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The Galt Herald

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FFA Star Conference Honors Goehring

California FFA
News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - California Future Farmers of America (FFA) is proud to announce the 2026 winners of the prestigious State Star Awards. Winners were announced at the 98th Annual California FFA State Leadership Conference on March 21 to 24 in Ontario, California.

The State Star Awards are designed to recognize exceptional FFA members who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in their supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs). SAEs, which have been part of agricultural education since 1917, offer students an individualized application of the career and life skills taught in agricultural education courses beyond scheduled class time.

After an extensive application process, finalists demonstrating outstanding management abilities in production, agribusiness, agricultural placement and agriscience were selected in each of the six regions. These FFA members

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Galt FFA member Gauge Goehring received the Star Small Farmer Award at the 98th State FFA Leadership Conference, held March 21 to 26. The recognition honors members who have fully developed their projects into real-world production businesses. Photo courtesy of California FFA

**Measure R
Funds, Military
Equipment
Usage Reviewed**



By John McCallum

GALT, CA (MPG) - Police funding and equipment usage were two items the Galt City Council dealt with at its April 7 meeting, beginning with a report on Measure R.

Passed by voters in 2008, Measure R implemented a half-cent sales tax dedicated to funding police service needs beyond those paid for in annual fiscal year budgets. The funds currently pay for 10.5 positions including patrol officers, a gang detective, school resource officers, a professional standards officer, dispatcher, records technician, an analyst and police services program costs.

"As our police chief presented during a previous council meeting, the 2025 reported crime data showed this funding is beneficial in helping the police department provide their public safety services," Measure R Citizens Oversight Committee Chair Paul Harvey said, adding the measure covers about 20% of the Police Department's 2024-2025 budget.

At the March 3 meeting, Police Chief Brian Kalinowski told the council that, with the exception of motor vehicle-related issues, the crime rate in Galt either remained consistent or dropped in 2025. Kalinowski said areas that did increase, such as officer-initiated calls for service, traffic incidents and arrests were the result of having more officers on the streets and better training.

According to the Citizens Oversight Committee report, revenues were about 0.29% better than expected, coming in at \$2,491,433, almost 95% of which came from the sales tax. Other revenues totaling \$132,791 include interest income and intergovernmental charges.

The Measure R fund began 2024-2025 with a \$1,714,843 balance, which coupled with the revenue provided a total of \$4,206,276 for the department. Expenses in 2025 totaled \$2,945,190, leaving a fund balance at the end of the year of \$1,261,787.

Most of the \$2,192,513 in expenses were for "employee services" such as those outlined above. Operations and maintenance expenses totaled

Continued on page 4

A Hoppin' Good Time

Annual 'Eggstravaganza' Event Highlighted



A young Galt resident is pictured with the Easter bunny at the April 4 Eggstravaganza and Kite Day at McFarland Ranch. Photo by Idaly Valencia

By Idaly Valencia

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Easter weekend in Galt proved to be a celebration of the spring season, welcoming its arrival with opportunities for the community to gather and enjoy the warm, sunny weather and time with neighbors.

The annual Eggstravaganza and Kite Day, hosted by the Galt Area Historical Society on April 4 at

McFarland Ranch, was one of the first events marking spring in the city.

Families were welcomed to enjoy a variety of activities, including a pie-eating contest, a kids' arts and crafts zone, Easter egg hunting and several local vendors offering treats and handmade products.

The event featured its staple children's activity, the egg drop, which challenged youth participants to use

their creativity to design a protective casing for an egg dropped from a bucket truck. After the drop, participants unwrapped their eggs to see whether they had survived without cracking to earn a prize.

This year, Navarro Tree Service helped to facilitate the activity by using its truck to drop the children's protective egg contraptions. Designs ranged from plastic containers lined

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Goehring is Winner at FFA Star Conference

Continued from page 1

represent the best of the best, exhibiting excellence in all aspects of their agricultural endeavors, demonstrating strong leadership skills and participating in their local FFA chapter.

California FFA is proud to announce this year's winners:

Star Farmer: The Star Farmer Award recognizes an FFA member who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in an entrepreneurial production agriculture SAE. This award celebrates those who have exhibited excellence in agricultural production, finance and management while maintaining active involvement in FFA.

This year's Star Farmer is Madysen Dietz of Merced-El Capitan FFA. Dietz's project consists of managing a large ewe operation known as Dietz Club Lambs, focusing on breeding, raising, selling and showing high-quality sheep. She manages 90 ewes and cares for an annual lamb crop of about 135 lambs, born between October and February. She oversees all aspects of the operation, including artificial insemination protocols, breeding selection, daily animal care and health management. The lambs are marketed to 4-H and FFA members throughout California and the Midwest, primarily through private treaty sales and occasional online and live auctions.

Star Small Farmer: New to California FFA this year is the Star Small Farmer Award. This award acknowledges FFA members who have fully embraced their SAE projects on a production scale. Finalists were evaluated on the scope of their project and must have earned a monetary maximum of less than \$25,000.

This year's 2026 Star Small Farmer is Gauge Goehring of the Galt FFA chapter. Goehring owns and operates Double G Show Pigs, where he maintains a herd of three crossbred sows. Since starting his show pig business, Goehring averages farrowing two litters per year and sells those piglets as quality show pigs to 4-H and FFA members in his community. Goehring spends much of his time working on his six-acre farm, where he is responsible for all operational decisions. Some of his duties include feeding pigs, cleaning pens, conducting daily health checks, performing artificial insemination, managing farrowing, following proper biosecurity protocols and marketing his pigs in the

community.

Star in Agribusiness: The Star in Agribusiness Award honors a student for exceptional achievement in an entrepreneurial agribusiness SAE. This award is presented to individuals who focus on agricultural sales, services or other entrepreneurial endeavors. Whether through sales, service or innovation, the recipient must demonstrate outstanding business acumen and leadership.

The 2026 Star in Agribusiness Award goes to Baylor Bloom of the Gustine FFA chapter. Bloom owns and operates Full Bloom Harvesting in Gustine, California, a custom almond and walnut harvesting agribusiness servicing over 700 acres annually around the Gustine area. Baylor began his operation using leased equipment on 400 acres. He has since expanded by purchasing his own OMC shaker through a San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District grant. Bloom provides custom shaking and sweeping services and is responsible for all business decisions, including operations, customer service, field scheduling, maintenance and logistics.

Star in Agricultural Placement: The Star in Agricultural Placement Award celebrates a student who has excelled in an employment-based SAE, including work-based learning opportunities. The awardee should gain real-world experience throughout his or her SAE, all while contributing to the greater agricultural workforce.

The 2026 recipient of the Star in Agricultural Placement Award is Peyton Heermance of Bret Harte FFA. For the past four years, Heermance has worked for the Angel's Camp Veterinary Hospital, where he is responsible for many tasks, including rooming patients, taking vitals, assisting with surgical procedures and running in-house animal lab samples.

Heermance also won the 2025 National FFA Proficiency title in the area of Veterinary Science - Entrepreneurship/Placement.

Star in Agriscience Award: The Star in Agriscience Award recognizes an FFA member whose SAE is focused on advancing agricultural science, research and innovation. This award is designed for students who apply their curiosity to solve problems and answer questions within the agricultural industry.

The 2026 Star in Agriscience Award



Baylor Bloom of the Gustine FFA chapter earned the 2026 Star in Agribusiness Award for exceptional achievement in entrepreneurial agribusiness.



Madysen Dietz of Merced-El Capitan FFA was awarded the Star Farmer Award in recognition of outstanding achievement in entrepreneurial production agriculture. Photos courtesy of California FFA



Peyton Heermance of Bret Harte FFA was named the 2026 recipient of the Star in Agricultural Placement Award, recognizing excellence in an employment-based SAE and work-based learning experience.



Riley Piehl of Santa Rosa FFA was named the 2026 recipient of the Star in Agriscience Award for a project focused on advancing agricultural science, research and innovation.

goes to Riley Piehl of Santa Rosa FFA. Piehl has completed five agriscience projects over the last four years. Her projects aim to explore a range of management tools to improve labor efficiency and increase production in swine operations. Piehl's research focused on gestation length and its impact on litter survivability across 24 births from 14 sows. She also

evaluated ultrasound-based pregnancy detection with alternative gels, finding 92% accuracy (comparable to commercial options) while enabling detection as early as 18 days to reduce non-productive time.

Additionally, Piehl's work with feed companies showed that higher weaning weights lead to faster growth and earlier market readiness. ★

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10:20 AM	10:45 AM	10:50 AM	10:55 AM	11:00 AM	11:25 AM	11:45 AM		10:25 AM	10:45 AM	11:20 AM	11:45 AM	11:50 AM	11:55 AM	12:00 PM	
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HOW Chapter Launches with First Dinner Honoring Local Women

HOW Galt News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - A new tradition of generosity, compassion and community has officially begun in Galt. HOW Galt (Helping One Woman) hosted its very first monthly dinner on April 7, bringing together a full room of community members for an evening centered on showing up for a local woman facing an irreplaceable loss.

The inaugural dinner honored Danielle Brechbill, the chapter's very first recipient, and marked the beginning of what organizers hope will become a meaningful and lasting source of support for women in the Galt area.

Held at Brewsters Kitchen & Cocktails, the event was filled with generosity, laughter, heartfelt moments and overwhelming support from attendees, donors and volunteers.

