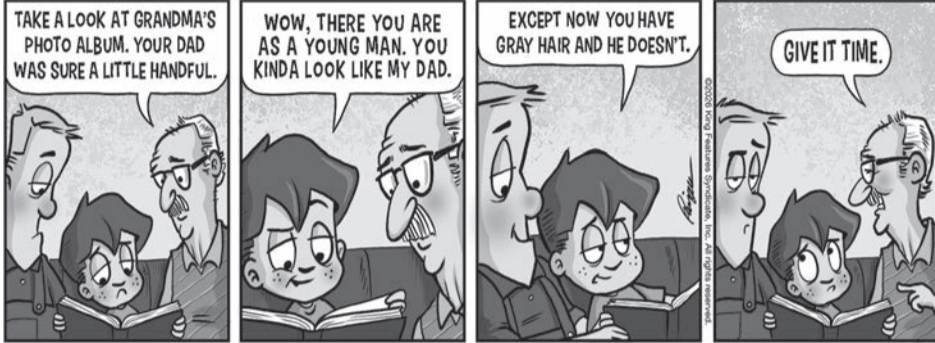
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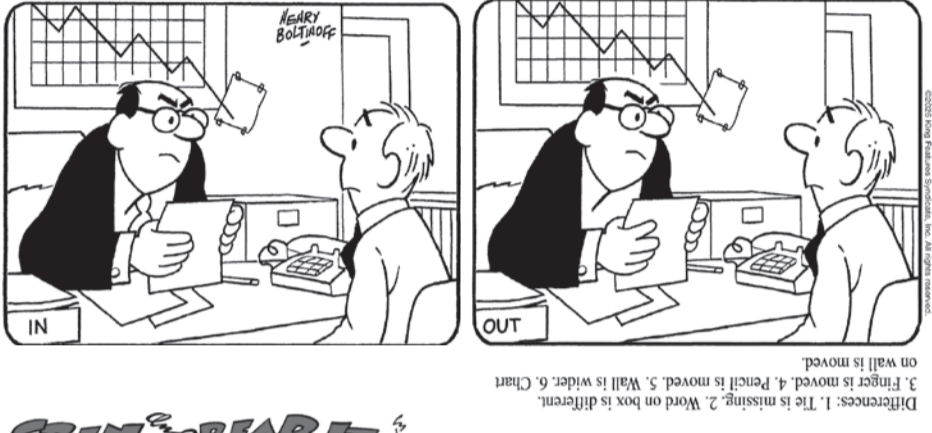


Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

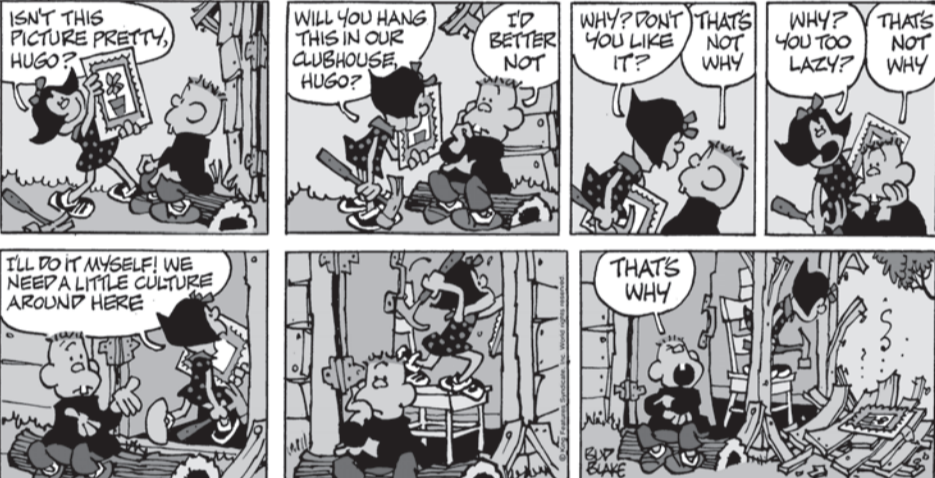


HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF Find at least six differences in details between panels.



