



**Welch Launches  
Five Hawks  
to University**

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**Celebrate  
Father's Day!**



# The Galt Herald

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JUNE 19, 2026

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ECONOMY IS ONE OF  
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**NEW YORK WINS**



PAGE 5



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## McCaffrey Promotion Marks New Beginnings

By Idaly Valencia

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - McCaffrey Middle School's Class of 2026 marked the end of one chapter and the beginning of another during its promotion ceremony June 3, celebrating students' achievements as they prepare to enter high school.

Student Gabriel Torres opened the ceremony with a welcome address to family members, friends, staff and fellow students in attendance.

"Looking back, I realize middle school wasn't only about getting good grades, it was also about the people, lessons and moments that shaped us throughout the way," Gabriel shared.

"If you had told me in sixth grade that I would one day stand in front of all of these people giving a speech, I would have been terrified. Now, while I may still be a little nervous, I am truly excited and honored to speak on behalf of McCaffrey's students."

Student Judith Origel delivered reminders about ceremony etiquette in both English and Spanish, while Carly Garner led the Pledge of Allegiance. Averi Rowland, Bentley Ostrander and Paloma Gold performed the National Anthem.

Assistant Principal Elaine Trull then recognized Galt Joint Union Elementary School District board members, staff and

*Continued on page 11*



Samuel Underwood delivers his student's address for the McCaffrey Middle School promotion on June 3. Photos courtesy of McCaffrey Middle School

## Council Adopts Objective Residential Design Standards



By John McCallum

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - At its June 2 meeting, the City Council unanimously approved an ordinance amending and updating the city's single-family residential design standards.

City staff said the amendments were necessary because a review indicated the standards adopted in 2022 were not objective enough to meet state requirements updated by recent legislation as well as "achieving the design and architectural goals of the community."

The amendments were reviewed and commented on at a March 30 joint City Council and Planning Commission study session as well as reviewed and recommended by the Planning Commission, with modifications, at its May 14 meeting that included a public hearing.

Community Development Director Jennifer Carloni told council all recommended changes or modifications were included in the ordinance's final language and updates to the city's Municipal Code section 18.16.055. One of the updates changed the title of the section from "Recommended residential design standards" to "Single Family Objective Design Standards."

"The main point here was to make clearly objective standards for developers to follow," Carloni said.

The standards apply to single-family attached and detached residential developments. Excluded are accessory dwelling units, junior accessory dwelling units, multifamily developments such as condominiums and apartments and mixed use developments. Carloni said the city's Municipal Code already has guidelines that apply to these projects, noting staff felt creating additional barriers might discourage these types of affordable housing construction, something city officials believe is lacking in the community.

Key elements of the *Continued on page 3*

## Local Business Owner Speaks Out Against 'Shakedown' Website Lawsuits

Story and photo by Idaly Valencia

**ELK GROVE, CA (MPG)** - An Elk Grove small business owner is speaking out after being hit with what she describes as a predatory lawsuit tied to her company's website, joining a growing coalition pushing for Senate Bill 690 to close what supporters call a legal loophole affecting businesses, nonprofits and public agencies statewide.

Belinda Gutierrez, owner of the family-operated business Elk Grove Plumbing, Drain, Heating and Air, said she was blindsided after receiving a demand letter in November 2025 accusing her company of multiple violations connected to its website's privacy practices.

The business, founded in 2018, also operates a second location in Galt.

"I was completely shocked and confused," Gutierrez said. "Even reading it initially, I didn't understand it. I didn't even know if it was real."

After researching the claims, Gutierrez said she learned the lawsuit centered on her company's website not having a cookie consent banner that allows visitors to accept or reject online tracking tools.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, internet cookies are



Pictured is Belinda Gutierrez, owner of Elk Grove Plumbing, Drain, Heating and Air, outside her Old Town Elk Grove office. Gutierrez is among small business owners supporting Senate Bill 690 after facing what she says are predatory lawsuits tied to website privacy and cookie disclosure requirements.

small pieces of data stored in a user's web browser while visiting a website. Cookies help websites to recognize returning users and remember information such as login credentials, shopping cart items and site preferences.

"At that time, we didn't have the cookies banner on our website," she said. "So this particular law firm decided to sue us for four different violations."

Among the allegations was *Continued on page 7*

# Keep Your Pets Safe as Summer Temperatures Rise

and seek veterinary care immediately if heatstroke is suspected.

## Be Careful Around Water

Always supervise pets around pools, lakes and rivers. Consider a pet life jacket and never assume your pet can safely swim without assistance.

## Protect Pets From Sunburn

Pets with light-colored fur, pink noses or exposed skin can get sunburned. Ask your veterinarian about pet-safe sunscreen options. On extreme heat days, bringing pets indoors is often the safest option.

## Add a Pet?

Summer is a great time to adopt. Sacramento County's Bradshaw Animal Shelter has dogs, cats, puppies and kittens looking for loving homes.

Visit us at 3839 Bradshaw Road in Sacramento. The shelter is open Tuesday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m., and Wednesdays from noon to 6 p.m.

For more, visit [BradshawShelter.net](http://BradshawShelter.net). ★



The county is reminding residents to watch out for the serious risks summer heat poses to pets, such as heat exhaustion, burned paw pads, dehydration and heat stroke, and to learn preventive measures to keep them safe. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

### Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Summer has officially arrived in Sacramento County, and while many of us are looking forward to longer days, backyard barbecues, pool time and outdoor adventures, the season also brings serious risks for pets.

Dogs and cats are much more vulnerable to heat than people realize. Every summer, animal shelters and veterinary clinics see pets suffering from heat exhaustion, burned paw pads, dehydration and heat stroke, many of which are completely preventable.

As temperatures climb, here are some important ways to help keep your pets safe and comfortable all summer long.

#### Never Leave Pets in a Parked Vehicle

Even on a day that feels relatively mild, temperatures inside a parked car

can become deadly within minutes. Cracking the windows does little to reduce the heat. If you're running errands, leave your pets safely at home where they can stay cool.

#### Walk Early or Walk Late

Plan walks during the early morning or later

evening hours when temperatures are cooler. Before heading out, place the back of your hand on the pavement for seven seconds. If it's too hot for your hand, it's too hot for your pet's paws.

#### Make Water available at All Times

Pets need constant

access to fresh, clean water, especially during hot weather. Bringing a portable water bowl on walks, hikes or outings can help prevent dehydration.

#### Provide Shade and Cool Places to Rest

If pets are outside, they should always have access to adequate shade and

fresh water. Fans, air conditioning, cooling mats and damp towels can help pets stay comfortable.

#### Know the Signs of Heatstroke

Watch for excessive panting, heavy drooling, vomiting, weakness, lethargy, stumbling or collapse. Move pets to a cool area

# Board Approves 2026-27 Recommended County Budget

### Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted on June 10 to approve the \$9 billion Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27.

This year's \$9 billion spending plan consists of \$3.2 billion in Enterprise and Special Revenue Funds (utility rates, fees and other dedicated revenue), \$4 billion in General Fund (funded with \$1 billion in discretionary revenue, \$1.7 billion in reimbursements from restricted funds, and \$1.3 billion in Federal, State and fee revenue dedicated to specific purposes), and \$1.7 billion in Restricted Funds (amounts transferred to the General Fund to reimburse



eligible expenditures in General Fund departments).

