



Galt Warriors Celebrate Senior Night with Big Wins Over Liberty Ranch

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Liberty Ranch Hawks Softball on the Verge of a League Title

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Galt FFA Shines at Leadership Convention



A group photo of the Galt FFA chapter members at the 98th California FFA State Leadership Convention, which took place from March 21 to 24 in Ontario. Photo courtesy of Galt FFA

**By Bayley Miller
Galt FFA Reporter**

GALT, CA (MPG) - Members of Galt FFA chapter recently attended the 98th California FFA State Leadership Convention in Ontario from March 21 to 24, joining thousands of students from across the state for a week of leadership development, competition and recognition.

Throughout the convention, Galt FFA members participated in keynote sessions, workshops and official business meetings, while also competing in a wide range of

career and leadership events. Their efforts resulted in an impressive list of accomplishments, highlighting both individual excellence and the strength of the chapter as a whole.

Several Galt FFA members were recognized as state scholarship winners.

Avery Sperling received the Jaimie Lynn Pettey Memorial Scholarship and plans to attend Reedley College to major in Animal Science. After college, Avery plans to focus her time on livestock breeding and genetics. Gauge Goehring was awarded the Betty Bushong Memorial

Scholarship and plans to attend Modesto Junior College to major in Animal Science with the goal of becoming an Agricultural Education Teacher after graduation.

Bella Matos earned the Zenith Insurance Scholarship and plans to attend Cal Poly SLO to major in Agricultural Communications. After college, she plans to work in Agricultural Marketing. Katie Looper was named the Almond Board of California Scholarship recipient and will be attending Oklahoma State University to major in Agriculture

Continued on page 2

Galt Planning Commission Advances Two Housing Projects



A view of the proposed 28.39-acre Dry Creek West project site, which will include single-family homes, senior residential units and commercial uses, as seen from East Crystal Way near Dry Creek Ranch Golf Course.

**Story and photos
by Idaly Valencia**

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Planning Commission on April 9 advanced two residential developments, recommending approval of the Dry Creek West project and signing off on final design review for the Sheffield subdivision. Both items moved forward with unanimous votes following extensive discussion on design details.

The meeting opened with the Dry Creek West proposal, a 28.39-acre

mixed-use development planned south of Boessow Road and east of Crystal Way near the Dry Creek Ranch Golf Course. The undeveloped site sits next to the Dry Creek Oaks senior community.

Plans include 160 row homes (for sale), 68 senior triplex units (for rent) and a parcel of 4.2 acres reserved for a future assisted living facility. The project will also feature at least four two-story mixed-use buildings with apartments above ground-floor commercial space, along with a plaza and dining patio.

There are a proposed total of 442 parking spaces for the project, with additional street parking available.

Staff outlined key entitlements, including an addendum to the 2015 Dry Creek Oaks environmental review, a General Plan amendment shifting part of the site from high-density to medium-high density residential with a rezone, design review and a conditional use permit for residential use in a commercial zone.

Commissioners focused much

Continued on page 3

Celebrate 'Taco De Mayo' with Sunrise Rotary Club



By MPG Staff

GALT, CA (MPG) - The weekend of May 2 will be filled with Cinco de Mayo celebrations ahead of the holiday, which falls on a Tuesday this year, as many gather to honor Mexican culture with food, such as delicious tacos, and music together.

In Galt, the annual celebration also serves as a key fundraiser for the Galt Sunrise Rotary Club, a local chapter of a global volunteer network that supports community service efforts throughout the year.

Neighbors, friends and family are invited to come celebrate the holiday by attending the club's Taco de Mayo event from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, May 2.

With the purchase of a \$20 ticket, guests will receive a dinner plate with rice, beans and three tacos. A carryout option will be offered for those who would like to enjoy their food at home. Adult beverages, including margaritas and beer, will also be available for attendees.

The event will feature a door prize and raffle drawings for ticket holders. Live music will be provided by KingSound! Productions.

The Rotary Club hosts fundraisers throughout the year to support its community service efforts, including a fireworks booth in June and July. The Taco de Mayo dinner serves as its primary annual fundraiser.

Proceeds goes toward funding other events such as the club's community dinner held in December, which brings residents together for a shared holiday meal at no cost for guests. The club also supports local youth through its sponsorship of the Galt Interact Club, helping high school students develop leadership skills and a commitment to volunteer service.

Taco de Mayo will be held at the Littleton Center, 410 Civic Drive. Food service begins at 6 p.m. Purchase tickets via Venmo at @galt sunrise or PayPal at @GaltSunriseRotary. For more information, text 916-662-6915. ★

Galt FFA Shines at Leadership Convention

Continued from page 1

Business. After college, she hopes to pursue a career in agricultural law and policy.

Galt students also found success in proficiency award areas, which recognize outstanding Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects.

Graduate Logan Rose was named the state winner in Fruit and Nut Production Placement. Logan's SAE includes working for Atlas Vineyard Management in Lodi. Logan is responsible for cane cutting, irrigation repair, site preparation, pre-harvesting scheduling and working harvest. Logan has also learned how to operate a tractor and a forklift.

Gauge earned top honors in Swine Entrepreneurship. For the past four years, Gauge has operated Double G Show Pigs. He is responsible for all aspects of daily management, breeding, farrowing and marketing of his pigs to the 4-H club and FFA members. Gauge enjoys sharing his experience and passion for the swine industry with others.

Elliott Kramer was recognized as the Environmental and Natural Resources Placement state winner. For the past three years, Elliott has worked for Kramer Reclamation & Mining, performing reclamation of land for wildlife habitat restoration as well as mineral extraction in a 30-acre placer gold mine in Etna.

Katie also earned a state title in Diversified Agriculture Production Entrepreneurship. Katie's projects include breeding beef cattle, raising and showing sheep, raising 100 to 200 market broilers

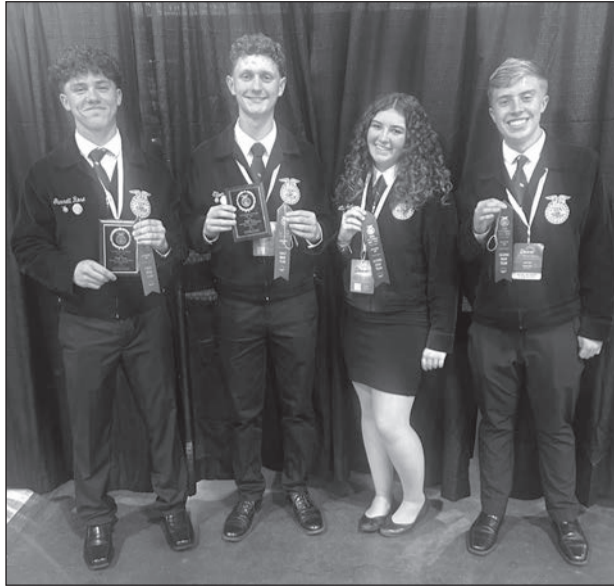
annually, growing field pumpkins and working for a local producer. She began with a roadside pumpkin stand that has expanded to be over 1.5 acres and more than 50 varieties, managing production, harvest and marketing. She oversees the health, nutrition and sales across her three livestock enterprises. Finally, she works for Mitchell Family Farms, assisting with irrigation installation in walnut orchards, pumpkin field maintenance and animal care.

As state winners, all four students will represent California in their respective area at the national level.

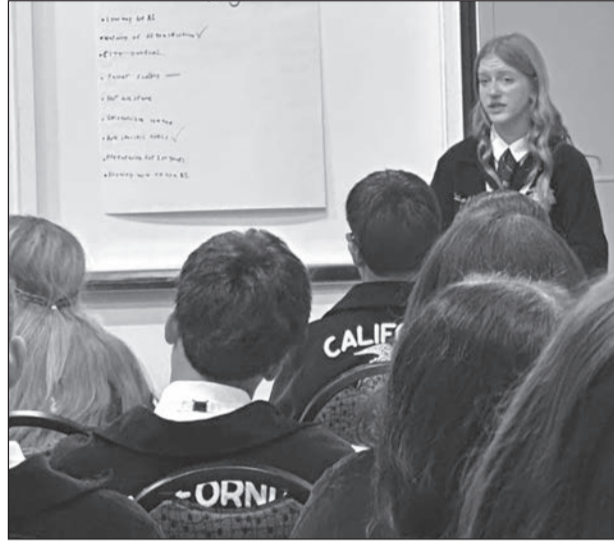
In addition to his proficiency win, Gauge was named the State Star Small Farmer, one of the highest honors awarded at the state level. After showing market hogs for several years, Gauge decided to start his own swine breeding project by keeping a gilt and got a part-time job with a swine breeder where he was able to learn swine breeding and management.

Today Gauge's SAE includes three breeding sows that he farrows out, selling piglets to 4-H and FFA members. Gauge takes pride in not only producing quality show pigs but sharing his experience with others from nutritional consultation and showmanship to disease prevention and treatment.

In the agriscience competition, Elliott and Garrett Rose were named state winners in the Food Systems Division 6 category. Elliott and Garrett's project consisted of testing various methods of preventing freshly harvested Malbec wine grape juice to



Pictured from left are Galt FFA members Garrett Rose, Elliott Kramer, Lillie Jackson and Rylan Graviette, who were recognized for their achievements in Agriscience at the State Leadership Convention. Photos courtesy of Galt FFA



Madison McDonald, pictured, was selected as a State Subcommittee Chair for the Galt FFA chapter during the 98th California FFA State Leadership Convention.

find the most cost and technically effective method.

Lillie Jackson and Rylan Graviette also earned recognition, placing second in the Plant Systems Division 6 category. Lillie and Rylan's project consisted of testing the effectiveness of plant-based compost vs. manure-based compost on plant growth.

Leadership representation was another area of success for Galt FFA.