TIGER

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

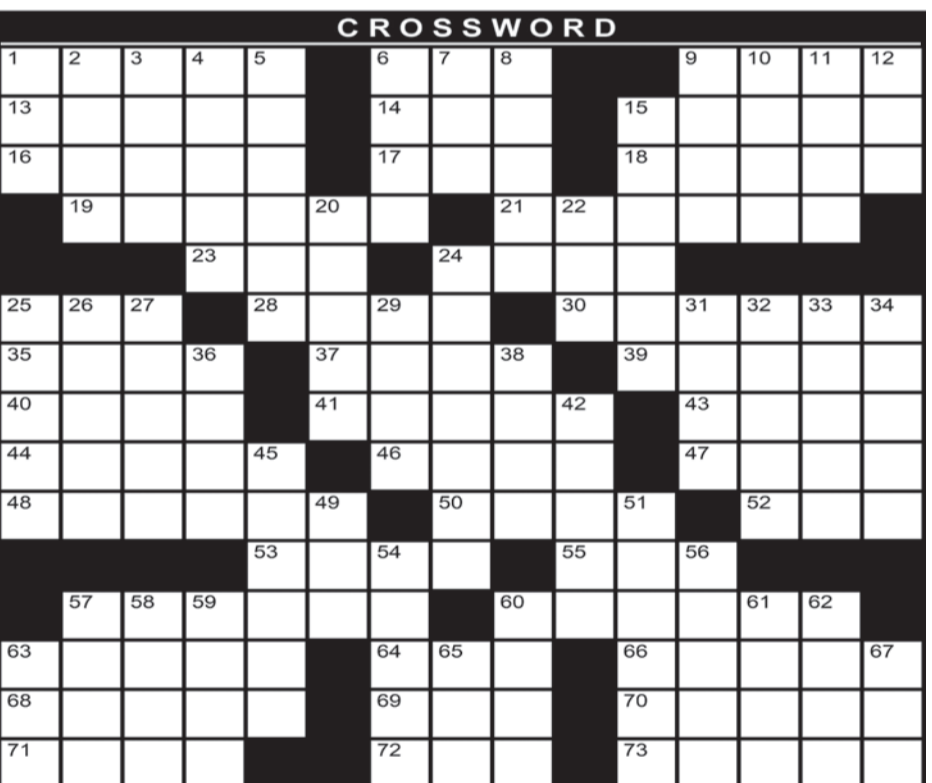


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- ACROSS**
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  - Mr. Turkey
  - Gives the boot
  - Between octet and decet
  - Romanian money
  - Spherical bacteria
  - Popular ursine meme star
  - Public health org.
  - Mountaineer's tool (2 words)
  - \*Fly larva
  - \*World's noisiest insect
  - Comic book shriek
  - Like some excuses
  - Food safety org.
  - Man Ray's genre
  - Temporarily, legally speaking (2 words)
  - Like unpleasant awakening
  - 4th down kick
  - Quarter-round molding
  - Computer operating system
  - Metal bar
  - Mine passage
  - Antonym of exhume
  - Expert
  - Strip of wood
  - Throws
  - It will
  - Concurrence word
  - Silo contents
  - Bonanza find
  - Courtroom excuse
  - Whiskey grain, pl.
  - Coniferous tree
  - #52 Across, pl.
- DOWN**
- Econ. measure
  - Good earth
  - Wintour of "Vogue" fame
  - Marsh plant
  - Not impruptu
  - Diplomat's asset
  - Antediluvian
  - Hajj destination
  - Cocaine plant
  - Got an A
  - March Madness org.
  - \*Number of legs on an insect
  - Famous Roman orator
  - Giraffe's striped-legged cousin
  - Mischief-maker
  - Opposite of energetic
  - \* \_\_\_ fly, first living creature sent to space
  - "I don't know," casually
  - #43 Across, pl.
  - \* \_\_\_ beetle, world's strongest insect
  - \*Shape of a ladybug or carpet beetle
  - Not tomorrow, not yesterday
  - Like basketball's final eight
  - \*Lepidoptera members, not butterflies
  - Demi Moore and Bruce Willis, e.g.
  - Reason for suit
  - Tutu fabric