"Putting together this year's budget

required difficult decisions, and I appreciate the thoughtful and strategic approach our department heads took in identifying reductions," said David Villanueva, county executive. "I am also grateful to the Board of Supervisors for their thoughtful discussions, careful consideration and leadership in making the tough choices necessary to adopt a balanced budget."

"Throughout this process, County leaders at every level demonstrated professionalism, responsibility and a commitment to serving our residents. Their dedication is something I'm incredibly proud of and reflects the very best of our County organization."

The Board revised the Recommended Budget by restoring \$9,916,137 in

funding. This included \$7,894,989 for the Sheriff's Office, restoring funding for the Homeless Outreach Team (\$2,517,073), Marine Patrol Unit (\$1,092,248), Department of Boating and Waterways funding (\$119,000), Gangs-South Unit (\$1,669,302), Gangs-North Unit (\$1,654,490), and the ID Theft Unit (\$842,876). It also restored \$1,372,072 for Community Prosecution positions in the District Attorney's Office and \$649,076 for the Public Defender's Misdemeanor Mental Health Diversion program.

The \$9 billion budget includes a \$4 billion General Fund, \$3.2 billion in Enterprise and Special Revenue Funds, and \$1.7 billion in Restricted Funds. It supports 12,897 employees. ★

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8:20 AM	8:45 AM	8:50 AM	8:55 AM	9:00 AM	9:25 AM	9:45 AM		8:25 AM	8:45 AM	9:20 AM	9:45 AM	9:50 AM	9:55 AM	10:00 AM	
10:20 AM	10:45 AM	10:50 AM	10:55 AM	11:00 AM	11:25 AM	11:45 AM		10:25 AM	10:45 AM	11:20 AM	11:45 AM	11:50 AM	11:55 AM	12:00 PM	
12:20 PM	12:45 PM	12:50 PM	12:55 PM	1:00 PM	1:25 PM	1:45 PM		12:25 PM	12:45 PM	1:20 PM	1:45 PM	1:50 PM	1:55 PM	2:00 PM	
2:20 PM	2:45 PM	2:50 PM	2:55 PM	3:00 PM	3:25 PM	3:45 PM		2:25 PM	2:45 PM	3:20 PM	3:45 PM	3:50 PM	3:55 PM	4:00 PM	



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## State Budget Spends More, Fails More

Office of State Sen. Roger Niello News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - California Senate Republicans voted on June 15 against the Democrats' Leaders budget proposal, warning that the plan doubles down on failed policies that have made California less affordable while expanding government spending and new taxes.

The vote on Assembly Bill 109 was simply to pass a "shell" budget so Democrat lawmakers would technically meet the June 15 constitutional

budget deadline so they wouldn't get their pay cut off tomorrow.

The gory details of the full Democrat leaders' budget, which will include new tax hikes on phones, computers, gasoline and health plans, will come out over the next couple weeks in a series of so-called "trailer bills."

"When your budget has nearly doubled in less than a decade, but families are struggling to afford housing, gas, groceries and healthcare, the state's accounting system is clearly broken," said Sen. Roger Niello (R-Fair Oaks), vice chair of the

Senate Budget Committee. "This budget relies on new taxes and borrowing and asks working families to pay even more for government programs that continue to fall short."

The budget agreement also fails to address California's growing unemployment insurance debt, forcing employers to shoulder a tax burden that has increased more than 250% per employee. It also does nothing to stop the upcoming gas tax increase, which will push California's gas tax above 63 cents per gallon while families already pay the highest fuel prices in the

nation. "Tax-and-spend Democrats continue to demonstrate an unprecedented level of tone-deafness and seem unconcerned with delivering real results with Californians' hard-earned tax dollars," said Senate Minority Leader Brian W. Jones (R-San Diego). "This budget just goes to show that our once 'golden' state has become a playground for left-wing politicians, where \$2 billion green fleets are a better use of our gas tax money than safe roads, and suing the federal administration is more important than funding public safety. The state needs to stop funding pet projects and pursuing personal vendettas with taxpayer funds. It's time to prioritize the people, but today's budget does not reflect that; quite the opposite."

Rather than tackling affordability, legislative Democrats

approved billions in new taxes and fees, including a \$14 billion tax increase on computer and phone services that will ultimately be passed on to consumers and businesses, a new healthcare tax that will increase insurance costs for families, and forked over another \$1 billion to the state's failed high-speed rail project.

"While Republican lawmakers double down on priorities that reflect the real needs of Californians, Democrat politicians double down on their tax-and-spend policies that fail to put working families first," Niello added. "This budget spends more but fails more. It will make our state even more unaffordable than it already is. Everyday Californians truly deserve better."

Senate Republicans submitted their budget priorities in a letter to Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative budget leaders as they prepared to finalize

his eighth and final budget. Senate Republicans' letter to the state's Democratic budget leaders laid out five core priorities that must be addressed for the economic stability of the state and to provide Californians relief from the unsustainable policy-imposed costs of living here. They are: Fully funding Proposition 36; Focusing on wildfire prevention programs; Assisting financially distressed hospitals; Funding fraud prevention and accountability measures for state programs; and Making the state pay off pandemic-era unemployment insurance loans (as every other state has done) instead of pushing repayment onto business owners.

*Elected in 2022, State Sen. Roger Niello represents District 6, which includes the cities of Galt and Herald in Sacramento County and Roseville in Placer County.* ★

# Council Adopts Objective Residential Design Standards

*Continued from page 1* objective standards include more clarity on the scale of homes built near existing single-story neighborhoods, including limiting the addition of a second story to no more than 50% of the total first floor space. New design requirements were added to windows, roofs and "articulation and massing changes" in order to "achieve a less 'generic' design" in construction.

Also required are variations in building materials, colors and articulation, reduced dominance of garage door presence on front elevations and adding practical needs such as lights near garage doors and walkways along with wider driveways and offset windows to create more privacy. Amendments to infill subdivision construction include requiring all exterior perimeter lots adjacent to existing single-story homes to be no more than one story and no artificial grade separation between existing neighborhoods and the new development.

In unanimously approving the new objective design standards, the Planning Commission did make three modifications. The first moved imitation masonry and Styrofoam/



From upper left to lower right are four of the five architectural house designs: Ranch, Modern, Spanish and Prairie. These are examples of styles the city wants to use as its standard for single-family homes when approving future developments. Graphics courtesy of City of Galt

foam reinforced with steel, fiberglass or concrete from the prohibited materials list to the allowed list while the second now requires 50% of new detached, single-family homes to have front-loaded garage doors set back at least 5 feet from the front façade.

The third removed the requirement for a 5-foot setback for a second-story addition.

Most questions by council members focused on design specifics, either seeking clarification on some elements or making sure proposed changes

or additions brought up at the previous meetings had been included. Councilmember Paul Sandu asked Carloni if the new standards would create an issue with housing affordability by potentially adding extra requirements to construction.

Carloni said the standards were in place in most California cities and didn't believe they would create pricing issues.

"There might be a small change based on material type or requiring specific doors or windows," she added. "But overall, the

affordability will not be changed with the standards."

Also at the June 2 meeting, council unanimously approved a resolution adopting a policy on disruption of telephonic or internet service during a meeting. The resolution addresses changes made to existing law by Senate Bill 707, passed in 2025, requiring following a specific process should service be disrupted for individuals taking part in government meetings remotely.