Bella, Gauge and Avery were selected to serve as State Ambassadors. Katie advanced to the final 16 candidates out of more than 70 applications for California State FFA Officer, an elite group selected through a rigorous interview and evaluation process.

Madison McDonald was selected as a State Subcommittee Chair, focusing on the role of



Jaimie Lynn Pettey Memorial Scholarship recipient Avery Sperling is pictured with her recognition plaque at the 98th California FFA State Leadership Convention.



Gauge Goehring is pictured with his State Proficiency winner plaque for Swine Production Entrepreneurship at the California FFA State Leadership Convention.



Galt FFA member Bella Matos is pictured holding her Zenith Insurance Scholarship plaque at the 98th California FFA State Leadership Convention.



Galt FFA member Logan Rose is pictured holding his State Proficiency Winner plaque earned at the convention for Fruit and Nut Production Placement.



Katie Looper and Elliott Kramer hold State Proficiency winner plaques earned at the 98th California FFA State Leadership Convention. Looper was recognized in Diversified Agriculture Production Entrepreneurship and Kramer in Environmental and Natural Resources Placement.

stage to perform as past State Talent winners. The success of Galt FFA at this year's convention reflects the dedication, hard work and leadership of its members. As the chapter continues to build on its legacy, these accomplishments serve as a testament to the impact of agricultural education and the opportunities it provides for students to grow and excel. ★

artificial intelligence in Career and Leadership Development Events. Rylan and Adrian Valdovinos served as official chapter delegates and served on the CA Ag License Plate and State Conference Experience committees.

Galt FFA members also contributed to the convention's entertainment, with Elliott and Courtney Brouwer returning to the

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Galt Planning Commission Advances Two Housing Projects



The currently undeveloped site planned for the future Dry Creek West project sits across from the Dry Creek Oaks senior community, which still has homes actively under construction. Housing developer Riverland Homes is leading both projects.

Continued from page 1

of their discussion on the project's affordability and the assisted living component.

Commissioner Mark Jackson asked whether the project qualified as affordable housing. Staff responded that it is not proposed as a state-defined affordable housing development, though the homes would be sold at market rates with an emphasis on more economic pricing compared to other developments.

Commissioner Dan Denier questioned whether the assisted living facility would ultimately be built.

"To me, that's an important part of the project and I just want to make sure that there's some kind of guarantee that we're actually going to get it," said Denier, adding that he was "gun-shy" about approving projects that include notable amenities without assurances they will be ultimately delivered.

City planner Kristyn Bitz said that the assisted living facility is required as part of the project's final build-out and was included as a condition in the original design review.

Project developer Tanner Judkins of Riverland Homes then stepped in and said his team is not the

original applicant but that they took over the project after the previous developer was unable to move forward. Riverland is also developing the nearby Dry Creek Oaks community.

Judkins assured commissioners the assisted living component will be delivered as part of the Dry Creek West development. He added that they are actively marketing the site to an outside operator, who will manage the facility, with the adjacent senior rentals expected to help attract interest.

Jackson urged the developer to ensure the operator for the facility is qualified, referencing concerns tied

to conditions at an affordable senior apartment complex in town. Bitz confirmed that the management of that property would not be involved.

"They're not involved in this project; they're not a partner in this project," she said. "I understand there's some concern and rumors out there, so I just want to get ahead of that."

During public comment, Helping Hand Association (HHA) President Paul Salinas said the group supports efforts to expand affordable and assisted living options for seniors, noting about 20 percent of Galt residents are age 60 and older.

"HHA is in support of any development that provides affordable housing and security to those that have limited incomes," Salinas said. He added that the group remains neutral on the project while emphasizing the need for added safety measures such as bright lighting for better accessibility and visibility for seniors.

Commissioner Keith Jones called for nine-foot-wide garage doors for the row homes and senior units to align with emerging city standards and requested added materials such as stone or brick at senior housing entryways.

The commission recommended approval to the City Council with added design input, approving the environmental addendum, General Plan amendment, rezone, tentative map, design review and conditional use permit.

The commissioners then moved on to the Sheffield subdivision, a 9.5-acre, 65-home single-family development north of Ashboro Lane near Highway 99 off East Stockton Boulevard. The project, which includes an extension of Lyonia Drive, was recommended for approval in December 2025 and is currently moving toward construction.

As part of the December 2025 approval, staff said applicant agreed to build only single-story homes on lots 1 through 11 to better align with the existing neighborhood to the north. In addition, 30 percent of homes will include extended walkways from the sidewalk to the front door. The project, zoned R2PD, features a mix of one- and two-story homes in Spanish, farmhouse and prairie styles, along with varied fencing, internal walkways and sound walls

along major roadways.

Commissioner Keith Jones pushed for a design change, requesting eight-foot-tall garage doors instead of the proposed seven-foot-tall design.

The project applicant, Fieldstone Homes, said the change would require additional engineering and add both cost and time, making it unfeasible at the current stage.

"It would have significant cost and delay impact on the project," a representative with Fieldstone Homes said. "It would substantially set back this project."

"I'm still going to have to disagree and ask for those eight-foot-doors. We've asked many other developers, and everyone said 'fine,'" Jones said.

Bitz said staff did not raise the issue earlier because the discussion around taller garage doors is recent and still evolving. She noted the topic was discussed during a special joint City Council and Planning Commission meeting March 30 as part of an effort to establish clearer housing design standards for the city.

"In the developer's defense... staff didn't get the chance to advocate for that during the design review," Bitz said. "We certainly know that's an issue and it's going to be a condition of projects moving forward."

After discussion, commissioners opted not to require the change, citing cost and timing concerns, and approved the project unanimously. The project developer closed by praising city staff for their efficiency.

"I don't get the opportunity to say this very often, but your city staff is just phenomenal," the applicant said. ★



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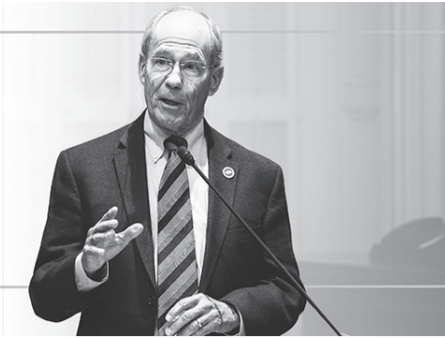
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Roger's Review

By State Senator Roger Niello



Bill Focuses on Frontotemporal Degeneration

Many people know actor Bruce Willis from the movies on big screens, but behind the screens in his personal life, he has lived with frontotemporal degeneration, commonly referred to as FTD, since 2022.

Bruce Willis' wife, Emma Heming Willis, shares the early stages of the diagnosis on her website where she describes, "I struggled with a sense of powerlessness, feeling as if I had no control over what was happening to my family."

Emma Heming Willis acknowledged, "This journey, our unexpected journey, doesn't have to feel unrelenting or hopeless. In fact, you may discover, just as I have, that even in the hardest moments, there are unexpected treasures to be found along the way."

FTD doesn't announce itself with forgotten names or misplaced keys.

It barges in by rewriting who a person is. For many, FTD is a slowly progressing disease that leads to gradual changes in behavior and speech. It targets the brain's frontal and temporal regions (the centers of judgment, empathy, communication) and as those nerve cells deteriorate, the changes can be as bewildering as they are devastating.

Unlike Alzheimer's disease, FTD often strikes people in their 40s to 60s, leading to profound changes in relationships, work and independence. There is currently no treatment or cure, and increased awareness and research funding are crucial.

In the legislature, I am working on legislation to expand the California Neurodegenerative Disease Registry to include data collection on frontotemporal degeneration diagnoses in the state. If passed into

law, Senate Bill 1047 would require healthcare providers to report FTD diagnoses to the California Department of Public Health to strengthen the state's ability to track the disease's impact, improve care pathways and accelerate research.

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

Police Highlight Dangers of Distracted Driving

Galt Police Department News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month and the Galt Police Department wants to remind drivers to stay focused, keep their eyes forward and hands on the wheel.

Distractions like checking a phone, using the in-dash touchscreen or car phone app, adjusting the radio or eating can have devastating consequences.

"Distracted driving continues to put everyone on the road at risk," Lt. John Rocha said. "When drivers take their eyes off the road, even for a few seconds, lives can change forever. We're reminding our community that safety starts with each of us. Put the phone down, limit distractions and help people get home safely."

According to the 2025 California Statewide Public Opinion Survey, nearly 71.4% of drivers surveyed said that distracted driving, caused by texting or checking a phone, was their biggest



In recognition of National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, the Galt Police Department is urging drivers to keep their eyes on the road and hands on the wheel. Officers will conduct increased patrols throughout April to enforce the state's hands-free cell phone law. Photo courtesy of Galt Police Department

safety concern. In 2023, there were 158 people killed in distracted driving crashes in California, a 6.8 percent increase from the previous year. The numbers are likely underreported because law enforcement officers may not always be able to determine if distraction was a factor in a crash.

The Galt Police Department will be actively looking for drivers throughout the month who are in violation of the state's hands-free cell

phone law.

Under current law, drivers are not allowed to hold a phone or other electronic device while operating a vehicle, even when stopped at a red light. This includes talking, texting or using an app.

Using a handheld cell phone while driving can result in a fine. If a driver violates the hands-free law a second time within 36 months of a conviction for the same offense, an additional point will be added to their record. ★

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

TOPS Weekly Meetings

TOPS, Taking Off Pounds Sensibly, meets every Wednesday at Grace Presbyterian Church, 10 N. Mills Ave., Lodi. Meeting time: 10-10:45 a.m. Weigh-ins: 9-9:50am.

No charge for first meeting.

Senior Bingo Weekly at Chabolla

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

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

Nominate Your Neighbor

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

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

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. ★

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You who have made me see everything and showed me the way to reach my ideals, you who have given me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and you who are in all instances of my life with me, I thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. Thank you for your love towards me and my loved ones. Amen. L.B.