Through dinner tickets, raffles, silent auction baskets, dessert auction items, games and donations, the evening demonstrated just how powerful a community can be when it comes together for one person in need.

What is HOW

Helping One Woman (HOW) is a national nonprofit organization built on a simple but powerful idea: Each month, one woman in the community who is experiencing an irreplaceable loss is selected to be honored and supported.

That loss may come in many forms: the loss of a spouse or child, a life-altering health diagnosis for herself, spouse or child, or another irreplaceable loss. The goal of HOW is to remind that woman that she is not alone.

The idea for a HOW chapter in Galt began when Trisha Chapman, Bailey Oliveira, Michelle Woods, Susan Schmidt and Cindy Goldman attended Helping One Woman dinners in Lodi. That is where Goldman herself had been a recipient last August.

After witnessing firsthand the impact of those evenings and recognizing that many women from Galt had also been supported by the Lodi chapter, the group saw a clear need for a chapter closer to home.

They began working with the national organization last year to bring



Pictured from left are HOW Galt (Helping One Woman) leadership team Bailey Oliveira, Trisha Chapman, Danielle Brechbill (recipient), Michelle Woods, Susan Schmidt and Cindy Goldman at the nonprofit chapter's inaugural dinner held April 7 at Brewsters Kitchen & Cocktails. Photo by Katie Fewell Photography

HOW to Galt, which now proudly becomes the 28th chapter nationwide.

The first Tuesday of each month, the community will gather for dinner at Brewsters (201 4th St.), hear her story and surround her with financial and emotional support. Funds raised during the evening are presented directly to that month's recipient at the end of the night.

At its core, HOW is about more than financial assistance. It is about support, encouragement and the reminder that even in life's hardest seasons, a woman can be carried by the strength of her community.

A Strong Start in Galt

The first HOW Galt dinner was a huge success, with local businesses, families, friends and neighbors stepping up to make the night special.

In addition to the gifted prizes and desserts, the evening was made possible by a dedicated team of volunteers: Michaela Johnson, Becky Roenspie, Kat Seabolt, Nicole Gross, Karen Bond, Krystal Mason, Amy Havens, Alison Simonich, Andrea Johnson, Pam Deans, Cari Brown, JessaLee Goehring, Chris Chapman, Tammie Vandenburg, Kathy Seifert, Abby Woods, Maria

Freitas, Cindy Beskeen and Danielle's soccer girls, whose time and heart brought the event to life.

Special thanks to Katie Fewell (photography), Brian King of KingSound! Productions (sound) and Raquel's Party Co. (balloons), along with generous support from United Party Rentals in Sacramento, Chandler Gross Group (recipient table sponsor), Roenspie + Johnson Real Estate Group (centerpieces and door prize) and Ace Hardware in Galt (door prize), all of whom helped to create a warm and memorable evening for the community. A full list of everyone who gifted can be found on the HOW Galt Facebook page.

Organizers said the response from the community has been incredibly encouraging and are excited to continue building momentum each month.

"This first dinner was such a beautiful reflection of what can happen when a community comes together with open hearts," HOW Leadership team member Michelle Woods shared. "We are so grateful for everyone who attended, gifted, volunteered and

helped make this first night so special for Danielle."

May Dinner to Honor Stephanie Mallari

HOW Galt is already preparing for its next dinner, which will be held on Tuesday, May 5 and will honor Stephanie Mallari.

Community members are invited to attend and be part of another evening of support, generosity and encouragement for a local woman in need.

Tickets for the May 5 dinner can be purchased online at mysosent.com. Organizers encourage those interested in attending to purchase tickets early, as seating may be limited.

As HOW Galt continues to grow, organizers hope the dinners become a monthly reminder of what makes small communities so special: neighbors showing up for one another in meaningful ways.

For those who want to follow along, attend future dinners or learn more, stay connected and be part of what's just beginning, follow them on Facebook at (Helping One Woman - Galt), Instagram (@howgalt) or contact them at howgalt@helpingonewoman.org. ★

A Hoppin' Good Time

Continued from page 1
with stuffing to a plastic bag used as a parachute, with several proving to be effective.

Another long-held tradition, the pie-eating contest, is facilitated by the Galt Sunrise Rotary Club. There were two separate competitions held: one for adults and one for children. In total, 10 to 12 participants competed to see who could finish a pie the fastest.

Rotary President Rich Lozano told The Galt Herald that the club has been participating in the event for about 15 years and has consistently received positive feedback from folks who enjoy the tradition every year.

A regular contestant, an older man named Earl, is a longtime participant in the pie-eating contest and is known for helping fellow competitors.

"Earl has come back several years; he loves it," Lozano said. "And every year we kind of have him coach it (pie eating contest) a little bit."

"Earl has come back

several years; he loves it," Lozano said. "And every year we kind of have him coach it a little bit."

The community event also provided an opportunity for local businesses and organizations to connect directly with residents.

Among those present was Purrfectly Pawsible, a locally based animal rescue founded in 2016 that focuses on spay and neuter awareness. The nonprofit is dedicated to improving the lives of community cats and local residents through its Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNvR) efforts.

Gayleen Gomez, vice president of Purrfectly Pawsible, said this was the nonprofit's first time hosting a booth at the event, where it served as an informational space for residents to learn more about its work.

Two cats and two kittens, currently in the nonprofit's foster program, were also present at the booth.

"We hope that through our efforts we will lessen the burden on the shelters," Gomez said. "We are also trying to get information



Local youth play with stick horses during the Eggstravaganza and Kite Day, hosted by the Galt Area Historical Society on April 4. Photo by Idaly Valencia



Gayleen Gomez, vice president of Purrfectly Pawsible, poses with a kitten at her booth during the Eggstravaganza event on April 4. The nonprofit was present to raise awareness of its Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNvR) efforts. Photo by Idaly Valencia



Galt Sunrise Rotary Club members pose with the top three finishers from the adult pie-eating contest April 4 at the Galt Area Historical Society's Eggstravaganza at McFarland Ranch. Photo courtesy of Galt Sunrise Rotary Club

to the community about low-cost spay and neuter options for their pets."

She noted that in rural communities such as Galt, larger stray cat colonies can be more common, which has led to efforts like a past partnership with Cal-Waste to provide resources for spaying and neutering community cats

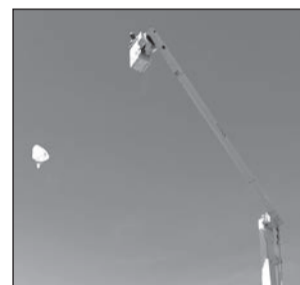
at its facility.

Other vendors were also present selling their products, including Ambre Shoneff of Sunday Soapery. Her booth featured handmade natural products described as luxury self-care items, including lip balms, lotion bars and soaps.

Shoneff, a Galt High

alumna, established her business in 2023. She said that although she is a local, it was her first time participating in the Eggstravaganza event and visiting the historic ranch.

Organizers said this year's event drew a smaller crowd than in previous years; however, the strong sense of community



Navarro Tree Service used its bucket truck to drop protective egg contraptions created by young attendees, who aimed to keep their eggs from cracking to earn a prize. Photo by Idaly Valencia

remained, and the smaller turnout created a calmer, less chaotic atmosphere that many attendees found more enjoyable. This especially worked out well for the children in attendance, who were originally limited to collecting 20 Easter eggs each from the 15,000 hidden around the ranch to ensure there would be enough for all participants. ★

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Local Receives Banner Bank's Highest Recognition

Banner Bank News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - A local Banner Bank employee has been selected to receive the Banner's Best award, representing the highest level of recognition within the company. This award celebrates Banner's top performing employees.

This employee received the award for exceeding their individual professional goals, demonstrating excellence within their profession and consistently delivering outstanding service to the Bank's clients, communities and their peers: Galt Branch Manager, Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager II Natalie Herrera Rivera.

"It's a privilege to



Pictured is Natalie Herrera Rivera, branch manager and assistant vice president at Banner Bank in Galt, who recently received the company's Banner's Best award, the highest recognition an employee can receive. Photo courtesy of Banner Bank

work alongside such talented professionals," said Banner Bank President

and Chief Executive Officer Mark Grescovich. "Their expertise, integrity and dedication to excellence strengthen our entire organization and the communities we serve."

Less than 4% of all Banner employees receive this award and recipients are selected by members of executive leadership.

Banner Bank is a Washington-chartered commercial bank that conducts business in Washington, Oregon, California and Idaho.

Banner offers a wide variety of commercial banking services and financial products to individuals and businesses and their employees.

For more information, visit Banner Bank at bannerbank.com. ★

Community Park Gets New Life Through Tree Project



The City of Galt partnered with local Cub Scouts Pack 238 on a tree-planting project at Community Park on Walnut Avenue to restore and enhance the park's tree canopy, highlighting an ongoing commitment to improving community parks. Photo courtesy of City of Galt

City of Galt News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - The City of Galt recently partnered with Cub Scouts Pack 238 on a tree planting project at Community Park at Walnut Avenue as part of ongoing efforts to restore and enhance the park's tree canopy.

City staff and scouts worked together to plant nine Chinese Pistache trees, replacing those lost over the years due to storm damage. This effort is part of the city's urban forestry program, which is focused on maintaining healthy, vibrant public spaces and supporting long-term

environmental sustainability.

The City's parks superintendent shared that trees are one of the most valuable investments in the community, providing lasting environmental benefits, enhancing the beauty of public spaces and ensuring shaded areas for future generations to enjoy.