The legislation applies to all legislative bodies,

but applies certain provisions to eligible legislative bodies, which the Galt City Council qualifies as because it's located in a county with a population of more than 600,000 people.

According to a report by Galt Interim City Attorney Frank Splendorio, the new legislation requires legislative bodies to "follow specific requirements for providing remote access to public participants in Council meetings via two-way audiovisual platforms or two-way telephonic services; captioning when using audiovisual

platforms; and expanded accessibility and translation for notices and websites."

The city is in the process of implementing these requirements, which must begin by July 1. Regarding a service disruption, the law requires the presiding officer, either the mayor or city clerk, to publicly declare a disruption has occurred and call for a recess of up to one hour or until service is restored.

Council has the option of meeting in closed session during this period as already provided by law. During the recess city staff shall do their best to restore service.

If after an hour service has not been restored, council shall reconvene to either adjourn the meeting, extend the recess to allow more time to rectify the problem or continue the open session portion of the meeting by adopting through a roll call vote a statement noting the city has made a good faith effort to fix the disruption and that public interest in continuing the meeting outweighs public remote access.

The city clerk shall enter a brief statement into the meeting minutes noting the nature and time of service disruption, time meeting reconvened, if applicable, and any findings adopted pursuant to the reconvening in open session. ★

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# ABOUT TOWN

## Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20

**Sunset Bat Kayak Tour** – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. each evening on the Cosumnes River. Experience a magical sunset bat kayaking tour on the Cosumnes River, featuring fascinating wildlife insights, delicious snacks, and the breathtaking sight of bat migrations. Link to buy tickets at visitlodi.com. 13501 Franklin Blvd.

## Friday, June 19

**Annual Wine Tasting Benefit** – 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Pixie Woods. Come out to fundraise for a worthy cause as you sip through your evening in the enchanted forest. This is a not-to-be missed event with vintners from California's most prestigious wine regions. Taste superb wines from Napa, Sonoma, Carneros region, Lodi wine country and beer from local breweries. Sample scrumptious hors d'oeuvres, be entertained by different musical groups at locations throughout the park and shop a fabulous silent auction. All proceeds go to improvements and features in Pixie Woods Children's Park. Tickets are \$70 in advance at visitpixiewoods.com/events; none will be sold at the door. *Louis Park, Shimizu Drive at Occidental Avenue, Stockton.*

**Galt Chamber Pour & Play: Beer, Wine & Tequila Tastings** – 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Papas & Wings. This exciting 21+ event brings together local businesses, community leaders and guests for an elevated evening filled with flavor, fun and unforgettable memories. Guests will enjoy wine, craft beer and tequila tastings while exploring casino-style gaming, live entertainment and a vibrant social atmosphere. Delicious appetizers and light bites will be available throughout the evening, creating the perfect pairing for a night out with friends, co-workers or clients. Tickets and more information at galitchamber.org. 803 C St.

## Saturday, June 20 and Sunday, June 21

**Elite Studio of Dance Spotlight** – Join us at the Charlene Powers Lange Performing Arts Theatre for our annual recital: a weekend showcasing our students' passion, precision and creativity across ballet, jazz, contemporary, hip hop, ballroom and tap. Don't miss this celebration of talent, teamwork and the joy of dance. Shows at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. each day. Tickets available at lodi.gov. 125 S. Hutchins St., Lodi.

## Saturday, June 20

**Corgi Paddle** – 10 a.m. to noon at Lodi Lake. Get ready for an adorable day on the water; it's our fourth annual gathering. Whether you're paddling with your own pup or just love the corgi community, this fun-filled outing is a must. You're welcome to launch your personal kayak or paddleboard directly from the boathouse, or rentals are available. More information at visitlodi.com. 1101 W. Turner Road, Lodi.

**Juneteenth Celebrate Freedom** – noon to 6 p.m. at the San Joaquin County

Fairgrounds. Bring the entire family to enjoy live performances, food, vendors, poetry, history and much more. This is sure to be an event that makes long-lasting memories for you and your children. 1658 S. Airport Way, Stockton.

**SummerFest** – 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Appellation Lodi. Join the Lodi Memorial Hospital Foundation for the 41st annual SummerFest, an unforgettable evening of food, wine, music and community connection set against the beautiful backdrop of Appellation Lodi – Wine & Roses Resort and Spa. Proceeds support vital healthcare advancements at Adventist Health Lodi Memorial. Tickets and more information at lmhfoundation.org/summerfest. 2505 W. Turner Road, Lodi.

**Astronomy in the Park** – 7 p.m. to 10:15 p.m. at Shumway Oak Grove Regional Park. Bring a blanket and chairs; Stockton Astronomical Society will bring the telescopes. Free event, \$6 parking. 4520 W. Eight Mile Road, Stockton.

## Wednesday, June 24

**Music in the Park** – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at West Park at Hutchins Street Square. Join us for a relaxing evening of free live music. Bring your blankets or low lawn chairs and settle in for great tunes in a shady, comfortable park setting. Treats and eats available for purchase, or you're also welcome to pack your own picnic. This month featuring the Whiskey Kiss Band. 125 S. Hutchins St., Lodi.

## Friday, June 26

**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, June 27

**Runabouts on the River Classic Boat & Car Show** – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Stockton Sailing Club. Come join us for a fun day of activities, including free boat rides, food vendors, youth activities, live music and much more. ROTR features the largest collection of classic boats on the West Coast. Proceeds from the event support Stockton Sailing Club Youth Sailing Program, the Sea Scouts, and help the Stockton Maritime Museum's efforts to continue to offer programs for the whole community. Bring the whole family to enjoy the beautiful San Joaquin River. 4980 Buckley Cove Way, Stockton.

**Family-Friendly Nature Walk** – 10 a.m. at the Cosumnes River Preserve. Come join us for a fun and educational nature walk at the beautiful Preserve. This in-person event is perfect for families looking to explore the outdoors and learn about the local wildlife and habitats. Our knowledgeable guides will lead you on a leisurely stroll through the preserve, while the group looks for interesting plants and animals along the way. Register at Eventbrite.com. 13501 Franklin Blvd.

**Next Level Dance presents "Boots, Bows, and Bling"** – 3 p.m. or 5 p.m. at

Charlene Powers Lange Performing Arts Theatre. This summer show is shaping up to be our biggest, sparkliest, country-filled celebration yet. From our elite, award-winning dancers to our adorable toddlers stealing the spotlight, this show is packed with talent, heart and nonstop entertainment. Tickets and more information at lodi.gov. 125 S. Hutchins St., Lodi.

## Saturday, July 4

**Officer Tonn Memorial 5k Run/Walk** – 7:30 a.m. sign-in at City Hall; event begins at 8 a.m. This event kicks off our City of Galt Independence Day Celebration. On Jan. 15, 2013, Officer Kevin Tonn was shot and killed in the line of duty. Officer Tonn was a Galt Police Officer for three and half years and believed having a job of helping and protecting people was the highest calling anyone could have in a community. Pre-registration is encouraged and available online at cityofgalt.org. 380 Civic Drive.

## Saturday, July 11

**A Drive Down Memory Lane Car Show** – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at McFarland Living History Ranch. The Galt Area Historical Society will host its annual car show open to all cars from the 1970s and older. Car entry is \$35 in advance and \$45 at the gate. There will be a \$5 per car fee for the public to attend. For those interested, vehicles can be registered at galthistory.com. 8899 Orr Road.