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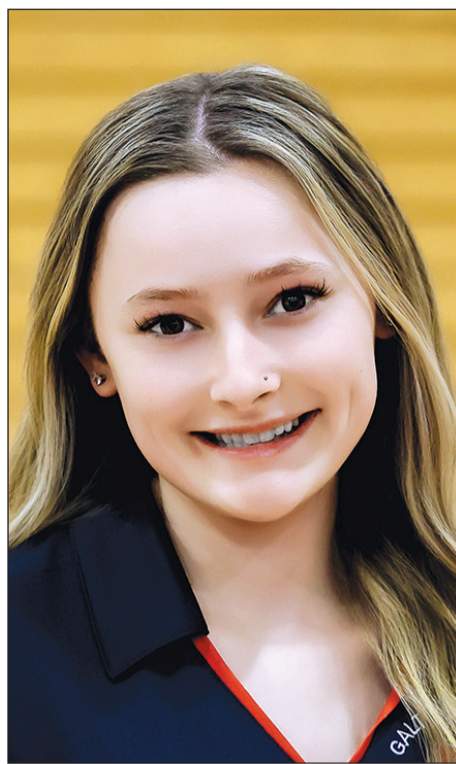
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49. "Monkey \_\_\_\_, monkey do"  
51. Wiggle room  
54. "Have a great time!"  
56. Useful  
57. Performance with acts  
58. Lecherous look  
59. "Betcha Can't Eat Just One" brand  
60. Tea or beer  
61. Hawaiian flower garlands  
62. Major European river  
63. Acronym, abbr.  
65. "Roses \_\_\_ red"  
67. Bad-mouth, slangily

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.

# LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE



## From Hawk to Warrior: Whitcanack Brings New Energy to Galt High STUNT



**New Galt High STUNT coach Natalie Whitcanack: "Trust is essential since athletes rely completely on each other to perform risky skills safely."**

fundamentals and drills to make sure everyone knows their role and feels confident in it. When athletes trust their teammates and coach, it shows in their performance and the overall team vibe."

Her first impressions of the Galt program were honest and direct.

"My first impression when looking at the STUNT team was complete stress," she admitted. "Galt High has amazing athletes with great talent, but they lack the drive. I believe if they had more encouragement and someone pushing them a little harder, Galt High will thrive in STUNT." That belief drives her day-to-day coaching philosophy: one built on positivity, accountability and meeting athletes where they are emotionally and developmentally.

"It's about pushing for progress while also understanding they're still learning and maturing," she said.

The transition from competitor to coach has not been without its surprises.

"What's really surprising about moving from competitor to coach is how much you have to switch gears, from focusing on your own performance to guiding and motivating a whole team," Whitcanack said. "But something that comes naturally is the passion for the sport and the ability to relate to what the athletes are going through since I've personally experienced it myself."

Her goals for the program are both immediate and long-term. This season, she is focused on building team chemistry, sharpening technical skills and competing with confidence. Looking farther down the road, she envisions a Warriors program that is known throughout the region: one that develops athletes who carry the lessons of STUNT far beyond the gym floor.

"I hope my girls take the passion and love I had for the sport with them," she said. "Winning or losing, as long as you enjoyed the game, that's all that matters."

And to any Galt High student curious about trying STUNT for the first time? Whitcanack's message is simple: "Go for it. You don't need prior experience to start. Just be open to learning and having a blast with the team." ★



**Coach Natalie Whitcanack makes some adjustments to the stunt group.**

team, all three coaches still encourage me to try new things and push myself on a daily basis," she said. It was Welch, in particular, who inspired Whitcanack to step into coaching herself.

"Watching her coach over the past years and getting to experience her hard work and dedication to making us better athletes made me want to do the same for Galt High," Whitcanack said. "With Barbara leaving her legacy behind, I feel like this year was a great opportunity to start mine."