Participating scouts included Reid Kleinfelter and Daniel Fernandez, Arrow of Light Scouts; and Joaquin Ordaz, Jr., a Webelos Scout. Through this project, Reid and Daniel completed their Citizenship required adventure, while Joaquin completed his My Community required adventure. ★

Measure R Funds, Military Equipment Usage Reviewed

Continued from page 1

\$331,166 while capital outlays came in at \$421,511, with total expenses 10.12% lower than expected due to department vacancies and costs associated with those positions.

While anticipated expenses dropped, the report indicated the decrease in ending fund balance of \$453,056 was a result of increasing costs of supplies and materials. The committee will continue to monitor revenues in 2026, and budget adjustments could be considered later this year.

In council comments on the report, Councilmember Shawn Farmer thanked Harvey and the other committee members, which met four times over 2024-2025, for their service. Farmer said he hears some people complain about the sales tax from time to time but reiterated its value.

"Measure R is very important to the community," he said. "Things like Measure R and Measure Q (1 cent sales tax for essential services passed in 2022) serve important purposes."

Farmer added that without Measure R, the police department wouldn't be able to purchase the services or pay for the added personnel covered by the revenue.

"Half a cent is a small price to pay for some of those things," Farmer said.

Oversight Committee Chair Harvey agreed, noting sales taxes that are imposed for specific things often don't go away once that objective is paid for.

"This is one I think is very important for the city," he added.

Council also unanimously approved an annual report from the police department on its usage of military equipment it has

purchased. The report is required under state law as part of a policy agencies must develop to fund, purchase and use military equipment.

The military equipment use report was approved as one of six items on the Consent Agenda. Consent agenda items are approved as a group unless a council member requests a separate discussion or action.

The report must include a summary of how the military equipment was used and the purpose of its use, a summary of any complaints received regarding usage, reports of any violations of the policy and total annual cost of each type of equipment including personnel, training, maintenance and other appropriate information. The report must also include the quantity possessed of each type of equipment and if

the agency intends to purchase additional equipment in the next year.

According to the report, the Galt Police Department has purchased eight drones, two each of four different models, which were deployed on 58 missions in 2025. Of these, 31 flights were for interior searches, search warrants, traffic collision photos, crime scene photos, outside agency assists and parade security.

Sixteen flights were for training, test flights or "other administrative activities." No complaints were received, and no violations of policy were recorded.

According to the military equipment inventory, the department spent \$68,535.26 on the drones.

"The policy memorializes the cost of each piece of equipment," the report states. ★

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Senior Bingo Weekly at Chabolla

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

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

Nominate Your Neighbor

The Galt Beautification Committee wants you to "nominate your neighbor." Has your neighbor recently completed a yard project? Does your neighbor have the best flowers in town or the best-looking yard? The Galt Beautification Committee wants to know.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

AA 24-Hour Hotline

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

Nar-Anon Family Group Meetings

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

TOPS Weekly Meetings

TOPS, Taking Off Pounds Sensibly, 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. ★

MEMORIAL

CARYL ANN HARDING • 09/22/1950 - 03/28/2026

Caryl Ann Harding, born on September 22, 1950, in Boston, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully on March 28, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family. She was a deeply cherished mother, grandmother, sister, and friend whose kindness and gentle spirit touched everyone who knew her.

Caryl eventually found her forever home in Lompoc, California, a place where she created lasting memories and built a life filled with love, comfort, and family.

Caryl was the beloved daughter of David W. Harding and Marie Rose Carros-Smalley, both of whom preceded her in passing. She was the eldest of her siblings—Joanne Boos, Gwynne Arment, Leslie Harding-Steed, David "Davey" Harding (preceded in passing), and Becky Ruiz—and from an early age, she embodied warmth, compassion, and quiet strength.

Affectionately known as "Candy," a nickname lovingly given to her by her father because of her sweet nature, Caryl lived up to that name every day of her life. She truly did not have a mean bone in her body. She was never confrontational, always gentle, and consistently kind. Her presence brought comfort, and her heart was open to everyone. To know her was to be loved by her.

Caryl built her career as a beautician in cosmetology, where she not only helped people look their best but also



made them feel valued and cared for. Her work reflected who she was—someone who uplifted others through both her talent and her kindness.

She found joy in life's simple and meaningful pleasures. She loved reading books, watching classic movies, and listening to "Oldies but Goodies." Her favorite song was "Angel Baby," and she especially loved the soundtrack from the movie American Graffiti. She would often dance to the music for hours, completely lost in the joy it brought her—a reflection of her light, free-spirited, and loving nature.

Caryl is survived by her loving children, Gerard Martin Aguilar and Elizabeth Marie Rivera, who will carry her

love forward every day. She was a proud and devoted grandmother to Ronni Renae Aguilar, Michael Rodriguez, Andrew Mejia, Johnathan G. Aguilar, and Joseph Rivera. She was preceded in passing by her beloved grandson, Gerard Martin Aguilar III.

She will always be remembered as a truly sweet, kind, and loving person—a woman whose gentle nature left a lasting impact on all who knew her. Her legacy is one of love, warmth, and quiet strength.

A memorial service will be held on April 20, 2026, at 12:00 PM at Starbuck-Lind Mortuary Lompoc, ca.

Burial will take place at Galt Cemetery, with details to be announced.

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



The Season Is in the Books

The NBA season has finally come to a close, and the Sacramento Kings face an uncertain future in many ways. Their coaching position is not among them however, with the announcement that Doug Christie will be retained for next season to mentor this group of veterans and youngsters one more time.

That decision comes with more than a few lifted eyebrows, as Christie came into question frequently this season with his decision making as it relates to rotations and much more.

Case in point was Doug McDermott who literally sat out the first half of the season, while finally getting playing time when half of the team went on the injured list. McDermott finished the season with 48 3-pointers on 39 percent shooting from beyond the arc.

Yes, the Sacramento Kings and their fan base have endured a gut-wrenching season as they managed a paltry 22 wins, making the 2025-26 season one of the worst since they landed in Sacramento over 40 years ago.

But the anemic 22 wins in all fairness doesn't tell the full story.

Injuries to key players like Domantas Sabonis and Keegan Murray robbed Sacramento of having any legitimate run at the playoffs, and as a result coach Christie and his staff had an unfettered opportunity to get a close look at the young talent on this team.

Players like Precious Achiuwa, Dylan Cardwell, Nique Clifford, Maxime Raynaud, Daequon Plowden, and even latecomer Killiam Hayes, made people sit up and take notice as they experienced NBA action under fire.

All acquitted themselves admirably although truth be told they are likely to become efficient bench players, as opposed to bonafide NBA starters.

That is not all bad, as Domantas Sabonis, Keegan Murray, De'Andre Hunter, Russell Westbrook, DeMar DeRozan and Zach Lavine represent a core of starters that have a proven track record.

The question is, what will the upcoming draft bring the Kings, and will the draft lottery be kind to them?

Sacramento finished with the fourth-worst record in the NBA tied with the Utah Jazz, so the likelihood of a high round draft choice although not a sure bet,

is a definite possibility.

Someone of the caliber of a Cameron Boozer, or A.J. Dybantsa would help cement the front court that the Kings have been in need of for many years.

Sacramento is banking that they made a good decision in trading for De'Andre Hunter, and by adding another big body to the front court in the upcoming draft, the Kings could take on an entirely different look.

Domantas Sabonis remains the player that brings legitimacy to the starting unit, but question marks remain as to whether Russell Westbrook and Zach Lavine will return for a second season.

Westbrook continues to defy mother nature, averaging 15 points, five boards and 6.7 assists while logging an average of 29 minutes per game. His leadership and effervescent attitude were unmistakable, and many are looking at him as a future coach in some capacity.

Are we disappointed in the 22-win season? Of course we are. But the handwriting is on the wall, and all eyes turn to G.M. Scott Perry as the Sacramento fan base pause in unison to see what skills he can bring to this team in the upcoming draft.

Last season brought the Kings Nique Clifford and Maxime Raynaud, and although solid role players, the Sacramento Kings are in dire need of an impact player.

Will Scott Perry become the GM that everyone wants to believe is the game changer for the Kings or will it be business as usual.

Another question mark for next season is much heralded Keegan Murray. While many considered this season to be likely his coming out year, injuries put that opportunity on the back burner, and that question will need to be answered next year.

I sat courtside and watched this former NCAA scoring champ drain 11 3-pointers in a row in his rookie season, finally ending the game with 12, setting an all-time Sacramento record for 3-pointers in a game. It was a magical night but left every fan wondering what the possible was.

Cross your fingers and say your prayers Sacramento fans, because answers to many questions are less than a month away!

All the best! ★

California Voters Will Face Dueling Ballot Propositions This Fall. Confusion is Likely



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

When California voters approved Proposition 13 in 1978, they forced a massive change in how government services are financed that continues to reverberate nearly a half-century later.

Prop. 13's limits on property taxes that had financed public schools and other units of local government for many decades forced fundamental changes in fiscal responsibilities — the state assuming education costs being just one example.

California media extensively covered Prop. 13's financial impacts at the time, and countless academic and journalistic analyses have done so since. But one aspect of its passage has been largely ignored.

California's political leadership in 1978 — Gov. Jerry Brown and a Legislature controlled by his fellow Democrats — did their best to torpedo Prop. 13 by placing a rival measure on the same primary election ballot. The alternative, Proposition 8, promised property tax relief for owner-occupied homes but denied it to commercial property.