## Ongoing Events

**Dillard Farmers Market** – 8 a.m. to noon at the Wilton Community Center. Join us at our vibrant, small community farmers market, where the essence of local agriculture comes alive. Every Saturday through Oct. 3, our market serves as a gathering place for farmers, artisans and families, fostering a sense of community and supporting sustainable practices. 9717 Colony Road, Wilton.

**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, July 11. 1000 C St.

**Lodi Certified Farmers Market** – 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. weekly on Thursdays through Aug. 27. The streets will come alive with more than 65 growers, producers and food vendors offering everything from organic fruits and vegetables to fresh cheeses, meats, baked goods, local wines and handcrafted treasures. Enjoy live music while you browse. *School Street in Downtown Lodi.*

**Twin Cities Cruisers Cars and Coffee** – last Sunday of every month, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Life's Grind coffee house in the Raley's shopping center. All makes and models are welcome. 10420 Twin Cities Road.

**Widowed Persons Social Club** – June 19, 10 a.m.: Pinochle at Elk Grove United Methodist Church, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd. A small donation to the church is expected. Contact Jim at 916-768-1923.

June 23, 10:15 a.m.: High Hand Nursery; meet at parking lot of Arby's

and MacQue's. Contact Merrylyn at 916-549-4264.

June 24, 1 p.m.: Book club at Elk Grove United Methodist Church, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd. A small donation to the church is expected. Contact Merrylyn at 916-549-4264.

June 24, 5 p.m.: BJ's Restaurant, 9237 Laguna Blvd., Elk Grove. Contact Addie at 916-682-3609.

June 25, Noon: No-host lunch and Bunco at Patty's Pizza, 8591 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact Lois at 916-212-4196 or Susie at 916-798-0007.

**Wilton Bingo** – First Saturday each month The next bingo will be on Saturday, July 13 in the Wilton Community Center (one-time change for this month). Doors open at 5 p.m. with food available for sale and Bingo starts at 6 p.m. All proceeds go to two nonprofits: the local Park Council and the Wilton History Group. 9717 Colony Road at Dillard Road, Wilton.

## Library Events

Sacramento County Libraries have the following upcoming events at (G) Galt Marian O. Lawrence Library, 1000 Caroline Ave. and (WG) Walnut Grove, 14177 Market St.

Friday, June 19: Libraries closed for Juneteenth holiday.

Saturday, June 20: Summer reading – Mad Science, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Join us and our friends at Mad Science for perhaps the most spectacular science experiences and show. (G)

Tuesday, June 23: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (WG)

Wednesday, June 24: English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (G)

## Veterans Meetings

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

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

**Post 233 Family Breakfast** – first Saturday each month at 9 a.m., Mimi's Café.

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

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

**Veterans of Galt** – local veterans meet at 9 a.m. on third Saturdays at Galt Place Apartments meeting room, 400 D St. For more information, call Tom at 530-386-2721 or Brian at 209-404-5022. All veterans are welcome.

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

# MEETING MINDERS

## Friday, June 19

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

Arcohe Union School District Board, 8:30 a.m., East School Campus, 11755 Ivie Road, Herald.

## Wednesday, June 24

Cosumnes CSD, 5 p.m., Elk Grove CSD

boardroom, 8820 Elk Grove Blvd.

## Thursday, June 25

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

## Friday, June 26

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

## MEMORIAL

### IDA MARIE BETTENCOURT ORTIZ — 01/26/1935 - 05/24/2026

Ida Marie Bettencourt Ortiz, a long-time resident of Galt Ca., left us to be with the Lord on Sunday May 24, 2026 at the age of ninety-one.

She was born to the late Frank and Rita Bettencourt on January 28, 1935 in Woodland, CA. She was the youngest and last remaining of five siblings - Frank Jr., Manuel, Lucille, Alice, and Dee.

On May 6, 1956, she married Leonard Ortiz, who preceded her with his passing in 2010. She is survived by her children Lenny, Frank (Scottie), Alyce, Linda (Betty), Merry Gaskill, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Ida graduated from Woodland High School in 1952. She spent many of



her younger years modeling. She also participated in several pageants in Yolo County and she often shared fond memories of the many Portuguese festivals and participated.

In the 1960's Ida, Leonard and family lived in West Sacramento. They were

members of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church where Ida was a devoted church organist. In 1972, the family moved to Galt due to Leonard's job change. Ida and Leonard remained there for the rest of their lives. For over four decades, Ida was a devoted organist and teacher of catechism at St. Christopher's Catholic Church in Galt.

A mass honoring Ida will be celebrated at St. Christopher's Catholic Church, 950 S. Lincoln Way, Galt on Thursday, June 25 at 10:30 a.m. For those who wish to mingle afterwards, a 2-hour reception following mass will be held at the Valley Oaks Grange Hall (5th Street and D Street). Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

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# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



## New York Wins

The word epic is very often overused, but not when it comes to this past weekend.

Never in memory have I ever seen the world of sports on more of a world stage in the United States of America than it was this past weekend.

History was made and certainly for the residents of New York City, it was life changing.

While soccer fans had the privilege of witnessing the U.S. soccer team defeat Paraguay in the opening match of the world cup 4-1, others sat glued to their TV sets as the New York Knickerbockers became the 2025-26 world champions in the game of basketball. A 53-year hiatus was broken as the Knicks posted a low scoring 94-90 win over the favored San Antonio Spurs and their sensational center, seven-foot-four Victor Wembanyama.

Richard Nixon was president when the Knicks last won a world championship, and many wondered if they would ever win one again.

Ironically, the New York Knicks last reached the final in 1999 against none other than the Sacramento Spurs and were dispatched in five games.

While the world looked on the Knicks of 2026 turned the tables on the favored Spurs and consummated a world championship in just five games.

While New York City wildly celebrated, the Carolina Hurricanes of the NHL hoisted the Stanley cup trophy by defeating the Las Vegas Golden Knights 3-0 and closing out their rivals in six games.

Perhaps more hand clapping could be heard across America than any time since the end of World War II. Yes sports fans, this was truly a weekend for the ages.

A closer look at the upstart Knicks reveals that *team* basketball in the true sense of the word is alive and well.

Many pundits and sport fans alike simply did not believe the San Antonio Spurs could dispatch the world champion Oklahoma City Thunder, but after a series for the ages, that's exactly what they did. It took the full seven games, but Victor Wembanyama made his presence felt and led his team to the finals.

Not many believed anyone would outscore

Victor Wembanyama, but the ubiquitous Jalen Brunson averaged an eye popping 32 points per game while staying on the hardwood for over 39 minutes every night.

A three-time all-star with the Knicks, this amazing six-foot-two guard was inexplicably drafted in the second round of the 2018 NBA draft by the Dallas Mavericks, meaning once again as with Luka Doncic, add Jalen Brunson to the list of candidates that the Sacramento Kings passed up on to get none other than Marvin Bagley.

Hard to believe? Yes, and as all eyes turn to the 2026 NBA draft less than two weeks away, let's hope that new G.M. Scott Perry has something more auspicious in store for Kings fans.

Darius Acuff Jr. remains a possible but unlikely prospect as he is projected to go fifth or sixth, but anything can happen on draft night. More likely options for the Kings drafting No. 7 are Kingston Flemings or Mikel Brown, who are both big guards and not a forward that represents the most critical need for the Kings.