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Get Ready for California's 2026 Primary

Your Questions About Voting, Answered

By CalMatters Staff
CalMatters.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

When will I receive my voter

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

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

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

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

How can I track my ballot?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Election Information

June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election

Vote Early and Vote by Mail



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



May 18 Close of registration. Register today!



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



May 30 All Vote Centers open through Election Day.



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

Vote Early! Don't wait for Election Day.

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

Track your Ballot!

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



Vote Early! Vote by Mail.

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



The Ping Pong Balls Are Coming

Yes, the NBA regular season is over, and our hometown ballers are once again watching from the sidelines.

With a grand total of 22 wins the 2025-26 season turned out very different from what the Sactown faithful envisioned.

Within a couple of weeks, the ping pong balls will determine the order of the upcoming draft, and as the Dallas Mavericks can attest, anything is likely to happen.

The Kings franchise and fans collectively will hold their breath, as anything can happen when it comes to the first five picks.

Without a doubt the Kings will get a high draft pick, but the real question is, how high.

Experts and pundits from all corners believe we're looking at one of the deepest drafts in many years, and that bodes well for Sacramento.

But what can we take away from a season bereft with disappointments.

For one thing we can look forward to a starting unit at the start of next season that is 100 percent healthy, and hope that the first-round draft choice in the upcoming draft makes an immediate impact. Something like De'Aaron Fox did when he became one of the best point guards in the history of the Kings franchise.

And what should we make of Keegan Murray after a season of injuries? Will this talented wing man once again return to a consistent 3-point shooter as he was in his rookie year just four short seasons ago?

Keegan had an amazing rookie season followed by one head scratching season after another as his 3-point shooting declined year after year.

Keegan set an NBA rookie record by recording 206 3-pointers, and Sacramento fans thought this was just the beginning.

Sadly, although Keegan shot an amazing 41 percent from beyond the arc, he would not accomplish this again. In the following three seasons Murray shot 35 percent, 34 percent, and in an injury shortened 2026 a dismal 27 percent.

So, will the real Keegan Murray please stand up. The Kings will in all likelihood hold onto Murray and resist trade offers, as his value has slipped just as his percentage has.

The real question is can this talented player

return to form and show Kings fans that his rookie year was no fluke.

I believe he can and he will.

Zach Lavine has received considerable criticism for his drop in 3-point shooting this year as well, but the question is can Zach return to normal next season and provide Murray with someone that carry spread the floor.

Once again, I believe that's exactly what Lavine can do, and if he does, and Domantas Sabonis can stay healthy, look out western division, because here comes the Kings.

We don't know what GM Scott Perry is thinking of, and whether he will keep this group together, but we honestly never had a real opportunity to see this group play together.

Let's not forget that DeMar DeRozan is one of the most talented mid-range shooters in the league, and like Zach Lavine, can open the floor for others.

The point guard position is once again the conundrum it has been since the departure of DeAaron Fox, and we must wait and see if the draft will provide front court help or perhaps the point guard the Kings have been looking for.

Devin Carter and Nique Clifford had moments this past season, but neither has made the statement that says the point guard for the future has arrived.

Not to be forgotten is the arrival and surprisingly so of Dylan Cardwell and Precious Achiuwa. Both players acquitted themselves admirably, and Kings fans will be watching to see if one or both can take that next step in their NBA career and become a force to be reckoned with.

A lot to chew on for the Sacramento faithful, and opinions are all over the board, but for my money I hope that Scott Perry looks hard before he leaps.

There is a lot of talent on this team right now, and the real question is whether they can gel.

A winning franchise is much closer than last season's 22 wins would make you think, so say your prayers Kings fans and keep your fingers crossed.

We are one impact player from watching a playoff team so keep your eyes on those ping pong balls and let's all root together! ★

Candidates For Governor Ought to Get Serious About These Pressing Issues



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Eric Swalwell's abrupt departure from the campaign for governor due to revelations about sexual transgressions leaves nine men and women remaining as serious contenders for spots on the November ballot.

So far their campaigns have produced a scattershot of positions and promises that have only occasionally touched on California's real world issues. However, by sheer coincidence, there's been a recent flurry of think tank reports and articles on those issues that should be required reading for would-be governors and moderators of forums to question the candidates.

In no particular order:

Schools

The Public Policy Institute of California delved into the worrisome lack of academic achievement among in California's public schools. It notes that in state tests just 49% of students met or exceeded state standards in English language and 37% in math.

Results of federal tests were even less satisfactory, with only 29% of fourth-graders and 28% of eighth-graders proficient in reading and 35% and 25%, respectively, in math.

Mississippi, long a laggard in academic skills, got serious about raising reading

comprehension by adopting phonics. California, after years of political debate, finally semi-adopted phonics, although not completely requiring it. An article in Atlantic magazine reveals that in Mississippi, just adopting phonics was not enough; statewide mandates, coupled with state oversight, were needed to make phonics work — a suggestion maybe California needs to follow suit.

Jobs

Outgoing Gov. Gavin Newsom loves to brag about California's \$4 trillion economy but rarely mentions the darker side — several years with virtually no job growth. The Public Policy Institute of California digs into that stagnation and reports, "Job gains have been limited to a few key sectors like health care and local government, while stock market gains have been driven by AI. Unemployment has not increased much in the past two years, though it remains higher than in 2022 and above almost all other states.

"One major challenge for the next governor will be providing expensive services like health care to a growing older adult population while the share of workers shrinks," PPIC says.

The conservative Pacific Research Institute plows the same economic ground in a report. "The data shows that California's economic challenges are no longer theoretical — they are measurable and worsening," said Wayne Winegarden, one of the report's authors. "The state's weak job growth and shrinking private sector signal that California is at a crossroads. Without meaningful policy reforms, the gap between California and the rest of

the country will continue to widen."

One aspect of California's economic sluggishness is an outflow of workers due to its sky-high living costs. Another report from the Public Policy Institute of California says the state has seen a net loss of nearly 1.3 million people since 2020. The outflow, coupled with a record low birth rate, makes California especially reliant on immigration for new workers, which in turn is affected by turmoil in federal immigration policy.

Homes

A study by UC-Berkeley's California Policy Lab delves even further into the state's loss of population to other states, citing high living costs, especially for housing, as the prime factor.

It notes that "in 2012 the state's median household income was roughly sufficient to qualify for a mortgage on a mid-tier home, but it now falls substantially short of the level needed to qualify for even a bottom-tier home."

However, those who abandon California more easily become homeowners due to much lower prices and see improvement in their overall financial wellbeing.

This is not an exhaustive catalogue of California issues that the campaigns for governor should address. Water supply and homelessness also need attention, as well as the insurance crisis and the state's chronic budget deficits. But these reports are a good start for serious debate.

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

Must I Set Up a Social Security Account to Enroll in Medicare?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I turn 65 this November 2026. Someone told me I need to set up a Social Security account at least 3 months ahead of time before applying for Medicare for the first time. I do not intend to take any Social Security benefits until, perhaps, age 67 or later. Please advise and thank you. **Signed: Looking Ahead**

Dear Looking Ahead: You don't technically need to "set up" an online SSA account to enroll in Medicare, but it would be more efficient to do so. We always recommend creating your online "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount well before you are ready to claim your Social Security benefits. That's because you can monitor your projected Social Security benefits to help you decide when to claim, but it also facilitates other things you might need to do at the Social Security

Administration (such as claiming your SS retirement benefits online and enrolling in Medicare online).

As for Medicare, you can enroll in Medicare up to 3 months before the month you turn 65, and you can contact the Social Security Administration by phone up to 3 months prior in order to schedule an appointment to enroll over the phone (call 1.800.772.1213 to make the appointment). You can enroll via telephone, even if you don't have your "my Social Security" online account set up. However, an advantage to creating your personal online Social Security account is that you could then enroll in Medicare online as described at this link: www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up. And you can, as you wish to do, enroll only in Medicare without also taking your Social Security benefits at this time.

I want to also make you aware that if you are still working and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is an employer group plan with at least 20 participants), then you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your employer coverage ends (thus saving the usual Medicare Part B monthly premium). When your employer's

healthcare coverage ends, you will enter a Special Enrollment Period during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty.

Finally, please be aware that whenever you claim your Social Security benefits, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) and Part B (coverage for outpatient medical services). Since there is a monthly premium associated with Medicare Part B (but not with Part A), you can choose to decline Part B if you are still working and covered by your employer's creditable healthcare plan, until your employer's healthcare coverage ends.

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



As far as showdowns between popes and secular leaders go, President Trump versus Pope LEO hardly rates.

Pope LEO hasn't forced Trump to come see him and stand for three days in the snow, the way Pope Gregory VII did to Henry IV, the Holy Roman Emperor, in 1077. Nor has he issued an interdict, a tactic favored by Pope Innocent III, against the United States.

On the other hand, Trump hasn't sacked Rome and forced the pope to submit to his will, in a repeat of Emperor Charles V's 16th-century gambit against Pope Clement VII.

It's still been a remarkably testy exchange between Pope LEO and Trump over the Iran war. The president of the United States -- stung by the pontiff's criticisms of his decision to launch the war and his ensuing rhetoric -- has denounced Pope LEO in his characteristic terms, all but saying that His Holiness "doesn't have what it takes."

It's easy, meanwhile, to interpret LEO as taking veiled shots at Trump. "Enough with the idolatry of self and money!" is not an unusual sentiment for a Holy Father, but who can be certain he didn't have our guilt president in mind when he said it in a homily the other day? A pope who doesn't

Trump vs. the Pope

rebuke a president of the United States for threatening to bring a foreign civilization to an end isn't doing his job, yet it's important to understand that the Bible is not an injunction for pacifism, and it doesn't entail a condemnation of the Iran war.

The Bible presents a realistic view of the inevitability of human conflict. As Ecclesiastes says, there is "a time for war, and a time for peace." In the books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel or Kings, it is often a time for war. The key question is whether or not a war is righteous -- the difference between Israel, say, prevailing in the Battle of Deborah, or seeing the Babylonians destroy Jerusalem.