Prop. 13 passed overwhelmingly but Prop. 8 lost narrowly. The failed counterplay was quickly forgotten as politicians — Brown most obviously — rushed to embrace the tax revolt. Brown even called himself a

“born-again tax cutter.”

Prop. 13 sparked an explosion of ballot initiatives that continues today. Although the practice of allowing initiatives to make law while bypassing the Legislature had been in place since 1912, it was scantily used until Prop. 13 demonstrated its power. Hundreds of initiatives have been proposed since — nearly a thousand just in the last 20 years.

And while the rates of qualification and passage are relatively tiny, voters can anticipate facing about a dozen ballot propositions every two years. Most faintly resemble, if at all, truly grassroots movements. The vast majority are sponsored by narrow economic or ideological interests seeking to gain financial or political advantages.

Backers will spend millions of dollars to draft and qualify their measures using paid signature-gathers to fill their petitions and many more millions to sell them to voters. Swing Strategies, a Sacramento political consulting firm that specializes in ballot measures, says placing a measure on the ballot can cost more than \$10 million, and campaigns can hit the \$100 million mark.

During a webinar on the 2026 initiative picture this week, Swing Strategies said 48 measures were originally proposed, 36 of them tried to make the ballot by collecting the required number of valid voter signatures and 17 are true contenders as the April 17 deadline for submitting petitions draws near.

The 17 contenders fit the mold of reflecting narrow interests. Many harken back to 1978, when politicians placed a rival measure on the ballot in hopes of killing Prop. 13.

For example, Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West (or SEIU-UHW), a huge health care worker union, has a measure to limit health care executives' compensation, and the California Hospital Association countered with a proposition to compel health care unions to tell members how much money they spend on politics.

Another example: Personal injury lawyers have a measure to hold ride-share companies liable for sexual assaults by drivers, while Uber has one to limit lawyers' fees in auto crash lawsuits.

There's also a quadruple play on taxes.

SEIU-UHW is sponsoring a 5% tax on the wealth of California billionaires to provide more health care money, and the California Teachers Association wants to make a temporary surtax on high-income Californians permanent.

Meanwhile, business and anti-tax groups propose making local government tax increases more difficult by increasing their vote thresholds — paying homage to Prop. 13. But a measure placed on the ballot by the Legislature would torpedo it by requiring a higher vote threshold for measures that raise tax increase vote thresholds.

That's a clone of the Prop. 13 duel 48 years ago. Some things never change.

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

If Either of us Die, Will the other Get a Social Security Survivor Benefit?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am 79. My husband is also 79 and we both receive Social Security benefits. We were both married before, and we married each other at the age of 58. Am I to understand correctly that when either of us dies, the surviving spouse is not eligible to collect the deceased spouse's Social Security benefits? Please correct me if I am wrong. **Signed: Curious Spouse**

Dear Curious Spouse: A surviving spouse only gets one benefit - either their own SS retirement amount, or their deceased spouse's amount, whichever is more. So, the Social Security benefit that the deceased was receiving at death will be paid to the surviving spouse, replacing any smaller SS payment the survivor was already collecting. To be sure you

are aware, the surviving spouse will also be eligible for a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255 (I know it isn't much, but it should be claimed anyway).

Also, unless the surviving spouse was already receiving a spousal benefit while both partners were living, the surviving spouse will need to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (or at the local SS field office) to make an appointment to apply for their survivor benefit.

One other thing to be aware of since you were both married before: if either of you die, and your first marriage lasted at least 10 years and your ex-spouse has also died, the surviving spouse will have a choice to collect a survivor benefit from either the ex-spouse, or the most recently deceased spouse, whichever amount is more. But, again, you can only collect one benefit payment as a surviving spouse — either from your ex-spouse or from your recently deceased spouse, whichever benefit is higher.

FYI, survivor benefits are a confusing area of Social Security, so you

might also find informative this article I recently published, as it goes more deeply into surviving spouse benefits (including benefits for surviving minor children and surviving adult disabled children). Read the article titled “Demystifying Social Security Survivor Benefits” at www.amacfoundation.org/demystifying-social-security-survivor-benefits/. Of course, if you have any further questions, please contact us at 1.888.750.2622, or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. There is never a fee for our services.

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So much for journalistic objectivity.

The BBC science editor covering the launch of Artemis II couldn't contain her enthusiasm when the first plumes of smoke spread out from the launch pad. “Oh, my goodness! Oh, my goodness!” she exclaimed, clapping like a schoolgirl.

As the rocket lifted off, she got visibly emotional: “It's not just what you see and you hear as the rocket lifts off. You can feel the force of it through your body. This is the most powerful rocket that NASA has ever built!”

Rebecca Morelle can be forgiven for falling in love with the subject of her story. A rocket launch is an awe-inspiring event -- a controlled explosion hurling a gigantic projectile into the ether. There's the sheer power, the unavoidable risk, the questing spirit. A rocket feels and looks like the future, and there's something very human about gazing into the sky in wonder.

NASA hasn't been glamorous in decades. Once upon a time, kids were putting up glossy photos of Apollo rockets and astronauts on their bedroom walls. But the Apollo program was killed long ago -- civil-rights activists were among those mobilizing against it, oddly enough -- and nothing has captured the imagination the same way since.

The space shuttle made space flight routine and

Yes, Boldly Go

boring, and there was nothing particularly ambitious about the International Space Station. Rovers and telescopes were worthy endeavors, but not thrilling.

There is no substitute for manned space flight. The Artemis project is not exactly boldly going where no man has gone before, since it seeks to return to the moon after we were there half a century ago. But sending astronauts 250,000 miles from Earth as part of a project to eventually set up a base on the moon is the most enterprising NASA project since Apollo.

This is all to the good, but Artemis has been plagued by delays and cost overruns. NASA hasn't been able to replicate the urgent, mission-driven approach that characterized the Apollo program. It took eight years to get to the moon the first time, while Artemis has been going for nine years and we still aren't back.

NASA projects tend to get caught in a cycle: One president proposes a big new initiative, only for it to get canceled by his successor, who proposes his own initiative that is canceled in turn. The worst case scenario is that a Democratic president elected in 2028 nixes Artemis because President Trump favored it.

That said, the space expert Robert Zubrin notes that space is particularly appealing to Americans as a people defined, in part, by the frontier. JFK talked of “the New Frontier,” and the famous

open of the TV show “Star Trek” called space “the final frontier.”

Certainly, the American space program is a marked contrast with that of the Europeans, the European Space Agency. NASA's budget is several times larger. We've sent men to the moon, whereas they haven't. And we've sent multiple successful landers and rovers to Mars (the first lander in 1976, the first rover in 1997), whereas the ESA has only managed two unsuccessful landers.

Getting back to the moon is nice, but it is a manned mission to Mars that should be our ultimate objective. It would truly be another giant leap for mankind, opening up a vista of homo sapiens as a multi-planetary species. The technological challenge would be significant, requiring Apollo-like exertions, while there's much of scientific importance to be learned on the Red Planet.

Right now, the most popular movie in America is “Project Hail Mary,” a sci-fi thriller about a desperate mission into space. The film plays to our inherent interest in journeys into the unknown, and to our admiration for those who have the courage to explore new worlds, from Francis Drake to Neil Armstrong. Artemis II tapped into the same thing, which is why that BBC reporter -- and so many of the rest of us -- were so moved.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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MPG
WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

Capital Region Small Business Awards Set for May 6 at Memorial Auditorium

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Office of Economic Development, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the City of Sacramento's Office of Innovation and Economic Development and the California State Treasurer's Office invite the public to attend the Capital Region Small Business Awards, a premier luncheon and business expo celebrating the entrepreneurs and small businesses that power the regional economy.

The event will take place Wednesday, May 6, at the historic Memorial Auditorium as part of Capital Region Small Business Week, which falls during National Small Business Week (May 3-9, 2026).

Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with fellow business owners, exchange insights and celebrate the achievements of this year's award recipients. The event will feature a business expo highlighting available resources and services designed to support small business growth across the region.

National Small Business Week highlights the critical role small businesses play in driving innovation, creating jobs and strengthening communities across the country.

The Capital Region Small Business Awards is the signature regional celebration that brings together local leaders and entrepreneurs whose innovation, resilience and community impact continue to strengthen the Sacramento region.

"Small businesses shape the character and strength



The event will take place Wednesday, May 6, at the historic Memorial Auditorium as part of Capital Region Small Business Week, which falls during National Small Business Week. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

of our communities," said Crystal Bethke, Director of the Sacramento County Office of Economic Development. "This event is all about celebrating those leading the way in growth and impact."

Leaders from local, state and federal agencies echoed Bethke's comments.

"Small businesses are essential to Sacramento's economic vitality and to the vibrancy of our neighborhoods," said Sacramento City Manager Maraskeshia Smith. "We are proud to partner in this year's Capital Region Small Business Awards to recognize the entrepreneurs and innovators who are driving growth, creating jobs and shaping the future of our region. Their impact is felt across our community, and we remain committed to supporting their continued success."

U.S. Small Business Administration's Sacramento Director Heather Luzzi added, "On behalf of the U.S. Small

Business Administration's Sacramento District Office, it is my great honor to congratulate the outstanding Small Business Awardees from our region. These exceptional entrepreneurs and businesses exemplify the innovation, resilience and community impact that make America's 36.2 million small business sector the engine of our economy. Their achievements not only strengthen our local communities across northeastern California but also highlight the vital role small businesses play in creating jobs and building a stronger future for all. We are proud to celebrate their success during National Small Business Week and look forward to their continued contributions."

California Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA said, "California's small businesses are the backbone of our economy, driving innovation, creating jobs and strengthening communities across the Capital Region. This event is a powerful reminder of the talent and

innovation found in our small business community. We are honored to celebrate these outstanding entrepreneurs and remain dedicated to helping them access the Capital and support they need to continue growing and creating opportunity in the region and across California."

"National Small Business Week celebrates the resilience, innovation and pride of America's small businesses," said U.S. Small Business Administration's Pacific Regional Administrator Steven Snow. "Their dedication powers our economy, builds a stronger middle class and helps communities across the nation grow and prosper."

The Sacramento County Office of Economic Development is pleased to announce the 2026 Sacramento County Changemaker Awardee, recognizing an exemplary business in the unincorporated County for its leadership, innovation and meaningful contributions

to the community. This year's Changemaker of the Year is Black Widow Tattoo Studio, located in North Highlands, celebrated for its positive impact and dedication to the local community.

In addition, the 2026 Small Business Award honorees highlight the very best of the Capital Region's small business community. Region IX, which includes California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, will recognize White Bear Construction, Inc. of Alturas as Rural Small Business of the Year and Thermal Conductive Bonding, Inc. of Sacramento as Manufacturer of the Year.

The SBA Sacramento District Office will honor several outstanding local businesses and organizations, including Creekside Commercial Builders, Inc. of McClellan as Contractor of the Year, Capital Airshow Group of Sacramento as Non-Profit of the Year and Trinity Builders, LLC of Plumas Lake as Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year. J Vollbrecht Consulting Inc. of Escalon will be recognized as Woman-Owned Small Business of the Year and Maqsood Ali of TSI Engineering, Inc. in North Highlands will receive the Small Businessperson of the Year award. These honorees exemplify excellence, innovation and a strong commitment to the Capital Region's economic growth.

To register for the event visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/capital-region-small-business-awards-tickets-1985390469339?aff=oddttd-creator&keep_tld=true. ★

Sacramento's First Integrated Healthcare Campus for Medi-Cal and Uninsured Residents Breaks Ground

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County and WellSpace Health leaders marked a significant step forward in expanding access to behavioral health services April 7, breaking ground on a new Community Wellness Campus in South Sacramento.

The 13-acre campus, located in the Little Saigon community, represents a major investment in addressing the growing need for behavioral, dental and physical health care across the region, especially for residents who rely on Medi-Cal or remain uninsured. County leaders joined project partners and community members for a ceremonial groundbreaking, highlighting the continued focus on building a more connected and accessible system of care.

"This project reflects Sacramento County's commitment to meeting people where



Sacramento County and WellSpace Health leaders broke ground on a new Community Wellness Campus in South Sacramento on April 7. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

they are and expanding access to critical behavioral health services," said District Two Supervisor, Patrick Kennedy. "As the need continues to grow, investments like this help ensure our community members can get the care and support they need."

The first phase of the project includes a 32-bed Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC), designed to provide 24-hour residential treatment for

adults who need a higher level of behavioral health care. The facility will include residential living spaces, treatment and group rooms and outdoor areas to support recovery in a stable, supportive environment. The 24,700 square foot facility will also provide residential treatment for adults who require mental health care beyond what is currently offered at WellSpace Health's Co-Occurring Behavioral

Health Continuum.

The \$23.57 million needed for the construction of the MHRC comes from round 3 of the State of California's Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) grant. In addition, the County will provide a required grant match of \$1.98 million.

Once complete, WellSpace Health will operate the facility, with Sacramento County

maintaining priority access to available beds. This partnership will help streamline how individuals are connected to care, reducing barriers and improving outcomes for those in need of services.

"The Mental Health Rehabilitation Center is essential to Sacramento County's commitment to improving behavioral health services and addressing the growing need for behavioral healthcare across the region," said Dr. Ryan Quist, Behavioral Health Services Director for Sacramento County. "This stable and supportive living environment for individuals in recovery will help break down the traditional barriers to behavioral health treatment and support. With their history in behavioral health services, WellSpace Health will be a great partner for this resource."

The facility is expected to open in 2027. To learn more about current and upcoming projects visit <https://dhs.saccounty.gov/BHS/Pages/BHS-Home.aspx>. ★

SCOE Hosts Fourth Annual Early Learning Conference

'Belonging by Design, Powered by STEAM'

Sacramento County Office of Education News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - High-quality learning experiences matter deeply because they help lay the foundation for children's lifelong learning, development and sense of belonging. Events like the annual Early Learning conference create important space for educators to learn together, share ideas and strengthen the practices that help all young children thrive.

On Saturday, March 21, the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) Early Learning

department proudly hosted the 4th Annual Early Learning: At the Heart of It All conference, bringing together more than 250 early learning and care professionals who serve children from infancy through kindergarten. This year's theme, "Belonging by Design. Powered by STEAM," highlighted the powerful role science, technology, engineering, art and math can play in creating learning environments where all children feel included, engaged and supported. The conference offered a full day of learning, connection and joyful exploration, featuring a keynote

and masterclass by UC Irvine Professor Dr. Andres Bustamante. His presentations helped set the tone for the day by emphasizing the value of meaningful, interactive learning experiences that nurture both curiosity and belonging.

Participants also attended one of two breakout sessions focused on hands-on, interactive learning. Together, these sessions demonstrated how STEAM can naturally support learning by offering multiple ways for children with different strengths, interests and learning needs to participate, express themselves

and thrive. All were excited to bring back new ideas to implement in a wide variety of settings, such as family childcare homes, preschool centers, district programs and after-school programs. State partners from the California Department of Education and Department of Social Services joined the fun.

A special highlight of the conference was the Count, Play, Explore STEAM Room, designed and facilitated by the SCOE Early Learning team. In this interactive space, participants explored materials and activities independently

while facilitators stood nearby to support, guide and explain key learning elements. The room gave educators a chance to experience the kind of playful, engaging and inclusive learning environment that helps young children feel a true sense of belonging.

From inspiring presentations and interactive sessions to shared meals, playful learning and meaningful connections, the day reflected SCOE Early Learning's commitment to supporting educators and advancing high-quality early learning experiences for all children. ★

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. 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 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. This year's campout includes the California State Old Time Open Fiddle & Picking Championships on Friday and Saturday. Tickets and more information at californiablugrass.org. 413 E. Lockeford St., Lodi.

Friday, April 17 through Sunday, April 26

"High School Musical" – presented by Tokay High School. Get ready for a feel-good night at the theater. This high-energy production delivers all the fun you love, with catchy songs and lively choreography. Runs Friday-Sunday each week. Tickets and more information at visit-odi.com. Sydney Halsey Theater, 1111 W. Century Blvd., Lodi.

Friday, April 17

Tacos & Tequila – 6 p.m. at St. Bernadette's Church. Community Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CCBVI) hosts this event to raise revenue to support scholarships for youth with blindness or low vision. Dinners include tacos, rice, beans, chips, salsa and water.

Choose between tequila shots or mocktails. Tickets available at ticketstripe.com/tacosandtequila-2026. 2555 Country Club Blvd., Stockton.

Saturday, April 18

Community Garage Sale – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Galt Market grounds. Cleaning out the house? Turn your gently used items into cash. Join us as a seller and connect with shoppers looking for second-hand treasures. This event is dedicated to resale and garage sale items only. No new merchandise is permitted. Spaces are limited. Reserve your booth today by calling 209-366-7168 or email vlesley@cityof-galt.org. 610 Chabolla Ave.

Guided Paddle along the Cosumnes River – 9 a.m. to noon at the Cosumnes River Preserve. Join experienced naturalists for a leisurely paddle up the Cosumnes River and its peaceful sloughs. Bring your own boat (canoe, kayak, SUP), paddle and PFD. Register at Eventbrite.com. We will meet at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center parking lot. 13501 Franklin Blvd.

Barnyard Biofest – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at World of Wonders Science Museum. Scientists of all ages are invited to a special hands-on event focused on exploring ecosystems through real-world connections. This interactive experience helps guests to understand how animals, habitats and humans all work together to maintain a healthy, balanced environment. Tickets and more information at wovsciencemuseum.org. 2 N. Sacramento St., Lodi.

Victorian Tea – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., hosted by the Women's Club of Lodi. Step into a bygone era and experience an afternoon of timeless elegance at Lodi's beloved 13th annual event. Guests are encouraged to embrace the spirit of the event by wearing tea attire or a favorite hat: perfect for adding to the festive and elegant atmosphere. Proceeds provide funding for scholarships and local charities. Tickets and information at 209-747-3212. 325 W. Pine St., Lodi.

Sunday, April 19

Stockton Earth Day Festival – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Victory Park. Join us for this popular community event that helps people recognize the importance of caring for our planet and its natural resources. The theme of this year's festival is "Our

Power, Our Planet." Through diverse and engaging exhibitions, hands-on activities, and arts and entertainment, the community gets together to learn how to address environmental issues affecting us locally and nationally. Attendance is free. More information at earthdaystockton.com. 1001 N. Pershing & Argonne, Stockton.

Annual Sikh Parade and Festival – noon to 4:30 p.m. at the Stockton Sikh Temple. Every year, rain or shine, an increasing number of Sikh devotees and spectators flock to the Temple for festivities and the time-honored tradition of Nagar Kirtan, a parade featuring devotional hymns. All are welcomed to this free event. 1930 S. Grant St., Stockton.