The past two years have seen Sacramento draft point guards that are still with the team. That would be Devin Carter and Nique Clifford who have both shown flashes, but have yet to make a statement that says, "I'm your point guard of the future!"

After exiting DeAaron Fox, the Kings have simply failed to replace him with anything that bears a resemblance, and at some point, Sacramento with have to tap someone on the shoulder and say, "you're my guy."

A world class point guard was just on full display for the world to see, and at six-foot-two he put the Knicks on his back and took them to the NBA championship. An incredible performance that culminated with 45 points in the final and deciding game.

Yes, Sacramento has had an abysmal drafting history but just as New York changed their fortunes, the Sacramento Kings have the ability to do the same.

So, break out the popcorn and find yourself a comfortable seat, Kings fans, because this year's draft is just days away, and I for one believe fortunes are about to change.

All the best!

★

## California Has a Top-Ranked Economy. It's Also One of the Nation's Most Unequal



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California's next governor — most likely former Attorney General Xavier Becerra — will inherit a raft of knotty, unresolved issues.

Some, such as the high rate of homelessness and very high cost of living, pre-date current Gov. Gavin Newsom. Others, such as the chronic multibillion-dollar budget deficit and stubbornly high unemployment rate, arose more recently.

A perennial question about such issues is whether they are unique to or more pronounced in California than other states. Comparisons are difficult because definitions vary and comparable data are difficult to track down.

By coincidence, however, two recent academic studies shed light on how California stands vis-a-vis the nation's 49 other states.

One is called "State of the States," an offshoot of a "State of the Nation" research project sponsored by Tulane University's Murphy Institute that aims to cut through partisan chatter and define the nation's most cogent issues.

The study found "California ranks higher, on average, on the topics of Economy (1), Trust (3), Mental Health (3), and Children and Families (3), but lower on Work and Labor Force (48), Inequality

(49), and Environment (50). California also outperforms its West neighbors in 3 of the 14 topics and is improving over time on 9 of the 31 measures."

Although California's political figures, most notably Newsom, like to depict the state as a leader on socioeconomic equity and environmental protection, it's at or near the bottom on both issues. It's also close to the bottom on educational achievement, volunteerism and freedom of the press.

Texas, one of the states often compared to California, generally does better on the issues where California has fallen behind, such as freedom of the press. However, it too, has some glaring deficiencies, such as environment and voter participation.

The second study comes from the Berkeley Economy & Society Initiative, a project at UC Berkeley backed by the Hewlett Foundation. It issued two in a series of reports on California's high cost of living.

The first report declares "California is less affordable and poorer than it should be given the strength of our economy," and "is systematically more expensive" than other places with similar median incomes.

"Unaffordability doesn't just create and worsen poverty," it noted. "People are voting against California's high costs with their feet. Throughout its history, California has been a magnet for migrants from other states chasing opportunity. Not any longer."

"Since the 2008 recession, California has experienced sustained domestic out-migration. The trend has accelerated in more recent

years. Between 2020 and 2024, California had the second-lowest net migration to/from other states, as a percentage of the population, following only New York. We present evidence indicating that unaffordability is a primary cause of California's migration inversion."

The project's second report delves into the causes of unaffordability, declaring, "In our analysis, the foremost driver of high costs in California is a policy regime that makes it difficult to build the physical infrastructure we need to deliver housing, energy, water, and other essentials."

"Growth restrictions drive unaffordability primarily by reducing housing supply and increasing housing costs. They also contribute to high energy and transportation costs by increasing the price tag on critical public infrastructure — creating downstream costs for consumers."

The report also lists a series of steps California could take to attack unaffordability, including embracing factory-built housing and innovative financing models to spur affordable housing the state needs.

This is just a brief overview of what the two research projects have to say about California's issues compared to other states. If the next governor and legislators are serious about improving the state's standing, they should dive into the details.

*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

### Why Don't We Have a Minimum Social Security Benefit?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I think we should have a Social Security baseline of \$2,500 for each person. When I retire, my Social Security benefit will not be enough to survive. There are many of us who worked low paying jobs all our lives because we raised families and only started saving later in life. Considering all the money our government wastes on the other countries and welfare programs for people who have not worked, it seems unfair that they will not reward those of us who contributed to society all our lives. **Signed: Needs More Social Security.**

**Dear Needs More:** For information, the concept of a "minimum" Social Security benefit is not new and, indeed, already exists - but it is one which few beneficiaries qualify for. The so-called "special minimum benefit" was meant to lift low-earning workers above the poverty line, but less than 32,000 SS beneficiaries (out of about 59 million retirees) currently qualify. That's because Social Security's benefit formula turns out to be more generous because it is based on lifetime earnings (wages), while the "special

minimum benefit" program is based on consumer prices. That causes the SS benefit formula to provide a higher SS benefit than is provided by the "special minimum benefit" option. In other words, people get a higher benefit because their SS benefit is based upon their actual lifetime earnings vs. an artificially created special minimum benefit. In short, the existing SS benefit formula usually provides more than the established "special minimum benefit."

The SS benefit program is based on each person's average monthly income over their lifetime. However, it is very important to understand that the program is also designed to provide a higher monthly benefit to those with a lower lifetime income. Thus, the percentage of "replacement income" for those with lower lifetime earnings is more than it is for those with higher lifetime earnings. Typically, a lower-lifetime income person will get about 40% of their average pre-retirement monthly income as their Social Security benefit, whereas a higher-income person will get about 20% or less of their pre-retirement monthly average income. In this way, Social Security is already a "progressive" program. But it's important to understand also that Social Security, from its beginning, was never meant to provide 100% of a person's income needs in retirement. Thus, each beneficiary should plan to supplement their retirement income in other ways (such as retirement savings,

investment income, working longer, working part-time, etc.).

Having said that, it is also important to know that Social Security is a completely self-sustaining program and not dependent on general public funding, which would make it more susceptible to political shenanigans (imagine giving re-election seeking politicians easy access to Social Security's separately held resources). While it is certainly true that the government spends freely on "welfare programs" for those who have not worked, Social Security is not a program which is dependent on government largesse. Rather, it is a benefit which is earned by working and contributing to the program, which provides retirement benefits based upon each person's average lifetime work income.

If you expect financial difficulties when you retire, I encourage you to visit this website sponsored by the National Council on Aging ([www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org)). Here you can enter your zip code and find many public programs which you might be eligible for where you live, including assistance with healthcare costs, housing, utilities, etc.

*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). ★*



In 2016, the conservative writer Mike Anton made a galvanizing case for Donald Trump in his famous "Flight 93" essay, arguing that the stakes in the contest between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton were existential.

His contention that a Clinton win would cement Democratic electoral dominance forever, such that Republicans needed to charge the cockpit or die, was implausible at the time and seems more so in retrospect.

If Hillary had won in 2016, in all likelihood, she would have been gone in 2020, washed away by the pandemic just like Trump was.

This time, though, really might be different. Democrats are now seriously contemplating measures that wouldn't have occurred to Hillary Clinton circa 2016. Endorsing some version of court-packing, or "court reform," as Democrats insist on calling it, is becoming orthodoxy among mainstream Democrats.

Several weeks ago, James Carville said that Democrats should pack the Court and add the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico as states in 2028 if they get unified control of Washington.

The immediate past Democratic presidential nominee, who has some chance of winning the 2028 Democratic nomination, Kamala Harris, associated herself with the same ideas. She added abolishing the Electoral College to the list.