For readers unfamiliar with the sport, STUNT is a head-to-head competitive discipline that grew out of cheerleading but is structured entirely around athletic performance rather than crowd-leading. Two teams compete simultaneously in a series of rounds – partner stunts, pyramids, jumps and tumbling – performing

the same required routines at the same time. Judges score each round based on execution, difficulty, synchronization and overall performance quality, with the team winning the most rounds claiming the match.

"STUNT pushes athletes to develop power, precision and teamwork in a way that's distinct from traditional cheerleading," Whitcanack said. "Strength is crucial, especially for bases who have to support and lift flyers safely. Timing has to be spot-on. Trust is essential since athletes rely completely on each other to perform risky skills safely."

That trust is something Whitcanack works to build deliberately and consistently. "I focus on creating an environment where athletes feel comfortable speaking up if something doesn't feel right," she said. "We spend a lot of time on

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

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - The Galt High School STUNT program has a new face on the sideline this season, and she knows the sport as well as anyone in the area. Natalie Whitcanack, a former Liberty Ranch Hawks STUNT competitor and collegiate athlete, has taken over as head coach of the Warriors, crossing town to build something from the ground up for the crosstown rival of the school where her own STUNT journey began.

It might seem like an unusual transition, but Whitcanack does not see it that way.

"When the thought of crossing town and coaching my rival school came across my mind, I took a second and thought, 'Is it really my rival school?'" she said. "Galt is a small town holding two high schools, so many people from both schools know each other. I truly have never seen Galt as my rivals: more as littles. Liberty has been league champions since I was in high school. Taking that title was hard. We spent many late nights practicing and spent hours in the gym."

Those hours in the gym shaped Whitcanack into the coach she is today. After competing at Liberty Ranch under head coach Barbara Welch – who remains the Hawks' coach and is widely credited with building STUNT in the region – Whitcanack continued her athletic career at Ottawa University in Arizona, where she studied leadership and management while competing on the school's STUNT team and cheering on its spirit squad. The jump from high school to college competition opened her eyes to just how deep the sport goes.

"People tend to think college STUNT is very similar to high school STUNT," she said. "How I'd seen it, it was very different. As you get into higher divisions it starts to get way more competitive. You begin competing against schools who work day and night and have amazing coaches that come with a lot of experience."

Whitcanack credits three coaches in particular for shaping her athletic development: Welch, Brittney Thompson and Audralee Scofield.

"Even after graduating and leaving the

### GALT HERALD ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



**Sofia Richardson**  
Liberty Ranch STUNT



**Mikina McCreery**  
Liberty Ranch STUNT

Photos courtesy of Tracy Portrait Studio

## Liberty Ranch Boys' Golf Scores Back-to-Back Spring Break Wins

**By Becca Dennis Special to The Galt Herald**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The Liberty Ranch Boys Golf Team showed resilience and determination over spring break, overcoming challenging conditions, player absences and unpredictable weather to secure two impressive victories.

On Wednesday, Liberty Ranch faced off against Bradshaw Christian under threatening skies. Despite the looming weather and less-than-ideal conditions, the team remained focused and composed, grinding out a hard-fought win. Their ability to stay mentally tough in adverse conditions proved to be a key factor in their success.

The following day, the Hawks returned to the course to take on Amador, where they delivered an even more dominant performance. With a commanding stroke lead

over the Buffaloes, Liberty Ranch showcased both depth and consistency across the lineup.

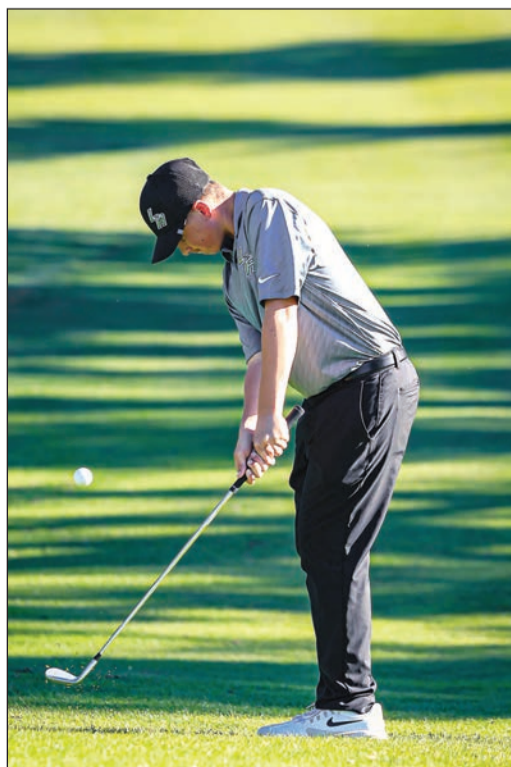
Leading the charge in both matches were standout performers Hunter Rhoner and Mathew Bowling, who once again delivered top scores for the team. Consistent contributors Cason Welch and Brenner Dennis continued to provide reliability, while newcomers Christian Maciel and Noah Garcia stepped up in a big way, playing crucial roles in securing both victories.