Friday, April 24 through Sunday, April 26

San Joaquin Asparagus Festival – 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds. Bring your family and friends and enjoy Asparagus Alley treats, kids' zone with carnival rides and games, monster truck rides, vendors and more. Tickets and more information at sanjoaquinasparagusfestival.net. 1658 S. Airport Way, Stockton.

Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26

Spring Makers' Fair – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at Lavender Estates. Get ready for a weekend of shopping, creativity, community and lavender bliss. Explore handcrafted treasures from local makers; there's something for everyone. And remember to stop by our all-things-lavender farm store for products that will bring a touch of serenity to your home. 9050 Tavernor Road, Wilton.

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, May 9. 1000 C St.

Senior Bingo – most Mondays except holidays, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Chabolla Community Center. Free play for seniors. Come for the fun and socialization. Next date Monday, April 20. 600 Chabolla Ave.

Twin Cities Cruisers Cars and Coffee – last Sunday of every month, 8 a.m. to 11

a.m. at "Life's Grind" coffee house in the Raley's shopping center. All makes and models are welcome. 10420 Twin Cities Road.

Widowed Persons Social Club – April 17, 10 a.m.: Pinochle at Elk Grove United Methodist Church, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd. A small donation to the church is expected. Contact Jim at 916-768-1923.

April 22, 1 p.m., Book club at Elk Grove United Methodist Church, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd. A small donation to the church is expected. Contact Merrylyn at 916-549-4264.

April 23, Noon: No-host lunch and Bunco at Patty's Pizza, 8591 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact Lois at 916-212-4196 or Susie at 916-798-0007.

April 24, 10 a.m.: Mixed variety game day 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 29, 5 p.m., Cattlemen's Steakhouse, 9105 W. Stockton Blvd, Elk Grove. Contact Addie at 916-682-3609.

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

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, 7 p.m., Elks Lodge, 9240 Survey Road, Elk Grove. Dinner at 6 p.m.

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

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

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

VFW Post 2073 – second Thursday. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., District 56 Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove. ★

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It's the Mighty Mustang's Big Day

It's got sleek lines and a powerful engine; its name speaks of wild places and adventurous times. For generations it was the car of choice for action heroes and spies alike; even James Bond drove one in the movie "Goldfinger." For some it was the very flavor of summer sunsets and night drives on youth's misadventures, but it always brought them home safely.

I am talking about the Ford Mustang, of course, and today, National Ford Mustang Day celebrates this incredible and iconic piece of American engineering.

The Ford Mustang was first introduced to the world in April 1964. The World's Fair in New York was in full swing, and this car was Ford's introduction as the car of the future. The introduction of the Mustang also was the introduction of the first Pony Car, to wit, a line of small sporty cars with sleek lines and an affordable price tag.

Sales of the Mustang proved that this car was going to become an American favorite, with well over 400,000 sales in the first year it was in production, an unprecedented success for an



unprecedented vehicle.

The muscle car of the time was the Thunderbird, and that beauty was the one that every serious sports car fanatic wanted to own. The Mustang came into existence with the idea not of replacing that vehicle but instead putting its like within reach of the working class. Such was its popularity that over 500 clubs celebrating the Mustang came into existence within just years of its release. This is the kind of fanaticism that's usually saved for classic cars, but the Mustang just rolled right in and took its place as a new classic right off the bat.

Such was the popularity of the Mustang that 60 years later over 9 million of them have been sold, and National Ford Mustang Day celebrates this vehicle that came out of nowhere to become an

American institution.

All over the country (and indeed, all over the world) festivals and celebrations are held that honor this vehicle. Sixty years of different models of this line are brought out by enthusiasts, most maintained in impeccable shape, standing as an icon of their time. National Ford Mustang Day presents an opportunity to really appreciate what American engineering can do, and how a car can change the face of the automotive industry.

Oh! I have such fond memories of the '64, maybe '65 red Mustang sporting white interior and white rag top owned by my friend's dad. He would let us drive it to run errands if we got all her home chores done. and coming from a small town up north we thought we were "all that and a bag of chips" driving it around. Fun times and great memories.

On a totally different note, today is also National Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet Day. I'll bet you didn't know there is a day for that. Whoa! Are medicine cabinets still around? Well, if you

have one, then today is the day you need to give it a much-needed cleaning.

Remove any and all expired over the counter and prescription drugs to keep your family safe. Plus, remove those half-used little sample packets of cologne, soaps and dental items, and sample bottles of shampoo, conditioner and hair spray. Toss those one-time-use razors that you have used 10 times already.

And do you really need all those multi-colored eye shadows and lipsticks that that you used once and thought never again? But yet you are still hanging on to them. Toss them: out they go. Y

our medicine cabinet needs a good wipe down and now you can store what you want to keep and be satisfied with a job well done.

Word to the wise – Mother's Day is in a bit more than three weeks. It may be a good time to start planning Mom's special day. Candy, flowers and dinner is a good start.

Until next week – be strong, be courageous, make memories. ★

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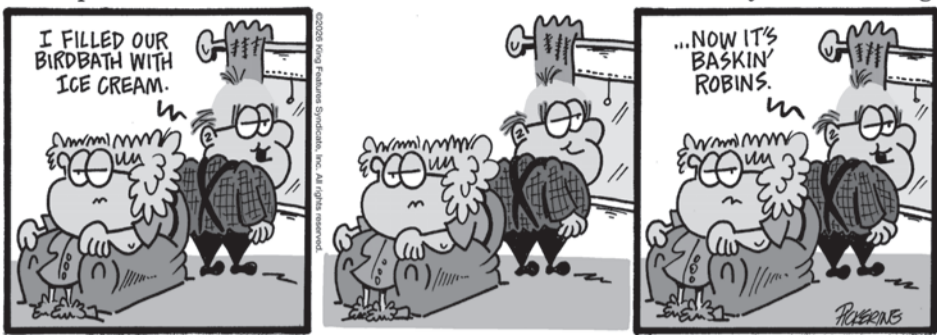
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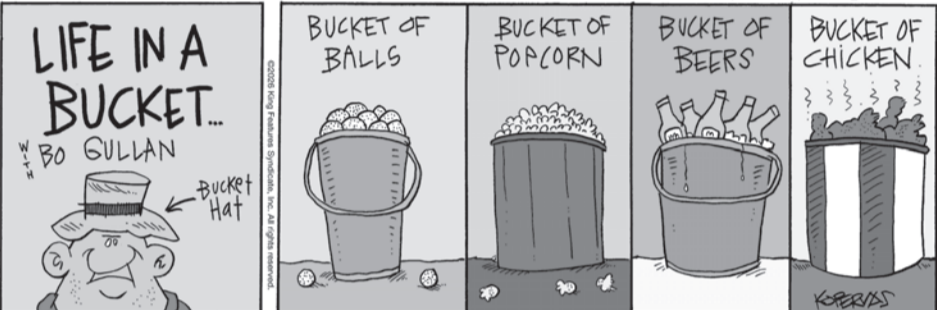
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 - Hoodwink
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 - Bypass
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 - Orchestra member
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 - Family room staple
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 - Stockholm dwellers
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 - Silage
 - Almond-induced state?
 - *Jordan or Phelps
 - *Female player with most Open Era Grand Slams
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 - Practical
 - Stopped sleeping
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 - End of a fuse?
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- DOWN**
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 - *Boxer a.k.a. The People's Champion
 - Kingdom in South Pacific
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 - Low on hemoglobin
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 - *O Rei of soccer
 - Throw a line
 - Steer clear of
 - Send to a specialist,

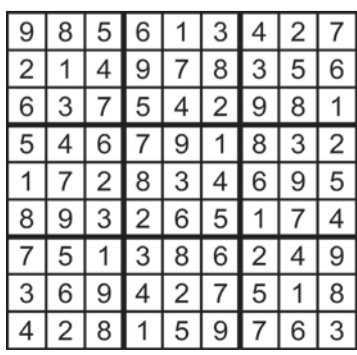


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 - Johnny Nash's "I Can See Clearly Now"
 - West African people
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 - *Hall of Famer Bob Feller's home state
 - Hoofbeat sound
 - Nature walk
 - Narrow aperture
 - Zilches
 - Away from wind
 - Many, many moons
 - Approx.

A New Voice on the Fairway: Bowling Takes the Helm of Liberty Ranch Boys Golf

Story and photo by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Brian Bowling did not need much convincing. When the head coaching position opened for the Liberty Ranch boys golf program, his son – a freshman on the team – encouraged him to apply. So did the friends he regularly plays golf with. And when the opportunity presented itself to give back to a community he cares deeply about while supporting young athletes, Bowling decided the time was right.

“I was already familiar with several of the players and aware of the success the program had under Coach Turpin,” Bowling said. “It felt like a natural opportunity to give back to the community, support these young athletes, and be part of something meaningful.”

This season, Bowling leads a squad of eight Hawks boys, a young roster with enormous potential and, by his own account, a future that looks even brighter than the present.

Bowling’s path to the sideline is shaped by nearly three decades of golfing and a lifetime of mentoring that began long before he ever thought about coaching a high school team. During his college years, he returned home to help raise and coach his younger siblings, who went on to excel in both football and baseball. That experience, he says, sparked a lifelong appreciation for



Coach Brian Bowling poses with his two top golfers, Matthew Bowling and Hunter Rhoner.

developing young athletes.