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, who eas-

## How to Kill the Supreme Court in One Easy Step

ily could be the Speaker of the House next year, has said: "In the new Congress, we're going to have to do something about this Supreme Court, and let me be very clear: Everything is on the table."

The top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, Jamie Raskin, has fashioned a reason why the Supreme Court needs to be expanded by four justices (supposedly, the number of justices should match the number of federal circuits at 13).

If all these ideas were to become consensus Democratic agenda items in 2028, they would constitute one of the most radical political platforms of a major political party in American history.

Court-packing alone would be a seismic, system-changing event, as would abolishing the Electoral College, which has been foundational to our presidential elections from the beginning.

The common theme of all of this would be guaranteeing outcomes -- four new progressive justices, four new Democratic senators -- in blatant power grabs undermining the legitimacy of the institutions in question.

What would a world look like where a substantial portion of the country thinks the Supreme Court is a sham, and not because the court is issuing unwelcome opinions, but because the court has been arbitrarily changed to produce a predetermined ideological result through a grotesque end-run around the rules?

Democrats will say Republicans have already done this, even though the GOP operated within standard procedures to force the cur-

rent conservative majority. Did Republicans play hardball? Sure. But their influence on the composition of the court depended on winning presidential and senate elections, and taking advantage of fortuitous timing to confirm justices the way they've always been confirmed.

Manufacturing new seats out of nothing, or forcing the retirements of conservative justices by fiat, would be a blatant rigging of the court. If a portion of the country thinks that it no longer needs to abide by the Court's decisions, that obviously creates the predicate for serious civil strife. The same is true if Congress is no longer seen as legitimate after it is packed with newly minted Democratic senators.

Democrats feel justified in embracing any means to match and exceed Trump's comprehensive aggressiveness. Trump's provocations -- the lawfare, the executive overreach, the wars without congressional authorization, the gerrymandering -- all have ample precedent among prior Democratic presidents. Democrats, of course, don't see it that way, and they fear and loathe Donald Trump more than they have any other Republican president.

In reaction, should they sweep in 2028, they may try to push the American constitutional order past an event horizon from which it will never return. In other words, 12 years after the GOP was told to charge the cockpit or die, the stakes for our system really could be existential.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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# The Best Game Plan? Getting Everyone Home Safely

AAA, MADD and Waymo remind soccer fans to plan safe rides home during the World Cup tournament

## AAA Mountain West Group News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - As the world's top soccer teams compete across North and Central America this summer, millions of fans will travel to matches and gather for watch parties. AAA, MADD, and Waymo are teaming up to ensure celebrations remain safe, encouraging fans to make a game plan for a safe ride before kickoff, because getting everyone home safely is the ultimate win.

"Nearly one-third of all impaired-driving traffic fatalities occur during the summer months. Major sporting events, like the World Cup, can further contribute to that risk as fans gather at stadiums, bars and watch parties across the country," said Doug Johnson, spokesperson for AAA Mountain West Group. "Impaired driving is 100% preventable, and choosing a safe ride home is one of the simplest ways to protect yourself and others."

Getting everyone to their destination is a shared goal for AAA and MADD, one that stretches beyond this summer's games.



AAA and MADD have launched a five-year initiative to reduce impaired-driving fatalities by 20% by 2030. Designed by Magnific.

AAA and MADD have launched a five-year initiative to reduce impaired-driving fatalities by 20% by 2030. By combining education, advocacy and innovative solutions, AAA and MADD are working to save lives.

"The world's biggest soccer matches are a time to celebrate,

but every fan needs a safe way home," said Stacey D. Stewart, CEO of MADD. "We're grateful to AAA for its leadership in road safety and to Waymo for making discount codes available to help fans make a plan to never drive impaired. Together we can prevent impaired driving,

protect our communities and save lives."

To help fans secure a safe ride home, Waymo is offering a \$5 off ride discount for the first 2,500 redemptions with the code "GOAL2026". The discount will be valid from June 11 through July 19, 2026 in all

Waymo owned and operated markets including Phoenix and San Francisco, helping make the safe choice the easy choice for fans heading to matches, watch parties and celebrations.

"Soccer has a unique ability to bring people together, whether they're cheering from the stands or celebrating with friends at a watch party," said Heather Aijian, Waymo's head of public affairs. "Waymo is proud to partner with AAA and MADD to help fans make safe transportation choices and get home safely after the match. By making sober rides more accessible, we can help keep the focus on the excitement of the game."

Nearly 12,000 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes in the United States in 2024. Impaired driving continues to impact families and communities across the country, but it is a challenge we can overcome together. Every fan has a role to play by planning ahead, choosing a safe ride and encouraging friends to do the same. Working as a team, we can save lives and help ensure the only thing fans remember about the night is the excitement of the match. ★

# Food Allergen Labeling Coming Soon to California Restaurants

By MPG Staff

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Effective July 1, California restaurants with 20 or more locations will now have to disclose food allergens under the Allergen Disclosure for Dining Experiences (ADDE) Act.

Restaurants must provide the information on their menu or in a digital format. If they provide it digitally, they can use an allergen list or allergen-specific menu. Restaurants utilizing digital means need to still offer a print option for those who don't have access to technology.

The allergens are milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, wheat, soy and sesame.

"With food allergies affecting more people each year, the ADDE Act's simple menu disclosure requirement can prevent potentially dangerous allergic reactions and save lives. Millions of Californians have food allergies," said Kenneth Mendez the president and CEO of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) president and CEO. "Similar legislation is in place in the European Union and has been since 2014. Allergen disclosure works - it helps provide a better dining experience for people with food allergies



The Allergen Disclosure for Dining Experiences (ADDE) Act requires restaurant chains to provide food allergen information on their menu beginning July 1. Designed by Magnific.

and reduces the incidence of food allergy reactions. Not only does this law provide a level of protection for diners, it also helps restaurants attract loyal customers. The legislation is a win-win for California families and restaurants."

AAFA supported and co-sponsored the ADDE Act along with food allergy

advocates Robyn and Addie Lao - who at age 9 inspired dozens of other children and teens to rally support for this bill. AAFA helped recruit support from nearly 70 state and national organizations, more than 500 health care professionals, and over a thousand California residents.

AAFA provided testimony in legislative

hearings, hosted Capitol lobby days, hosted an informational webinar and advocate trainings, and communicated with the media about the bill's progress.

"We want to thank all the advocates who wrote their lawmakers, attended legislative hearings in Sacramento, and organized to make this law a reality," said Melanie Carver, AAFA's chief mission officer. "Your voices made a difference, and the result will be felt in thousands of restaurants as people with food allergies enjoy dining out with more confidence to navigate food allergens."

The legislative leader of the bill was Senator Caroline Menjivar (D-San Fernando Valley). As someone who has been hospitalized multiple times due to food allergies, Menjivar understands the challenge presented by dining in restaurants. Her leadership and personal experience helped propel the bill through the legislative process.

"After the bill goes into effect on July 1, 2026, I hope Addie and I can meet up for a meal to see the culmination of our efforts right there in black and white on the menu!" Senator Menjivar said.

For more information about the ADDE Act, visit <https://adde.food-regulations.org>. ★

# Two California Salamanders Move Closer to Endangered Species Protection

## Center for Biological Diversity News Release

**CALIFORNIA (MPG)** - The Center for Biological Diversity has scored a legal victory requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to finalize Endangered Species Act protections for the critically imperiled Kern Canyon and relictual slender salamanders by December 2026.