Despite dealing with spring break absences and illness, the team came together and demonstrated strong depth, teamwork and perseverance. The Hawks' performance not only highlights their skill but also their ability to rise to the occasion under pressure.

With momentum building, the Liberty Ranch Boys Golf Team looks poised for continued success as the season progresses. ★



**Junior Christian Maciel chips toward the hole for the Hawks.** Photos by Paige Lampson



**Freshman Brenner Dennis pops one up to get onto the green.**

# LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE



## Hawks Eyeing Section and State Glory

*Liberty Ranch STUNT Team Chasing Another League Title Under Coach Barbara Welch*

By Paige Lampson  
Sports Editor

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - The Liberty Ranch Hawks STUNT team is making its presence felt once again this season, steamrolling through the Sierra Valley Conference schedule and positioning itself for what could be another league championship.

With an unblemished run through a demanding slate of opponents, the Hawks are not just winning, they are winning convincingly, and the program's foundation has never been stronger.

For those unfamiliar with the sport, STUNT is a competitive athletic discipline that takes the skills of traditional cheerleading – partner stunts, pyramids, tosses and tumbling – and structures them into a direct head-to-head competition format. Teams go round by round, performing the same required skills simultaneously, with judges scoring each element. It is fast, technical and demands peak athleticism and precision from every athlete on the mat.

At the center of Liberty Ranch's success is Head Coach Barbara Welch, who has been with the program since its very first day. Welch, who also serves as the head coach of the Galt High School cheer program, has built the Hawks STUNT team from the ground up and has guided it to a league championship every year since the sport was introduced at Liberty Ranch. That kind of sustained dominance is no accident.

Welch is known as a demanding coach who holds her athletes to an exceptionally high standard, keeping the team in peak physical condition and always pushing to stay ahead of the competition.

Her influence on the sport extends well beyond Hawk Stadium. Welch has played a key role in growing STUNT throughout the region, mentoring other schools and coaches to bring the sport into the league.

Without enough teams to field a competitive schedule, the sport cannot thrive, and Welch took it upon herself to make sure that was never an issue. Her work behind the scenes has been just as impactful as her coaching on the sideline.

This season, the Hawks have faced a challenging and diverse schedule, traveling to take on Whitney in Rocklin and competing against Bradshaw Christian, Union Mine, El Dorado, Oakridge, Granite Bay and Amador.

The results have been almost total dominance across the board, perhaps none more emphatic than their matchup against Bradshaw Christian, where Liberty Ranch rolled to a 25-6 victory. Next up for Liberty Ranch is a rematch against Bradshaw Christian on April 8: a chance for the Hawks to once again prove their dominance against one of the teams they have already handled with authority this season.



The Liberty Ranch STUNT team performs a double-release flip. Photos courtesy of Tracy Portrait Studio

But the Hawks are not focused solely on league. The bigger prize is on the horizon.

Liberty Ranch has its sights set on winning a section championship at its competitive level and then making a run at the state title: a goal that feels well within reach for a program that has been built the right way, year after year, under the steady hand of Coach Welch.

For a STUNT program that has known nothing but success since its first season, the standard is clear: championships or nothing less. And if this season is any indication, the Hawks have every intention of meeting that standard again. ★



The Hawks post a double-heel stretch.



The STUNT team executes a triple Liberty pyramid.