“While I once considered a career in teaching, life took me in a different direction,” he said. “Now, more than 20 years later, I have two children of my own. My oldest is in his second year of college, and my youngest is a freshman on this team.”

His personal golf story stretches back about 30 years, beginning with rounds alongside his grandparents in eighth grade and continuing through his high school years. Bowling had aspirations to compete in football at the collegiate level, but a serious leg injury in 1997 redirected his focus entirely toward golf. It proved to be a pivotal turn. Over the years he has maintained a 3-5 handicap, competed in club

events, team competitions and Northern California Golf Association events, and most recently participated in a Sacramento 4-ball qualifier in Monterey.

“Golf has become much more than a sport for me,” he said. “It’s a release, a challenge and a constant teacher. It has also played a role in my professional life, as many meaningful business relationships are built on the course.”

Bowling’s formal coaching background is rooted in football, where he served as a team captain through high school before returning home during college to coach his younger brother’s Pop Warner teams and later assist at the high school level. He also managed a Babe Ruth baseball

team in Rio Vista that produced several successful seasons: not just competitively, but in the personal development of its players.

“All of these experiences shape my approach,” he said. “Focus on fundamentals, lead by example and prioritize development both on and off the course.”

One of the most significant developments of this season has been the team’s arrangement to practice and play at Woodbridge Country Club: a facility where Bowling now serves on the executive council. He is quick to clarify, however, that his involvement with the club came after his decision to coach.

“When I applied, my focus was entirely on coaching,” he said. Working alongside Coach

Petersen, who is also connected to Woodbridge, the two presented a vision to the club’s golf committee and board. The proposal was approved, and the results have exceeded expectations. “The players have represented themselves and the program with class, and the feedback from membership has been incredibly positive.”

The arrangement gives the Hawks access to one of the premier practice facilities in the region, along with three distinct course layouts. But Bowling sees something beyond the physical advantages.

“The club also offers something just as valuable: the opportunity for these young men to learn about professionalism, relationships and the social side of the game,” he said. “Many of our opponents don’t have that same level of experience here. Woodbridge is also home to some of the most accomplished golfers in the surrounding area, and those members are quick to offer words of encouragement or tips they’ve learned throughout their careers. That outside mentoring can be invaluable.”

On the course, Bowling’s coaching philosophy centers on the fundamentals, particularly the short game.

“Everyone wants to hit the ball farther, but real success comes from mastering the short game,” he said. “We place a strong emphasis on putting, chipping and course management, because those are the areas that truly impact

scores.” Equally important to him is the mental side of the game. “Golf tests your patience, focus and resilience. A bad shot is inevitable; the key is how you respond. Golf mirrors life in many ways. It challenges you, humbles you and forces you to grow.”

With a young roster, Bowling has placed an emphasis on building leadership from within. He points to Hunter Rhoner as someone who has set the standard, not just as one of the team’s top performers, but as a mentor to his teammates.

“His willingness to help teammates, whether on the range or on the course, sets the standard for what we want this program to represent,” Bowling said.

His goals for the season extend beyond the scorecard. While competing for a league title is absolutely on the agenda, Bowling is equally invested in the growth he sees happening every day.

“In a short time, I’ve seen every player improve, reach personal milestones and contribute to the growth of their teammates,” he said. “Championships are earned, but character is built, and that’s what lasts.”

With nearly the entire roster expected to return next season, the future of Liberty Ranch boys’ golf under Bowling’s watch looks promising. For anyone at Liberty Ranch still on the fence about picking up a club, his message is direct: Golf is a challenging and rewarding sport that tests and humbles you, but it also gives back in ways that extend far beyond the course.

For eight Hawks this spring, that lesson is already well underway at Woodbridge Country Club. ★

POLICE LOGS

During the time period of April 7 to April 13, Galt Police received and responded to a variety of calls, resulting in six arrests.

April 7

7:42 a.m., Theft reported, Oak Avenue.
8:57 a.m., Parole/Probation Search/Adult Arrest, Raven Brook Drive.
1:12 p.m., Vehicle Accident-Injury, Chabolla Avenue/South Lincoln Way.

April 8

10:20 a.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Little Caesars Pizza, C Street.
10:54 a.m., Vehicle Accident-Injury, Galt Market on Meladee Lane.

April 9

3:47 a.m., Domestic Violence/Adult Arrest, Smith Rentals on 2nd Street.

April 11

11:57 a.m., Burglary-Auto reported, Galt Food Center on A Street: Window

broken out of black Kia and money was taken from the glove compartment.

April 12

1:27 p.m., Stolen Vehicle reported, Vintage Oak Avenue.
3:01 p.m., Battery reported, F Street/2nd Street: Male adult with “rat tail hair,” wearing all red in a black Honda Accord; in road rage incident with reporting party. Reporting party’s car was blocked; a Gatorade bottle allegedly was thrown at him. Subject then allegedly punched the window out of driver side and punched reporting party in the face. Reporting party refused case report.
6:10 p.m., Theft reported, Tractor Supply Company on Twin Cities Road.

April 13

10:48 a.m., Narcotics Violation/Adult Arrest, G Street.
3:02 p.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Lariat Loop. ★

MEETING MINDERS

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. ★

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LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE

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Warriors, Hawks Shine at SVC League Meet No. 2

Lamson Sweeps Hurdles, Jones Leads Galt Women in Strong Showing for Both Programs

By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

EL DORADO, CA (MPG) - The Sierra Valley Conference's second league meet of the 2026 season delivered another afternoon of stand-out performances from both Galt High and Liberty Ranch, with athletes from both programs earning top-five finishes across the track and field spectrum. Liberty Ranch senior Michael Lamson turned in perhaps the day's most dominant individual effort, while Galt's Morgan Jones continued to prove herself one of the most versatile athletes in the conference.

First Place Highlights

Lamson was the story of the day on the track, sweeping both hurdles events in impressive fashion. The Liberty Ranch senior won the 110-meter hurdles in a personal best



Michael Lamson runs the 110 hurdles at the SVC league meet. Courtesy photos

16.70 and followed it up with another first-place finish in the 300-meter hurdles, setting yet another personal best at 42.77. His dominance in both events on the same afternoon underscored why he is one of the most complete athletes in the SVC.

In the field, Liberty Ranch junior Daniel Swearinger claimed first

in the shot put with a personal best heave of 39-09, a throw that continues to signal his development as one of the top field athletes in the league.

Galt Men's Highlights

Sophomore Amilio Gomez had an outstanding day for the Warriors, placing third in the varsity 100 meters at 11.81 and third in the 200 meters with a personal best 24.83. Classmate Mark Grammer placed fifth in the 400 meters at 55.85 and fifth in the 200 at 25.24. MC Azubuike finished ninth in the varsity 100 at 11.81 and took third in the high jump at 5-10.

In distance, Alejandro Herrera was steady as ever, placing third in the 800 meters at 2:10.18 and fourth in the 1600 at 4:48.24. Dominic Gonzalez backed him up with a sixth-place finish in

the 800 at 2:14.28. Daniel Crownover and David Espinoza continued their strong distance work, with Crownover placing seventh in the 3200 at 11:38.51 and Espinoza ninth at 12:00.17.

The Galt men's relay squads were competitive as well. The 4x100 team of Gomez, Grammer, Saelee and Azubuike placed fourth at 45.81, while the 4x400 squad of Grammer, Gomez, Azubuike and McEwen finished fourth at 3:48.88. The 4x800 team of Crownover, Espinoza, Gonzalez and Herrera earned second place with a strong 9:08.33.

Liberty Ranch Men's Highlights

Beyond Lamson's hurdles sweep, the Hawks had several other noteworthy performances. In the 300-meter hurdles, freshman Gunnar Rohner placed second with a personal best 45.35 and Daniel Sosa

added third at 47.18, giving Liberty Ranch a sweep of the top three spots in that event.

The Hawks' 4x100 relay team of Lamson, Sosa, Rangel and Ramos placed third at 44.99, and the 4x400 squad of Lamson, Sosa, Rangel and Malakai Gomez took second at 3:44.72.

Cutler Pérez placed third in the shot put with a personal best 39-03 and eighth in discus at a personal best 87-10. Sophomore Kyvin Vang cleared a personal best 11-10 for second place in the pole vault.

Galt Women's Highlights

Morgan Jones was once again the standout performer for Galt's women, placing third in the 200 meters with a personal best 28.34, second in the 100-meter hurdles at 17.74 and third in both the high jump at 4-08 and long jump at 14-08.50: four top-three finishes in a single meet.

Kristine Meixner had an outstanding afternoon of her own, finishing second in the varsity 100 meters at 13.62, a season best. Emily Razo placed fifth in the 1600 at 6:03.62 and fourth in the 3200 at 13:43.84. The Galt women's 4x800 relay team of Meixner, Aragon, Corral and Razo earned second place at 11:36.28, while the 4x400 squad of Feilbach, Olivia Rodriguez, Kaylee Meixner and Kristine

Meixner placed fourth at 4:57.79.

Liberty Ranch Women's Highlights

The Hawk women were equally impressive across the sprint events. Myleah Keiser placed third in the 100 meters at 13.66, a personal best, while Kamrynn Blevins took fourth at 13.72 and Kimberly Rodriguez sixth at 13.83. In the 200 meters, Blevins placed fourth at 28.68 and Rodriguez fifth at 28.86. Marwa Yosra ran a personal best 1:05.01 to place second in the 400 meters. The Liberty Ranch 4x100 relay team of Keiser, Rodriguez, Blevins and Trujillo took second at 52.35, and the 4x400 squad of Ayala, Yosra, Gorelick and Rodriguez placed third at 4:33.57.