"I'm so glad these unusual and rare salamanders will finally get badly needed Endangered Species Act protections," said Tara Zuardo, a senior endangered species advocate at the Center. "These little amphibians help maintain the balance of forest and chaparral ecosystems in the southern Sierra Nevada and Kern River region. They could be one disaster away from extinction, so these protections are crucial for them and this stunning slice of California."

Among California amphibians, the salamanders rank among the state's most vulnerable vertebrates because of their tiny range, loss of historical populations and susceptibility to climate-driven drying and wildfire. With small ranges in the southern Sierra Nevada, decades of livestock grazing, logging and development—including construction of the Isabella Dam and State Route



Kern Canyon Slender Salamander, *Batrochoseps simatus*. Photo courtesy of Andreas Kettenburg

178 — have taken their toll on the species.

The Kern Canyon slender salamander is believed to survive at just nine sites and the relictual slender salamander at 12 sites. Relictual slender salamanders have been entirely lost from the Lower Kern River Canyon and could face

extinction if a large wildfire or a series of severe drought years affects the remaining places where they live.

Following the Center's 2012 legal petition, the Service proposed protecting the Kern Canyon slender salamander as threatened and the relictual slender salamander as

endangered in October 2022, triggering a one-year deadline to finalize those protections. This agreement resolves a March 2025 Center lawsuit over the agency's failure to finalize those listings and provide Endangered Species Act protection for both species.

Both species of salamanders

live close to water, including seeps and streams, under logs, leaf litter and rocks. They are thought to be highly sedentary, not moving far from where they were born. They've persisted through major climatic changes in the southern Sierra Nevada, while remaining isolated in tiny pockets of suitable habitat. ★

# Local Business Owner Speaks Out Against 'Shakedown' Website Lawsuits

Continued from page 1

wiretapping, a claim Gutierrez said made little sense for her business. She noted that the company's website includes a chatbot customers can use to communicate online instead of calling directly.

"I'm not wiretapping. I'm not stalking. I'm not listening to their conversations," she said. "You guys came to my website. That's all it was."

According to the Alliance for Legal Fairness, an advocacy and business league supporting legislative efforts such as SB 690, lawsuits like this stem from attorneys using the California Invasion of Privacy Act, or CIPA, as the basis for claims involving online features such as chatbots, analytics tools and cookies.

The coalition argues CIPA, a 1967 law originally intended to prevent illegal wiretapping and eavesdropping, was never meant to regulate modern internet activity.

"If you think about what technology was in 1967, there wasn't online activity," one coalition advocate said during a May 1 interview. "It was really meant to focus on wiretapping."

Supporters say SB 690 would make clear that complaints involving website tracking tools, cookies and similar online technology should be handled under the California Consumer Privacy Act, or CCPA, instead of CIPA. They argue the

CCPA already has rules governing how businesses collect consumer data and provides protections for users. Additionally, the bill would shield businesses and organizations from penalties under CIPA when collecting certain information for normal business operations.

Advocates also say the change would keep CIPA focused on what it was originally designed to address, such as wiretapping and eavesdropping, while online privacy issues would continue to be regulated under the CCPA.

The bill, first introduced in 2025 with bipartisan support, is awaiting consideration by the Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee and is expected to be heard this month.

It previously passed through the state Senate but faced opposition from groups that raised concerns the bill could allow companies to collect sensitive data that may later be bought and sold to third parties.

However, Gutierrez said the way the law is currently being applied is forcing small business owners to spend money that could otherwise be used to pay employees or cover operating expenses. She said the lawsuit against her business initially sought about \$20,000.

"They're demanding, I believe, \$5,000 per violation," she said.

Gutierrez added that the legal pressure

places businesses in a difficult position because fighting the case in court could cost more than settling.

"It's going to cost me 20 to fight it, or it's going to cost me 15 to settle. I'm just going to settle," Gutierrez said. "They're pricing it in a way that makes businesses not want to fight it."

Coalition members supporting SB 690 estimate that more than 3,000 businesses and organizations across California have faced similar lawsuits or demand letters in recent years.

Those targeted, they say, include food banks, hospitals, school districts and local nonprofits in addition to small businesses.

"It's not just businesses," Gutierrez said. "It could be your office. It could be the chamber. It could be a nonprofit. Anybody that has a website."

The coalition contends lawsuit filings have surged since 2022, with some law firms allegedly using automated searches to identify websites lacking certain privacy disclosures. Advocates also note that businesses have sometimes faced additional lawsuits from different firms even after settling previous claims.

"The thing, too, is she (Gutierrez) can settle tomorrow," the coalition representative said. "Another law firm will come and ask her for a demand letter."

Gutierrez said one of the most important steps in combating the lawsuits is

encouraging affected business owners and organizations to speak publicly about their experiences and support legislative reform. She said even those who have not been targeted should pay attention because they could face similar claims in the future.

"We need more businesses that are being affected, all hands on deck, just to talk about it," Gutierrez said. "Until somebody hears it from someone that's actually being sued, they really won't understand."

The lawsuits, Gutierrez emphasized, are draining money away from local services, jobs and community programs.

"The Sacramento Food Bank has been sued," Gutierrez said. "Instead of cutting \$20,000 to feed people in need, it's all going into legal issues or demand letters."

"It's already hard to do business in California," she added. "This is just another thing to add on that people really just can't afford right now."

Support for SB 690 was on full display May 12 at the State Capitol, where Gutierrez joined other business owners in an advocacy rally for the legislation alongside Caballero. Coalition organizers are still encouraging affected businesses and organizations to join the effort by supporting SB 690 and sharing their experiences publicly ahead of upcoming legislative hearings. Learn more at StopCIPAShakedowns.com. ★

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

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**Publisher, Paul V. Scholl**

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

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### LIEN SALE

LIEN SALE 6/29/26 9AM AT 10375 LIVE OAK AVE, GALT 19 FRHT LIC# YP99970 CA VIN# 3AKJHHR3KSKB3975 THE GALT HERALD 6-19-26

### TRUSTEE SALE

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE** TS No. CA-24-990008-BF Order No.: **FIN-24004601 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 12/16/2019. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.** A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, or cash equivalent if deemed acceptable to the trustee, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, ex-

pressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. **BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE.** Trustor(s): **Gail Ann Richardson, as trustee of the Gail Ann Shields - Sanders Revocable Trust** Recorded: **12/20/2019 as Instrument No. 201912200492** of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of **SACRAMENTO** County, California; Date of Sale: **7/7/2026 at 09:00 AM** Place of Sale: **At the East Main Entrance of the Gordon D. Schaber Sacramento County Courthouse, 720 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814** Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **\$397,407.38** The purported property address is: **13034 ALTA MESA RD, HERALD, CA 95638** Assessor's