On Palm Sunday, Pope LEO cited Isaiah 1:15 for the proposition that God doesn't listen to the prayers of those who wage war: "Even though you make many prayers, I will not listen: your hands are full of blood." The context of this verse, though, is the injustice and corruption of the people of Judah -- in other words, their self-abasement.

It makes no sense, as a broader matter, to cite Isaiah as an injunction against waging war or evidence that God pays no heed to the prayers of those who fight. Later in the book, King Hezekiah of Judah prays for God's help in stopping an Assyrian army threatening Jerusalem, and 185,000 Assyrian soldiers are struck down. Jesus preaches love

and mercy, of course, but that is not a warrant for pacifism. The great Christian thinkers St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas gave us just war theory, reconciling Christian ethics with the existence of evil in the world and the necessity of warfare. According to this view, which is embraced by the Catholic Church, a war can only be fought for a just cause and has to be waged in keeping with moral standards, minimizing harm to civilians.

Pope LEO has wrongly made it sound as though no war can possibly be just, and regardless, his opposition to the Iran war isn't dispositive or binding on anyone else.

The pontiff might consider that Trump first talked of attacking Iran when the regime was in the midst of slaughtering thousands of protesters in the streets, and if the current government fell and gave way to one with more respect for the rights of its people, it would be a boon to Iranians and a large step toward a safer and more peaceful region.

Trump's wild threats are understandably anathema to Pope LEO, but they don't define the Iran war or change the fact that the Bible portrays warfare as a tragic fact of human existence. Yes, as Isaiah says, they shall beat their swords into plowshares, but not yet.

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

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS



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 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, lively choreography and plenty of Wildcat spirit. Tickets and more information at visitlodi.com. *Sydney Halsey Theater, 1111 W. Century Blvd., Lodi.*

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.*

Friday, April 24

Blood, Sweat and Gears Pizza and Pistons – 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Foothill Pizza. Join us for this cruise-in on the Fourth Friday every month. For more information, contact Dave at 209-570-0448 or Paul at 925-219-6057. *18970 N. Highway 88, Lockeford.*

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.*

Saturday, April 25

Love Lodi Day – all day, various locations around Lodi. Join us for this citywide day of service dedicated to giving back and strengthening our community. The day begins with a community rally at Hutchins Street Square, where volunteers of all ages gather to celebrate Lodi's spirit of service. After the rally, teams disperse across the city to complete a wide variety of volunteer projects. Register in advance at lovelodi.org to choose your project and receive event updates. *125 S. Hutchins St., Lodi.*

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

Lodi Beer Fest & State BBQ Championship – 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Lodi Grape Pavilion. Join us for a great celebration of craft beer from up to 50 local and national breweries. Find a new favorite beer, toss a game of cornhole with friends and dance to the live band. Held in conjunction with the State BBQ Championship, more than 30 teams will compete for prizes in a variety of categories. The Spirit Lounge is back this year featuring award-winning bourbons, whiskeys, tequilas and vodkas. Tickets and more information at grapefestival.com. *413 E. Lockeford St., Lodi.*

Cow Plop Bingo – 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Roenspie+Johnson Real Estate Group. Join the Galt Chamber of Commerce for one of the most unique and entertaining nights of the year. Watch the excitement unfold as our famous Highland cow takes the field; each Bingo square is a chance to win cash prizes. This community event

brings back the feeling of old-time small-town fun for the whole family. There will be food trucks, live DJ and music, and exclusive Galt Chamber merchandise available for sale. *628 C St.*

Friday, May 1 through Sunday, May 3

Cinco de Mayo Multicultural Festival – at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, hosted by El Concilio. This celebration is dedicated to showcasing the region's diversity and cultures. Enjoy food, drinks, games, live music, dancing, artisan crafts and goods, health screenings, car show and more. Parking is \$10 and admission is free. Event opens at noon each day. *1658 S. Airport Way, Stockton.*

Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3

14th Annual "Miniatures in the Wine Country" Miniatures Show – at the Lodi Grape Festival grounds, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days. Enjoy over 80 tables of miniatures, dollhouses and room boxes. Come find your new miniature dream home or find everything you need to start or finish your own special miniature project. Food and beverages will also be available for purchase. Tickets and more information at miniaturesinthewinecountry.com. *413 E. Lockeford St., Lodi.*

Saturday, May 2

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

Sunday, May 3

Central Valley Classics and Customs Cars and Coffee – 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Park West Casino. Bring your ride, bring your friends and let's enjoy another incredible season of community, classics, customs and coffee. First Sunday each month. *1800 S. Cherokee Lane, Lodi.*

Ongoing Events

Galt Café & Cars – every second Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at

Café Latte. Open to cars, trucks, bicycles, motorcycles and anything else with wheels. Next event is Saturday, 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 27. *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 welcome. *10420 Twin Cities Road.*

Widowed Persons Social Club – 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., Cattlemens Steakhouse, 9105 W. Stockton Blvd, Elk Grove. Contact Addie at 916-682-3609.

Wilton Bingo – First Saturday each month. The next bingo will be on Saturday, May 2 in the Wilton Community Center. Doors open at 5 p.m. with food available for sale and bingo starts at 6 p.m. All proceeds go to two nonprofits: the local Park Council and the Wilton History Group. *9717 Colony Road at Dillard Road, Wilton.*

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 Saturdays, 8830 Sharkey Ave., Elk Grove.

American Legion Post 233 and Auxiliary Unit 233 – fourth Thursdays at 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 Mondays at 5:45 p.m., Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove.

Marine Corps League Detachment #1238 – first Thursdays; dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., District56 Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove.

VFW Post 2073 – second Thursdays; dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., District56 Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove. ★

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

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Eat a Snack Under a Tree Today

Trees are a glorious part of the planet that make the world a much better place! A vital part of the ecosystem. National Arbor Day is here to celebrate the amazing beauty usefulness of trees.

Typically celebrated in late spring, National Arbor Day has origins that date back to the late 19th century. According to daysoftheyear.com, the day got its start in Nebraska when a journalist named Julius Sterling Morton proposed that his fellow Nebraskans would plant trees to show appreciation for nature and the environment. The first Arbor Day was celebrated in 1872, and the idea grew from there.

In particular, schools across the United States began celebrating Arbor Day, taking the opportunity to teach kids about the importance of planting trees. Arbor Day became an official state holiday in Nebraska in 1885 and then 1883 brought the celebration to Japan, Europe and other places around the world. By 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt declared the day by issuing the "Arbor Day Proclamation to the School Children of the United States." Even so, it wasn't actually until the year 1970 that Arbor



Day became a day that was recognized officially throughout the nation, when President Richard Nixon recognized it along with other environmentally friendly movements.

Today, National Arbor Day continues to be an important part of the conservation efforts and the work to help promote the health of the environment.

What to do? Transform bare lands into lush forests and create a greener world for future generations. Plant a tree, nourish it. And watch it grow!

And it is a two for one today: While you are watching for those trees to grow, prefect your culinary talent by creating Pigs in a Blanket. Yes, today is also National Pig in a Blanket Day. Can you say, "YUM!"?

A little history: Pigs in a Blanket are

a simple concept and have been found throughout the world in many variations for many years throughout history. Some sources give credit for the recipe to Betty Crocker, who printed a version with the name in a 1957 cookbook. However, we all know that these tasty snacks go back way farther than that, but Betty was the first to put it in print, which caused it to become a well-known snack in the United States.

The process of making them is simple: take a sausage or hot dog or even a marshmallow, wrap it up in pastry dough and cook it. Now, sausages and hot dogs are savory and can easily go from snack to the main course at a meal. And the marshmallow dipped in melted butter and covered in cinnamon and sugar and completely covered with dough is a dessert to behold. Yes, while cooking, the marshmallow will melt, leaving a yummy, gooey center. Sweet ending to a fun meal.

And of course, don't forget to enjoy that meal while sitting under a tree.

FYI: Cinco de Mayo is in a few weeks

on a Tuesday. A good excuse to blend a batch of margaritas (non-alcoholic as well as spirited), add some tortilla chips and salsa, and some spicy tacos for "Taco Tuesday."

So how are those plans going for Mother's Day? I have asked some friends about their plans, and some are going all out. Flowers and candy, the good old standby; breakfast brunch and then to a steakhouse for dinner; another is treating their mom to a Spa Day. And then another is giving a mother's ring with all five sibling birthstones. One mom will be practicing shooting at a gun range then going fishing. Great ideas all.

I think I am leaning toward cards ... definitely cards and a nice dinner out, so no one needs to cook or clean up. Flowers are a nice touch. I love plants and potted flowers. See's candy is the best, but I really don't need the calories. My family is very creative and clever and I know I will not be disappointed.

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

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Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher". If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.

The Galt Herald

Serving Galt and Sacramento County since 1901

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

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POLICE LOGS

April 20
12:50 a.m., Narcotics Violation/Adult Arrest, Fermoy Way.

7:51 a.m., Vandalism reported, Meladee Lane: Multiple bullet holes in both of reporting party's vehicles.

9:06 a.m., Theft reported, Sparrow Drive: Catalytic converter taken.

9:22 a.m., Hit-and-Run/Non-Injury, C Street/5th Street.

12:19 p.m., Theft reported, West C Street: Catalytic converter taken. ★

Avenue.
6:21 p.m., Child Neglect/Abuse-Adult Arrest, Turnace Court.

April 19
12:18 a.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, H Street/Church Street.

3:29 a.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, AM/PM Store on East Stockton Boulevard.

12:50 p.m., Theft reported, Cinnamon Drive.

9:58 p.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, AMPM Store, East Stockton Boulevard.

April 17
2:24 p.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Galt Police Department on Industrial Drive.