In the hurdles, Faviola Vasquez turned in a strong showing with a personal best fourth place finish in the 100-meter hurdles at 17.99 and fourth in the 300 meter hurdles at 51.64. In the field, Arianna Barnes placed third in shot put at 27-00 and fourth in discus at 79-07, while Kylin Keeler added seventh in shot put and seventh in discus.

Both programs now continue to build toward the championship portion of the SVC season, with momentum firmly on the side of athletes from both Galt High and Liberty Ranch. ★

GALT HERALD ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Daniel Swearinger
Liberty Ranch Track & Field



Michael Lamson
Liberty Ranch Track & Field

Photos by Paige Lampson

Galt, Liberty Ranch Players Join Regional Team for Off-Season Play



Warrior quarterback Robert Rubio follows through after throwing.



Hawk quarterback Ryan Ogas looks to place the ball.

By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The football season may be over, but for a handful of local players from Galt High School and Liberty Ranch, the work never stopped. Three area athletes – Liberty Ranch quarterback Ryan Ogas, Galt High quarterback Robert Rubio and Liberty Ranch receiver Enzo Diaz – have spent part of their off-season competing with G7 Elite 7on7, a club team that is quickly making a name for itself in the Sacramento regional football scene.

G7 Elite is the brainchild of SteelProductions, a local media company that recognized an opportunity to give talented young players meaningful off-season competition while building a team culture that extends beyond any single school

or program. Launched about two months ago, the club has already assembled an impressive and diverse roster of freshmen, sophomores and juniors drawn from schools across the Sacramento area, including Galt High, Liberty Ranch, Woodcreek, Ponderosa, Granite Bay, Grant, Twelve Bridges, Oakmont, Lincoln, Placer and Sacramento High. And according to those involved, the roster is still growing.

The team recently tested itself at a 7-on-7 tournament held at John F. Kennedy High School and the results were encouraging. G7 Elite went 3-2 on the day, picking up wins against quality competition and showing flashes of what this young program is capable of when the pieces come together.

For Ogas and Rubio, two quarterbacks who

spend their respective high school seasons on opposite sidelines, the experience of competing on the same team has been something different entirely. In a 7-on-7 format – which removes linemen from the equation and places the entire emphasis on passing, route running, coverage and decision-making – quarterbacks are tested in ways that translate directly to their development heading into the next high school season. The fast-paced, high-repetition nature of club 7-on-7 sharpens reads, builds chemistry with pass catchers and forces young signal-callers to process the game at an accelerated pace.

Diaz, working as a pass catcher in the open-field environment that 7-on-7 was built for, brings the athleticism that has made him a weapon for the



Enzo Diaz is ready to receive. Photos courtesy of Braden Tanous

Hawks and now gives him a platform to develop his game against competition from across the region.

What makes G7 Elite particularly compelling is the breadth of its roster. Pulling players from more than 10 different programs – public and private, rural and suburban – the team is as much about building relationships and competitive experience as it is about wins and losses. For players from smaller programs or schools still

developing their football cultures, the chance to compete alongside and against athletes from powerhouse programs in the Sacramento area is an invaluable part of growth.

For the Galt-area players involved, it is also a chance to represent their schools on a broader stage, proving that the talent coming out of this community can hold its own against the best the region has to offer. A 3-2 showing at Kennedy against strong club and

high school competition is a solid early indicator that G7 Elite is a team worth watching as the off-season continues.

With the program only two months old and still adding players, the trajectory for G7 Elite 7on7 points upward. For Ogas, Rubio, Diaz and their teammates from across the Sacramento area, the off-season grind is very much alive, and the competition is only going to get better from here. ★

Kolbe and Clader Earn NCEA Ariat All-America Honors



Lauren Kolbe (left) and Mya Clader (right) have been selected to the All-America First Team in Fences. Photo courtesy of UC Davis

UC Davis News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - The National College Equestrian Association (NCEA) has announced its 2025-26 All-America honors, recognizing Lauren Kolbe and Mya Clader for their stand-out performances throughout the regular season.

Junior Lauren Kolbe headlines

the honors with a selection to the All-America First Team in Fences. Recognized as one of the top six riders in the nation for the discipline, Kolbe also secured Second Team All-America honors on the Flat. These distinctions bring Kolbe's career total to three All-America honors, having previously earned a First Team Flat nod during the 2024-25 season.

Her dual-discipline success this year cements her status as one of the most versatile and consistent Jumping Seat riders in the country.

Joining the All-America ranks is senior Mya Clader, who earns her first career NCEA distinction with a Second Team selection in Reining. Clader's performance in the Western arena was a hallmark of the Aggies' successful season,

as she met the elite statistical requirements to be named among the top five Reining riders in the nation for the Second Team list.

The top riders per event nationally are named First Team All-America, while the next group earns Second Team honors. With these selections, UC Davis continues to demonstrate its presence on the national

stage, placing multiple riders on the All-America list for the third consecutive year and maintaining a tradition of excellence across both the Jumping Seat and Western disciplines. With these three selections, the Aggies have now placed at least one rider on the NCEA First or Second All-America Team every year since 2022. ★

Ortiz Named Big Sky Pitcher of the Week



Junior Alexa Ortiz has been named the Big Sky Conference Pitcher of the Week after helping the Hornets to a series win at Weber State. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Junior Alexa Ortiz has been named the Big Sky Conference Pitcher of the Week after helping the Hornets to a series win at Weber State.

Sacramento State (24-14, 3-3) took two of three in Ogden against the

Wildcats, and Ortiz was the winning pitcher in both those victories. The right-hander has been named conference pitcher of the week four times this season (Feb. 9, Feb.



23, March 2) - the most by a Hornet since Marissa Bertuccio won the award five times in 2023.

Ortiz finished the series 2-0 with a 1.27 ERA, which included an eight-inning complete game in the team's 5-2 victory in the rubber game of the series.

In 11.0 innings, the Chandler, Ariz., native allowed 11 hits and just two runs with six strikeouts. Opponents hit .268, and she yielded one extra base hit.

In the eight-inning complete-game victory, Ortiz allowed eight hits and a pair of runs while throwing 119 pitches. She went three innings to earn the win in the Hornets' five-inning mercy rule victory on Friday, allowing just three hits and no runs with three strikeouts.

Ortiz (9-6, 2.58 ERA) leads the Big Sky in opponent batting average (.218) and strikeouts (82), while ranking second in ERA and wins. ★

Desmond, Wanner and Edwards Earn U.S Open Cup Team of the Round



For their performances in the Indomitable Club's match-up against Valley 5599 FC, Captain Lee Desmond, Dominik Wanner and Kyle Edwards earned honors for the second round of the tournament. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - U.S. Soccer recently named the latest Team of the Round for 2026 edition of the U.S. Open Cup. For their performances in the Indomitable Club's match-up against Valley 5599 FC, Captain Lee Desmond, Dominik Wanner and Kyle Edwards earned honors for the second round of the tournament.

Republic FC pushed through the rainy elements and held the advantage all night to come away with a 4-0 victory against Valley 559 FC. Lee Desmond, a key member of the 2022 Republic FC squad that made a historic run to the Open Cup Final, got the club on the board early with a header in the 11th minute. Later in the half, he would preserve the clean sheet with a stellar goal line clearance that had him sliding into the goal post to make

the save. The assist came from Dominik Wanner, who went on to finish the match with two assists and a goal of his own. The German winger now leads the tournament with three assists in 2026.

Offseason addition Kyle Edwards also made his statement on the match, recording a brace – the second Open Cup brace for Republic FC this year – and an assist.

With the Second Round win, The Quails have advanced to the Round of 32 for the fifth consecutive season and hosted MLS club Minnesota United FC on April 14. MLS opponents have become a regular occurrence for the Indomitable Club in Cup play, with eight matchups over the last four seasons. Since its inaugural season, the club has six "Cupsets" over higher-seeded teams, more than any other USL club, and amassed an impressive 21 home tournament wins.

Republic FC tickets are available at SacRepublicFC.com. ★

Seven Aggies Named National Football Foundation Hampshire Scholars

UC Davis Athletics News Release

IRVINE, TX (MPG) - Cole Batson, Rex Connors, Mitchell Dixon, Jacob Psyk, Nate Rutchena, Eli Simonson and Derrell Smith-Porter have all been recognized by the National

Football Foundation for the contributions on the field and in the classroom with all seven UC Davis football student-athletes being named members of the 2026 NFF Hampshire Honor Society as announced by the NFF.

Celebrating its 20th

anniversary, the NFF Hampshire Honor Society has recognized 23,568 student-athletes from 691 schools since 2007. The 2026 class, which includes a record 2,596 players from 365 schools, represents the largest group in the program's history and underscores

the sustained academic achievement taking place across all levels of college football.

Created in 2007, the NFF Hampshire Honor Society is one of the most comprehensive scholar-athlete initiatives in college athletics, recognizing football players from all

divisions who have maintained a cumulative 3.2 GPA or higher throughout their college careers.

For the full criteria and history visit: <https://footballfoundation.org/sports/2018/7/30/hampshire-honor-society.aspx> ★