8:32 p.m., Theft/Adult Arrest, Twin Cities Road/Carillion Boulevard.

April 18
10:35 a.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, Elm Avenue/Palin

Boulevard/Crystal Way: Backflow taken from water hydrant.

4:03 p.m., Identity Theft reported, Beeler Way.

4:58 p.m., Vandalism reported, Wren Drive: Car vandalized.

5:47 p.m., Hit and Run/Non-Injury, Trailridge Apartments on North Lincoln Way.

7:34 p.m., Theft Rossi Drive: Daughter's electric scooter taken.

April 15
1:31 p.m., Vandalism reported, Lake Park Circle: Window was damaged by something thrown at it.

April 16
7:13 a.m., Theft reported, Walnut Avenue/Vintage Oak Avenue: Copper taken from irrigation system.

1:43 p.m., Identity Theft reported, Pitt Tech Road.

2:11 p.m., Theft reported, South Carillion

During the time period of April 14 to April 20, Galt Police received and responded to a variety of calls, resulting in 10 arrests.

April 14
8:10 p.m., Theft reported, Vauxhall Avenue: Reporting party sent money to a company, believes she was scammed.

8:43 p.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, A Street.

MEETING MINDERS

Friday, May 1
Galt Sunrise Rotary, 7 a.m., Comfort Inn & Suites, 10380 Twin Cities Road, 209-745-6617.

Sunday, May 3
Galt 4-H Club meeting, 3 p.m., at either Barbara Payne Community Garden or Grange Hall (depending on weather); see Facebook page GALT 4-H or email galt4h@gmail.com.

Monday, May 4
Lodi Parkinson's

Support Group: education, resources, social connections and building community/support – 10 a.m., GracePoint Church, 801 Lower Sacramento Road (enter off Tokay Street), Lodi; 209-269-1080 or 209-329-1185.

Galt Youth Commission, 6:30 p.m., Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive.

Tuesday, May 5
Galt City Council, 6 p.m., Council Chambers,

380 Civic Drive.

Wednesday, May 6
Cosumnes CSD, 5:30 p.m., Elk Grove CSD boardroom, 8820 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove.

Friday, May 8
Galt Sunrise Rotary, 7 a.m., Comfort Inn & Suites, 10380 Twin Cities Road, 209-745-6617.

Saturday, May 9
Kiwanis Club of Galt, 8:30 a.m., Comfort Inn,

10380 Twin Cities Road. For more information, visit k13878.site.kiwanis.org/contact.

Thursday, May 14
Lockeford Community Services District Board of Directors, 9 a.m., Old School House, 19456 N. Jack Tone Road.

Galt Beautification Committee, 10 a.m., Community Development Dept., 495 Industrial Drive, 209-366-7130.

Galt Planning

Commission, 6 p.m., Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive.

Friday, May 15
Galt Sunrise Rotary, 7 a.m., Comfort Inn & Suites, 10380 Twin Cities Road, 209-745-6617.

Tuesday, May 19
Galt City Council, 6 p.m., Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive.

Wednesday, May 20
Cosumnes CSD, 5 p.m.,

Elk Grove CSD boardroom, 8820 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove.

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

Thursday, May 21
Galt High School Board, 6 p.m., Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive.

Herald Fire Protection District, 6 p.m., Station 87, 12746 Ivie Road, 209-748-2322. ★

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER APPEAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVAL, PURSUANT TO A CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT GUIDELINES SECTION 15183 FINDING REGARDING THE CERTIFIED CITY OF GALT GENERAL PLAN 2030 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, OF A TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP, A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR FIVE RESTAURANTS, FAST FOOD, WITH DRIVE-THROUGH, A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR THREE FREESTANDING SIGNS FREEWAY-ORIENTED, A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR ONE CONVENIENCE MARKET, A MINOR USE PERMIT FOR ONE CAR WASH, A MASTER SITE PLAN, A MASTER SIGN PLAN AND DESIGN GUIDELINES IN THE HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the Galt City Council will hold a public hearing on the date and time indicated below, or as soon thereafter that the matter can be heard, to receive and consider all evidence and reports related to the project described herein.

PROJECT TITLE: Galt Ranch Commercial Development

PROJECT LOCATION: The Project site is located along North Bound State Route Highway 99, bound by Simmerhorn Road to the north, A Street to the south, and the future Crystal Way extension to the east (APNs 150-0133-003, 150-0361-002, 150-0082-023, and -018). The future north/south segment of Crystal Way between Simmerhorn Road and Boessow and the Elliott Ranch Subdivision are to the east of the Project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Galt Ranch is 22 parcel commercial development consisting of multiple uses totaling 189,070 square feet situated on 45 ± acres. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on February 12, 2026, to consider the Project application. The Planning Commission approved the application by a 5-0 vote. No More Gas in Galt (NMGG) c/o Edwards Yates has appealed the Planning Commission decision.

OWNER/APPLICANT: Jas Bains
Galt Ranch, LLC.
5098 Foothills Blvd #3-388
Roseville, CA 95747

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING:

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, May 5, 2026; 6:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter that the matter can be heard, in person at the Galt City Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive, Galt CA 95632.

The City of Galt encourages interested parties to attend public meetings and comment on the issues being discussed. If you wish to provide public comment and are unable to attend the meeting, written comments can be submitted to pubcom@cityofgalt.org by 4:00 pm on the day of the meeting. Comments will be distributed to City Council, made part of the official minutes, and posted on the City's website prior to the meeting. Email/written comments will not be read out loud during the meeting.

If you have further questions about the proposed project, please contact Kristyn Bitz at kbitz@cityofgalt.org or call 209-366-7230.

NOTICE REGARDING CHALLENGES TO DECISIONS

Pursuant to all applicable laws and regulations, including without limitation, California Government Sections 65009, 66020, and/or California Public Resources Code Section 21177, if you wish to challenge in court any of the above decisions (regarding planning, zoning and/or environmental decisions), you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing(s) described in this notice/agenda, or in written correspondence delivered to the city at, or prior to, this public hearing.

Dated: April 16, 2026

\s\ Kristyn Bitz
Kristyn Bitz, Principal Planner

\s\ Tina Hubert
Tina Hubert, City Clerk

The Galt Herald 4-24-2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-01719
Field Latitude, LLC, 2108 N. Street Suite N, Sacramento, CA 95816 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Beutler Fine Art Photography/ Jonathan Beutler Photography" 2108 N. Street Suite N, Sacramento, CA 95816. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 2, 2026
Publish: April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026
BEUTLER 4-24-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-01692
Martin Padilla, P.O. Box 289, Wilton, CA 95693 is doing business under the Fictitious

Business Name(s) "Padilla Performance Prospects" 13020 Cherokee Lane, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 27, 2026
Publish: April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 2026
PADILLA 5-8-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-02957
Tahzay Wakiza Huerta, 9465 Rogers Road, Sacramento, CA 95829 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Huerta's Beef Tallow" 9465 Rogers Road, Sacramento, CA 95829. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County April 14, 2026
Publish: April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2026
HUERTAS 5-15-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-01824
Stephanie Lewis and Tim Lewis, 15261 Twin Cities Road, Herald, CA 95638 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "The Running T" 200 Crystal Way, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 5, 2026
Publish: April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2026
THE 5-15-26



INVITATION FOR BIDS – FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

The Galt Joint Union Elementary School District Food & Nutrition Services Department is soliciting sealed bids for the following:

- Food
- Dairy
- Delivery Pizza
- Produce
- Laundry

Bid documents, specifications, and submission instructions are available beginning **April 20, 2026**.

Galt.k12.ca.us/Departments/Food-and-Nutrition-Service or Food-nutrition@galt.k12.ca.us

Sealed bids must be received no later than **May 18, 2026 by 3:00 pm**.

Submit at: 1018 C St. Suite 210 Galt, CA 95632

Bids will be opened on May 20, 2026. Late bids will not be accepted.

All vendors must comply with applicable federal, state, and local regulations, including USDA Child Nutrition Program requirements where applicable.

Questions must be submitted in writing to **Nick Svoboda** at food-nutrition@galt.k12.ca.us by **May 4, 2026**.

The **Galt Joint Union Elementary School District** reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities in the bidding process.

**Galt Joint Union Elementary School District
Food & Nutrition Services Department**

The Galt Herald 4-24, 5-1, 5-8 and 5-15-2026

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN ADDENDUM TO THE 2015 ADOPTED INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT FROM COMMERCIAL TO MEDIUM HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL, A REZONE FROM COMMERCIAL TO R3 MEDIUM HIGH DENSITY MULTIPLE FAMILY, A TENTATIVE SUBDIVISION MAP, DESIGN REVIEW (PROJECT ARCHITECTURE), AND CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR THE DRY CREEK WEST PROJECT

Notice is hereby given that the Galt City Council will hold a Public Hearing in the Council Chambers of Galt City Hall, 380 Civic Drive, Galt, California, on the date and time indicated below, or as soon thereafter that the matter can be heard, to receive and consider all evidence, testimony, and reports relative to the application described herein. The City Council will take action on the proposed approvals.

PROJECT TITLE: Dry Creek West

PROJECT LOCATION: Dry Creek West is north of Dry Creek Ranch Golf Club; east of Crystal Way, west of S. Carillion Blvd and the Dry Creek Oaks Subdivision, and south of Boessow Rd (APNs 150-0092-034, -035, and -036).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed infill project includes a Commercial / Mixed Use development of approximately 2± acres fronting Boessow Road (four buildings with commercial on the first floor and three apartments on the second floor for a total of 12 apartments plus a future fifth commercial-only building); a row home development of approximately 15± acres of 160 row homes (single family dwellings attached in 4- and 5-unit buildings); a senior triplex (ages 55+) community of approximately 6.07± acres of 68 rental homes in primarily 3-unit single story buildings; and a future assisted living facility designated parcel to be developed by others in the future of approximately 4.20± acres (including a detention basin).. A General Plan Amendment (GPA) is required to change a portion of the existing Commercial-designated parcel from Commercial to Medium High Density Residential, and a Rezone is required to change a portion of the Commercial-zoned parcel to R3 to accommodate the single-family row homes and senior triplexes. A Tentative Subdivision

Map (TSM) and Design Review (Project Architecture) is required for the commercial/mixed use, single-family row homes and senior triplexes. A Conditional Use Permit (CUP) is required for the apartments on the Commercial designated parcel.

A California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) addendum to the 2015 Dry Creek Oaks Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was prepared for this project.

OWNER/APPLICANT: CRV Investments, LLC
1800 Lone Oak Rd., Suite 8
Weatherford, TX 76086

Riverland Homes, Inc
4170 Douglas Blvd., #150
Granite Bay, CA 95746

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

Date and Time: The City Council for the City of Galt will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 6:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter that the matter can be heard. The meeting will be in person at the Galt City Council Chambers at City Hall, 380 Civic Drive, Galt.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed project or wish to review any details prior to the public hearing, please contact Stacy Schafer, Associate Planner at 209-366-7230 or sschafer@cityofgalt.org.

NOTICE REGARDING CHALLENGES TO DECISIONS

Pursuant to all applicable laws and regulations, including without limitation, California Government Sections 65009, 66020, and/or California Public Resources Code Section 21177, if you wish to challenge in court any of the above decisions (regarding planning, zoning and/or environmental decisions), you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing(s) described in this notice/agenda, or in written correspondence delivered to the city at, or prior to, this public hearing.

Dated: April 20, 2026

\s\ Stacy Schafer
Stacy Schafer, Associate Planner

\s\ Tina Hubert

The Galt Herald 4-24-2026

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

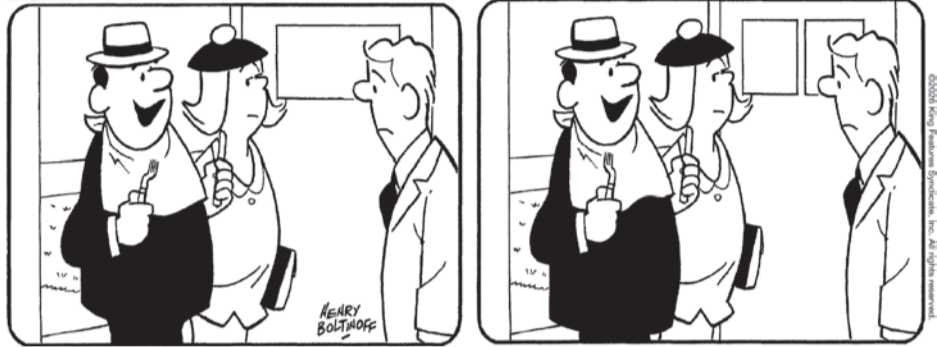
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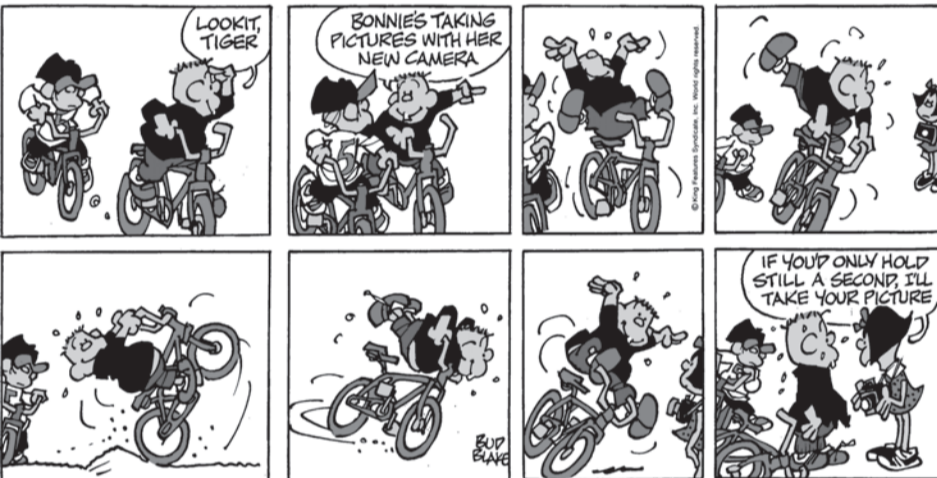
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Purse is moved. 2. Fork is reversed. 3. Napkin is different. 4. Doorway opening is not as wide. 5. Window in door is different. 6. Jacket is longer.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



GRIN and BEAR IT.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



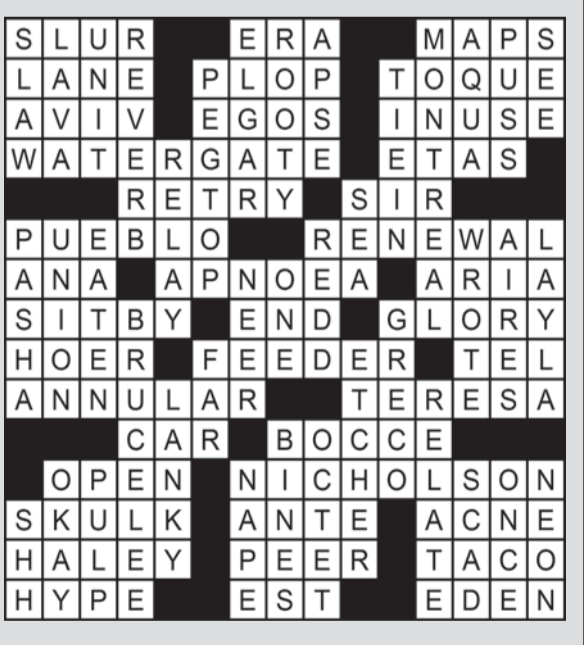
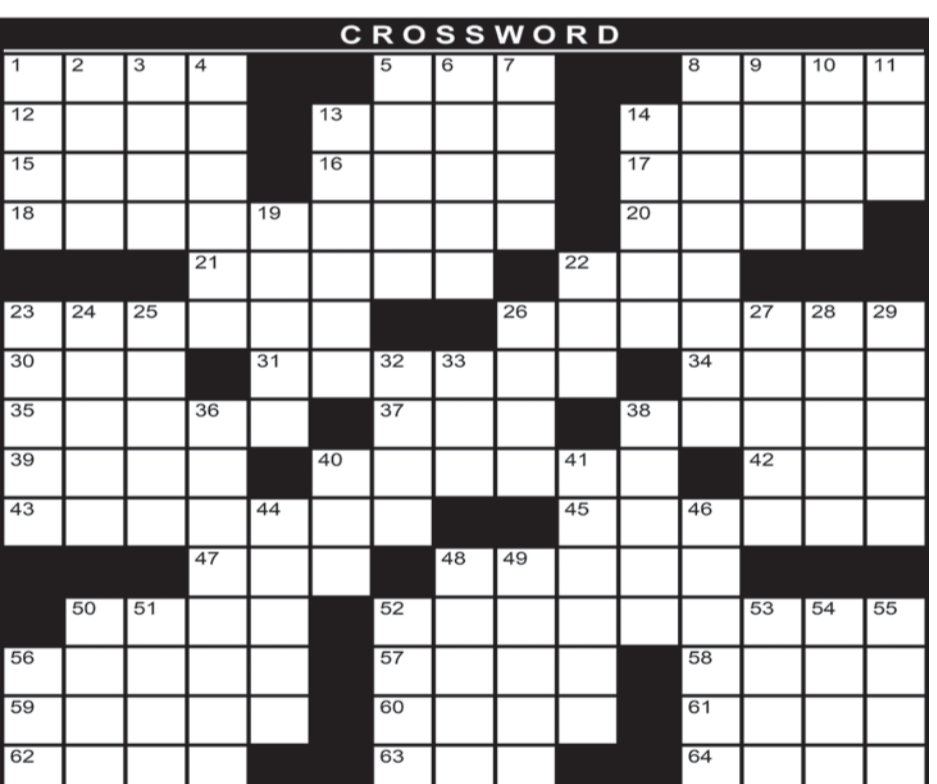
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CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Verbal abuse
 - *Failed constitutional amendment, acr.
 - Google ____, navigation aid
 - Strip of roadway
 - Dripping faucet sound
 - Chef's headgear
 - Tel ____, Israel
 - Prima donnas' problems
 - Occupied (2 words)
 - *1974 scandal
 - Flight-related announcements, acr.
 - Attempt again
 - Male aristocrat's honorific
 - Town, in Spanish
 - Recitation of wedding vows, again
 - Santa ____ winds
 - Apnea, in U.K.
 - Operatic solo
 - ____ or do nothing
 - Finish line
 - *1976 Woody Guthrie biopic: "Bound for ____"
 - Field worker
 - Avian rest stop
 - What lintel and mantel have in common
 - Ring-shaped
 - *1979 Nobel Prize-winning nun
 - *Alfa Romeo Giulietta, e.g.
 - Italian bowling
 - Type of tournament
 - *#33 Down Oscar winner
 - Lie in wait
 - Place one's stake
 - Skin woe
 - **"Roots" by Alex ____
 - House of Lords member
 - Chalupa alternative
 - Hoopla
 - "Right" coast time
 - *"The Barbara ____ Show"
- DOWN**
- Deli side
 - *____ lamp, 1960s invention popular in 1970s
 - Newton, e.g.
 - Echo
 - "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
 - ____ Tooty Fresh 'n Fruity
 - Cathedral part
 - *1976 Summer Olympics location
 - Caribbean color
 - Boot-wearing cat
 - *Johnny Nash's "I Can Clearly Now"
 - Spinning toy (2 words)
 - Make a logical connection (2 words)
 - 4 x 4 race
 - Dead one or Black one, e.g.
 - Ottoman Empire bigwig
 - Teamsters, e.g.
 - Consumed
 - *"Sanford and Son" star
 - "That's all she ____"
 - Buenos follower

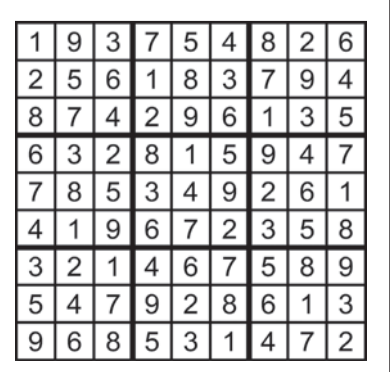


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- *Eric Clapton's 1970 hit
- Not ever, contraction
- *1975 movie "____ Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"
- *Kung Fu movie star (2 words)
- Domenikos Theotokopoulos, a.k.a. El ____
- Away's partner
- Old master print maker
- Scrawny
- Feel sympathy
- Common hops
- Eight performers
- No problem
- Cheap reads
- Back of neck
- a.k.a. horse mackerel
- *Jacqueline Susann's best-seller "____ Is Not Enough"
- Noble gas
- "Zip it!"



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

LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE

PRESENTED BY THE GALT HERALD

Liberty Ranch Hawks Softball on the Verge of a League Title



Coach Vince Bunac signals Bella Granata to run home. Photos courtesy of Katie Sickels

By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Liberty Ranch Hawk softball team has been the team to beat in the league all season long, and with a firm grip on first place, a league championship is well within reach. Head Coach Vince Bunac has guided the Hawks to another of their strongest campaigns, powered by a roster full of contributors from top to bottom.

At the center of it all is senior Bella Granata, who has put together one of the most complete offensive

seasons you'll see at any level. Granata leads the team – and likely the league – in batting average (.531), on-base percentage (.603), hits (26), RBIs (24), home runs (4), doubles (9) and slugging percentage (1.000). She also brings a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage on defense. Granata is the engine that drives this Hawks lineup, and her numbers in her senior season have been nothing short of extraordinary.

Fellow senior Xiana Juarez has been a powerful complement to Granata

in the heart of the order. Juarez is hitting .375 with 18 hits, 15 RBIs and three home runs, adding a .604 slugging percentage that makes her one of the most dangerous hitters in the lineup. Senior Carlie Perez has quietly contributed as well, ranking second on the team with eight doubles and a .560 slugging percentage.

Junior Shelby Duarte has been steady in the three-hole, batting .368 with a .489 OBP and four doubles. Her ability to get on base consistently gives the Hawks lineup a reliable



Senior Laura Quinn pitches.



Senior Xiana Juarez slugs the ball.

threat throughout the order.

One of the most pleasant surprises of the season has been freshman Gianna Farren, who has stepped right in and produced like a veteran. Farren leads the team in runs scored (19) and stolen bases (6), and boasts a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage. She also ranks third on the team in on-base percentage (.450) and collected 18 hits and a triple. For a first-year player to contribute at this level on a league-leading team speaks volumes about both her talent and

the culture Bunac has built in the program.

Fellow freshman Kaci Springmeyer has also made an impact, ranking second on the team with 19 RBIs and adding four stolen bases. Junior Khali Barrantes rounds out the Hawks' core contributors with 17 runs scored, three stolen bases and a .963 fielding percentage. Senior Laura Quinn handles the duties in the circle, leading the pitching staff with a 4.91 ERA.

"This group has been special to coach," said

Coach Bunac. "Our seniors have set the tone all season and the younger players have stepped up in a big way. We're focused on finishing what we started and bringing a league title back to Liberty Ranch."

Liberty Ranch will celebrate its six seniors on Senior Night, Monday, May 5. It will honor the Hawk players who have helped build this program into a league contender, and with a potential championship still ahead, the best may be yet to come. ★

Second-Year Coach Brings Passion, Patience and a Surprising Journey to the Hawks Program

Story and photo
by Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Shelby Behrmann was not looking for a coaching job. She was not even playing tennis yet when the Liberty Ranch tennis program first crossed her mind. But when a vacancy opened and it looked like the Hawks might not have a coach at all, someone who knew Behrmann thought of her, and everything changed from there. Now in her second year leading the Liberty Ranch co-ed tennis team, Behrmann has quietly engineered one of the more remarkable turn-arounds in the program's recent history, guiding the Hawks from a 1-13 record last season to a 7-4 mark this year and a spot in the playoffs that she admits was not even on her radar when the season began.

"We are far exceeding that goal," Behrmann said of her aim to simply win more games than the year before. "It just shows what one year of experience will do."

Behrmann's path to the sideline is anything but conventional. She played competitive tennis briefly as a child – from ages 9 to 11 – before burning out on the sport entirely and walking away. Tennis was not part of her high school experience at all. Her sports were cheerleading and softball. She went to college, got married, raised four children and spent seven years as a substitute teacher in the Galt Elementary School District, primarily at McCaffrey, until the COVID-19 pandemic brought that chapter to a

close in 2020.

When her youngest child started his freshman year at Liberty Ranch in the fall of 2021 – the first full return to in-person schooling since the pandemic – Behrmann found herself with something she had not had in years: free time. She decided she wanted to get active and meet people, and a visit to the Laguna Creek Sports Club to look at its tennis courts set off a chain of events she never could have anticipated. A tour became a private lesson, a private lesson became adult league play, and adult league play became something far more serious.

Today, Behrmann plays tennis four to five times a week, holds a 4.0 USTA ranking, competes in doubles tournaments and has qualified – alongside her doubles partner – for the 4.0 Women's Doubles USTA 18+ Nationals in Houston, Texas. USTA NorCal sends only the top three teams in each division to nationals. Behrmann and her partner earned their spot.

"Tennis is a huge part of my life now," she said simply.

It is that genuine love for the sport that she brings to practice every afternoon at Liberty Ranch, and it shows in the culture she has built. Despite having no prior coaching experience – she openly acknowledges that her preparation comes from being a mother of four, a substitute teacher, her own weekly lessons at Laguna Creek Sports Club, and the advice she regularly seeks from her own coaches – Behrmann has created something rare on the

courts: a team that actually acts like one.

"I highly encourage the kids who are not playing to watch those that are and to cheer for them," she said. "I feel like Liberty is one of the best supportive teams in the league right now. We cheer for our teammates more than any others. Our whole team travels, and everyone stays until home matches are over. A lot of other teams' kids leave when their individual match is over."

The challenges she has faced are real and significant. Her roster of 27 players includes many who have never held a racket before, let alone competed. Two teams in the league – Amador and Argonaut – benefit from feeder programs that introduce tennis to kids at the elementary school level, making them nearly impossible to beat. Behrmann manages all 27 players largely on her own, without an assistant coach, dividing the team across courts and rotating groups through drill sessions with her before sending them to compete against each other.

"Tennis is a very technical sport and is not easily mastered," she said. "Experience cannot be skipped."

There is also a structural disadvantage built into the courts themselves. The Liberty Ranch tennis courts were constructed on an east-west axis rather than the regulation north-south orientation, meaning players frequently compete while staring directly into the setting sun. "Tennis is a very difficult sport to learn," Behrmann said, "even more difficult to learn while playing half blind."

Her coaching philosophy is direct and rooted in honesty. She tells her athletes that she will give 100% to coaching and expects 100% from them in return.

She emphasizes the mental side of the game as much as the technical, reminding players that even professionals lose and that the key is learning to respond to mistakes rather than be defined by them. Sportsmanship and tennis etiquette are non-negotiables.

"I always want them to show great sportsmanship," she said.

Behrmann's first year was, by her own admission, a significant learning curve. She had never played high school tennis herself and spent much of that season figuring out what to expect.

"Definitely learned to have a lot of patience," she said with characteristic candor.

That patience is paying off. The Hawks are in the playoffs. The culture is strong. And Behrmann – an empty-nester who took a tour of a sports club just



Liberty Ranch Tennis Coach Shelby Behrmann: "Tennis is a very technical sport and is not easily mastered. Experience cannot be skipped."

a few years ago and ended up qualifying for nationals – has a message for any Liberty Ranch student still on the fence about picking up a racket.

"I would say you are not alone," she said. "Many people don't come out because they are worried they are too much of a beginner, but so are a lot of people. Tennis is one of the best sports to get involved with because it is something you can play your whole life. It gets you active, it gets you meeting

new people and it's fun. Look at me: I'm an empty nester playing competitive sports. I personally think kids who play other competitive sports should play tennis in the spring to make them a more well-rounded athlete."

From a 1-13 record to the playoffs in one season, Shelby Behrmann is proof that the right coach does not always come from where you expect, and that it is never too late to fall in love with a sport all over again. ★

GALT HERALD ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Xiana Juarez
Liberty Ranch Softball



Carlie Perez
Liberty Ranch Softball



Zoe Sanchez
Galt High Softball



Leopoldo Garcia
Galt High Tennis

Photos by Paige Lampson

Photos by Kellie Beck

LOCAL SPORTS → COVERAGE



Galt Warriors Celebrate Senior Night with Big Wins Over Liberty Ranch



Galt High seniors are, from left: Jayden Tackett, Elena Marras, Anthony Rice, Madisen Gutierrez, Lucas Villalpando, Bailey Pinkham, Vicente Avalos and Breña Eads. Photo by Erica Atkins.

By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Galt Warriors swim team celebrated Senior Night on April 15, honoring eight seniors before going on to beat Liberty Ranch in a convincing showing from both the girls and boys teams.

Recognized on the night were Lucas Villalpando, Anthony Rice, Madisen Gutierrez, Breña Eads, Elena Marras, Bailey Pinkham, Vicente Avalos and Jayden Tackett. The seniors were celebrated for their years of dedication to the Warriors program and are now preparing for a variety of next steps, including college, military service, travel and future careers.

Head Coach Erica Atkins reflected on what the night meant to the program.

“These seniors have shown incredible dedication and leadership throughout their time here,” Atkins said. “We wanted to send them off the right way, and I couldn’t be prouder of how the whole team performed tonight.”

The Galt girls made a strong statement, sweeping first, second and third place in the 50 freestyle, 500 freestyle and 100 breaststroke. They finished with a dominant team score of 110-59 over Liberty Ranch. The boys kept the momentum going, also sweeping first, second and third place in the 50 freestyle and 100

breaststroke on their way to a 65-20 victory.

Boys: Deep Talent on an 11-Man Roster

The Galt boys swim team has put together an impressive season, with several swimmers posting standout individual times across multiple events.

Tiger Myrick has been the engine of the boys’ program, leading the team in five events. Myrick owns the team’s top times in the 100 fly (58.76), 100 back (1:01.73), 200 free (2:03.08) and 200 IM (2:14.28), and has been one of the most versatile and competitive swimmers in the league all season.

Bowdyn Beck leads the team in the 50 free with a time of 25.81 and has also posted strong times in the 100 fly (1:15.04) and 100 free (1:02.49), making him one of the Warriors’ top sprint performers.

Senior Jayden Tackett has contributed across multiple events, leading the team in the 100 free (1:00.10) and 500 free (6:36.86), while also posting competitive times in the 200 free (2:15.06), 100 breast (1:17.84) and 200 IM (2:38.92). Tackett’s versatility and leadership as a senior have been invaluable to the program.

Mateo Mejia Beas leads the team in the 100 breast with a strong time of 1:14.12 and has also posted best times in the 50 free (27.47), 200 IM (2:42.45) and 500 free (6:44.22). Senior Anthony Rice has been a consistent contributor in the sprints, posting a 50 free best of 28.12 and a 100 free of 1:07.29. Senior Lucas Villalpando rounds out the senior contributors with best times in the 50 free (28.56), 100 free (1:05.87), 100 back (1:25.49) and 500 free (7:48.17).

Mason Garcia and Julian Alvarado have added depth throughout the season, each posting competitive times across multiple events. Senior Vicente Avalos has also contributed with best times in the 100 free (1:09.59) and 100 breast (1:34.02).

The boys relay teams have been equally impressive. The Warriors posted a best time of 1:51.19 in the 200 free relay, 1:57.72 in the 200 medley relay, and 4:07.04 in the 400 free relay: times that reflect a cohesive and well-prepared group.

Girls: 25 Deep and Loaded with Talent

With 25 swimmers on the roster, the Galt girls’ program has no shortage

of depth or talent, and the results throughout the season have shown it.

Madison McDonald has been one of the team’s top performers, leading in the 50 free (28.09), 200 free (2:14.43) and 500 free (6:13.62). Her speed across sprint and distance events makes her one of the most complete swimmers on the girls’ side.

Courtney Brouwer has been equally dominant, leading the team in the 100 free (1:01.75), 100 fly (1:09.37), 100 back (1:11.36) and 200 IM (2:29.90). Brouwer’s ability to excel across strokes and distances has made her a cornerstone of the Warriors’ girls’ program.

Lucy Thomlinson leads the team in the 100 breast with an outstanding time of 1:22.47 and has also posted strong best times in the 50 free (29.40) and 200 free (2:35.48). Senior Bailey Pinkham has been a key contributor as well, posting a 50 free best of 28.54 –second on the team – and a 100 breast of 1:25.18, reflecting her growth and dedication throughout her career.

Kayden Gregg, Brooklynn Gaither, the Brum sisters (Isla and Izzy) and Miranda Rivera have all posted competitive times across multiple events and provided the kind of depth that makes the Warriors’ girls team difficult to beat.

Emma McDonald, Maggie Thomlinson, Kinley Schlesinger, Lillie Jackson and Lyla Maple have also been consistent contributors, each recording best times that have helped the team score points throughout the season.

Seniors Madisen Gutierrez, Elena Marras and Breña Eads have each competed with heart all season, posting best times in the 50 free of 35.39, 40.00 and 48.39, respectively. AnaLucia Alvarado, Genevie Maldonado, Margareth Cacnio, Layla Brannon, Hailey Morris, Mia Anaya, Crystal Lamb and Carly Jones round out a deep and dedicated girls roster.

The girls relay teams have been strong all season, posting a best of 1:58.03 in the 200 free relay, 2:15.54 in the 200 medley relay and 4:30.76 in the 400 free relay.

With league championships on the horizon, the Warriors are carrying this energy into the postseason. The team is focused on finishing the season strong and honoring the legacy of their eight seniors. ★

Liberty Ranch Hawks Swim Celebrates Senior Night, Honors Three Seniors

Story and photo
by Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Liberty Ranch Hawks swim team celebrated Senior Night this season, pausing to honor three seniors – Kelly Faul, Haley Smith and Ariana Carpio – for their years of dedication and commitment to the program.

Faul has been one of the most versatile swimmers on the roster, competing across a wide range of events throughout her career. Her best times include the 50 free (35.81), 100 free (1:25.80), 100 back (1:37.28), 100 fly (1:28.43), 100 breast (1:59.33), 200 free (3:00.14), 200 IM (3:20.99) and 500 free (7:49.68). Her willingness to step in wherever needed has been a valuable asset to the Hawks all season long.

Smith has been a steady contributor in the distance events, posting best times in the 50 free (30.77), 200 free (2:36.62) and 500 free (7:10.91). Her presence in the longer events has given the Hawks reliable depth, and her best times reflect the hard work she has put in throughout her career.

Carpio has also competed across multiple events this season, logging best times in the 50 free (44.39), 100 free (1:38.59), 100 back (2:31.42), 200 free (3:37.18) and 500 free (10:27.46). Carpio’s willingness to take on challenging events and compete with heart has exemplified the spirit of this program.

The Hawks carry a roster of 16 swimmers – three boys and 13 girls – and the depth of talent across both groups has made for an impressive season of individual performances.

Boys: Bussman Leads the Way

With just three swimmers on the boys’ side, every point and every swim matters, and Mason Bussman has delivered in



Hawk swim seniors Kelly Faul, left, Ariana Carpio and Haley Smith.

a big way. Bussman owns the team’s top times in six events, including the 50 free (22.90), 100 free (48.85), 100 back (55.76), 100 fly (57.42), 200 free (1:52.59) and 200 IM (2:07.75). His times are among the most competitive in the area and he has been the anchor of the boys’ program all season.

Sophomore Matthew Hernandez Lara has also contributed steadily, posting best times in the 50 free (32.04), 100 free (1:19.59), 100 back (2:08.99) and 200 free (3:07.85), and leading the team in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 2:00.06. For a small boys’ roster, both swimmers have shown up and competed hard every meet.

Kotko Leads for Girls

On the girls side, the Hawks boast a talented and deep roster with standout performances from top to bottom.

Arianna Kotko has been the team’s top individual performer, holding the best times in the 50 free (28.38), 100 free (1:01.93), 100 back (1:13.94), 200 free (2:24.62) and 200 IM (2:47.65). Kotko’s speed and versatility have made her one of the most complete swimmers on the roster.

Right alongside her is

Ainsley Robbins, who leads the team in the 100 fly (1:14.81), 100 breast (1:25.30), 200 IM (2:42.20) and 500 free (6:41.18). Robbins has been a force in the distance and individual medley events all season, and her performances have been among the most consistent on the team.

The Hawks’ depth doesn’t stop there. Nathalie Ochoa, Haley Andrews, Isabella Westlynn and Madilyn Brixey have all posted strong best times across multiple events and contributed to a relay corps that has performed well throughout the season. The Hawks’ best relay times – 2:14.70 in the 200 free relay, 2:16.21 in the 200 medley relay, and 4:33.42 in the 400 free relay – reflect a team that works well together in the water.

Sydney Church, Emma McKimby and Analijah Ware round out the girls roster, each contributing best times and points throughout the season.

Senior Night served as a fitting tribute to three swimmers who have given their best for the Hawks year after year. As the season winds toward league championships, Liberty Ranch will look to carry the energy of Senior Night into the postseason and finish strong. ★

Liberty Ranch Tennis Celebrates Senior Night, Eyes Playoff Run



Honored on Senior Night were Hawks Elis Suarez, left, Haley Smith and Maxemilio Guerrero. Photo courtesy of Shelby Behrman

By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Liberty Ranch tennis team wrapped up a successful regular season by celebrating Senior Night, honoring three players who have been a part of the Hawks program: Elis Suarez, Haley Smith and Maxemilio Guerrero.

It was a fitting send-off for a team that took a big step forward this year.

Liberty Ranch finished the season with a 10-4 record, good for third place in the league behind Amador and Argonaut, and earned a spot in the playoffs.

“We really improved this season and I’m proud of how far this team has come,” said Head Coach Shelby Behrman. “Our seniors have been a big part of that. They’ve led by example and we’re excited to see what we can do in

the playoffs.”

The Hawks are scheduled to compete in the playoffs on May 1, though their opponent has yet to be announced. The league tournament, originally set for this week, has been pushed back due to rain and will be rescheduled.

With momentum on its side, Liberty Ranch is looking to make a run in the postseason and finish the year on a high note. ★

LEAGUE STANDINGS

Baseball	
School	W/L
Bradshaw	10-1
Liberty Ranch	8-2
Amador	6-4
Rosemont	5-4
El Dorado	5-5
Union Mine	2-7
Argonaut	2-8
Galt	1-9

Softball	
School	W/L
Liberty Ranch	6-1
Argonaut	6-2
Amador	6-2
Bradshaw	4-4
Rosemont	4-4
Union Mine	3-5
Galt	2-5

Tennis	
School	W/L
Amador	13-1
Argonaut	13-1
Liberty Ranch	10-4
El Dorado	7-7
Union Mine	6-8
Galt	5-9
Bradshaw	1-13
Rosemont	1-13