Parcel No. : **152-0260-007-0000** Legal Description: **Please be advised that the legal description set forth on the Deed of Trust is in error. The legal description of the property secured by the Deed of Trust is more properly set forth and made part of Exhibit "A" as attached hereto.** The South One half of Lot 33 as shown on the Official Plat of "Central California Traction Colony No. 1", recorded in the Office of the County Recorder of Sacramento County on June 22, 1911, in Book 12 of Maps, Map No. 23. All bidders, at the date, time, and place of the scheduled sale, will be required to show satisfactory support to the auctioneer of their ability to pay the amount they intend to bid, unless arrangements have been made with the trustee prior to the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a ju-

nior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call **800-280-2832** for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: **CA-24-990008-BF**. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you

may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call **866-645-7711**, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: **CA-24-990008-BF** to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT:** Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to **QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION** by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE POST-SALE OVER BIDDERS:** For post-sale information in accordance with Section 2924m(e) of the California Civil Code, use file number CA-24-990008-BF and call (866) 645-7711 or login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com>. The above statutorily mandated notices to Tenant, Prospective Owner-Occupant, and Prospective Post-Sale Over Bidders are brief summaries of what may be required under

Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. Compliance with all relevant provisions will be required. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: **QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 866-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 800-280-2832 Or Login to: http://www.qualityloan.com Post-Sale Information (CCC 2924m(e)): (866) 645-7711 Reinstatement or Payoff Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION TS No.: CA-24-990008-BF** IDs Pub #0315226 6/12/2026 6/19/2026 6/26/2026 THE GALT HERALD 6-26-26

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC LIEN SALE

**Galt Mini Storage**  
460 Industrial Drive - Galt, CA 95632  
(209)-745-4222  
July 8, 2026 @ 10am

Notice is hereby given, that the undersigned, intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on sold property pursuant to sections 2170 through 2176 of the Business and Profession's Code, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provisions of the Civil Code. The Undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on the 8th of July at 10:00AM on the premises where said property has been stored and which is located at 460 Industrial Drive, Galt, County of Sacramento, State of California. The following unit(s), consist of household, garage, and personal items:

Antoinette Medina, Unit # 156

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in CASH. All purchased items are sold "AS IS WHERE IS" and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between the owner and the obligated party.

Auction services conducted by: Storage Auction Experts - John Cardoza # 5860870

The Galt Herald 6-19-2026



Call to place your legal advertising

916-773-1111

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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. ★

# POLICE LOGS

During the time period of June 6 to June 14, Galt Police received and responded to a variety of calls, resulting in 16 arrests.

## June 6

12 a.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, Highway 99 Southbound/Fairway Drive.

6:31 a.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Galt's Getting' Place on South Lincoln Way.

10:26 a.m., Burglary-Auto reported, Amador Avenue: Trailer broken into.

11:12 a.m., Vehicle Accident-Injury, South Lincoln Way/Southdale Court.

## June 7

2:59 a.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, East Stockton Boulevard/Walnut Avenue.

7:36 p.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, China Express on C Street.

## June 8

12:17 a.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, McDonald's on East Stockton Boulevard.

1:24 a.m., Stolen Vehicle reported, Brodie Drive.

11:03 a.m., Battery/

Adult Arrest, New Hope Road.

5:17 p.m., Stolen Vehicle reported, Oakwilde Street.

5:19 p.m., Fraud reported, North Lincoln Way: Fake digital check printed and subject attempted to cash.

6:45 p.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, South Lincoln Way/Kost Road.

9:32 p.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Walmart, Twin Cities Road.

9:34 p.m., Domestic Violence/Adult Arrest, Adare Way.

## June 9

8:52 a.m., Vandalism reported, Morgans Ranch Circle: Garage door damaged.

12:30 p.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, East Stockton Boulevard/Walnut Avenue.

4:14 p.m., Theft reported, Valley Oaks Senior Apartments on Oak Avenue: Garden wagon taken.

## June 10

11:38 a.m., Hit and Run/Non-Injury reported, Caroline Avenue.

3:04 p.m., Vehicle

Accident-Injury, G Street/South Lincoln Way.

10:59 p.m., Vandalism reported, Glendale Avenue: Vehicle vandalized.

## June 11

7:32 a.m., Burglary reported, Seraphina Street: Circuit breakers taken.

10:16 a.m., Fraud reported, Piermont Court: Nephew allegedly defrauded reporting party.

7:35 p.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, Dry Creek U Save Liquors on C Street.

## June 12

11:31 a.m., Warrant

Served/Adult Arrest, Highway 99 Southbound/Fairway Drive.

## June 13

4:03 a.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, Highway 99 Southbound/Elm Avenue.

11:59 a.m., Vandalism reported, Simons Street: Refrigerator kicked in, tile broken out and bathtub faucets were "bashed" in.

## June 14

2:07 a.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, Twin Cities Road/West Stockton Boulevard.

6:29 p.m., Vandalism reported, Camellia Way: Windshield smashed. ★

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Thank A Veteran TODAY

# Walk, Run or Saunter



*"I think that I cannot preserve my health and spirits unless I spend four hours a day at least – and it is commonly more than that – sauntering through the woods and over the hills and fields, absolutely free from all worldly engagements."*  
 –Henry David Thoreau

Welcome to World Sauntering Day! According to the daysoftheyear.com website, the world around us is moving at such a hectic pace that we often forget to slow down and smell the proverbial roses. Even when our walk is at high speed, pushing every inch of haste, we can get out of what is otherwise the most leisurely of modes of locomotion.

Today isn't just an opportunity for us to remember to walk; it is, more importantly, an opportunity for us to take a genuinely relaxed tack to the day and choose to saunter.

Yes, saunter: purposely walking slowly without a care to where or when you arrive.

The holiday was formed by W.T. Rabe in 1979 as a response to the sworn enemy of sauntering: jogging. Jogging, in his

view, was a grueling attack on the body. Rapidity and effort drained all the joy out of movement by making each step as painful as possible. Sauntering is the art of free movement from one location to another – was in his view, unquestionable superior.

Sauntering doesn't just mean walking how you might if you were on your way to work. It also encompasses the idea that the weight of the world has been lifted from your shoulders. You walk free from stress and strain and can focus on the pure joy of the act.

It is the antithesis of jogging: a painful act that robs you of the outside world. It is more meditative and contemplative. You have the opportunity to experience life to the fullest instead of feeling puffed out and tired.

World Sauntering Day is your opportunity to head out into the world and approach it with a deeply relaxed air, a moment of pure clarity and joy, all while enjoying the beautiful world around you and everything it has to offer. I think I will saunter down the drive and smell the roses.

\*\*\*

Father's Day is this coming Sunday, June 21. A special day for the men in our lives.

It gives us a chance to let them know how special they are to us and to thank them for being part of our lives. Good, bad, indifferent, happy, harsh, quiet, talkative, know-it-all or as most teenagers think: know-nothing-at-all, jack of all trades or master of none, they are our father figures and God put them in our lives for a reason.

Let us take advantage of this special day. We should celebrate them and let them know how much they are appreciated.

Take them out to brunch, lunch or dinner. Or have a barbecue for the carnivores

or bring home take-out from their favorite eatery. Or for the more adventurist type, maybe take them fishing, boating, bowling, to an escape room or a movie. Or maybe just buy them a hammock, set it up and let them read their favorite book or snooze the day away.

I am thinking take-out out for lunch/dinner and a treat bag of chips, meat snacks, nuts, candy and jerky.

\*\*\*

Sunday is also the Summer Solstice: the longest day of the year. The sun will be out for at least 16 hours with about eight hours of darkness. It gives us more time to celebrate our dads.

And then the darkness will take over, and daylight will get shorter and the sun will go down sooner. Enjoy the sunlight while we have it.

To all the fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, fur-dads, etc.: Happy Father's Day! Enjoy your day with your family. God has blessed you with them for a reason; cherish it.

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



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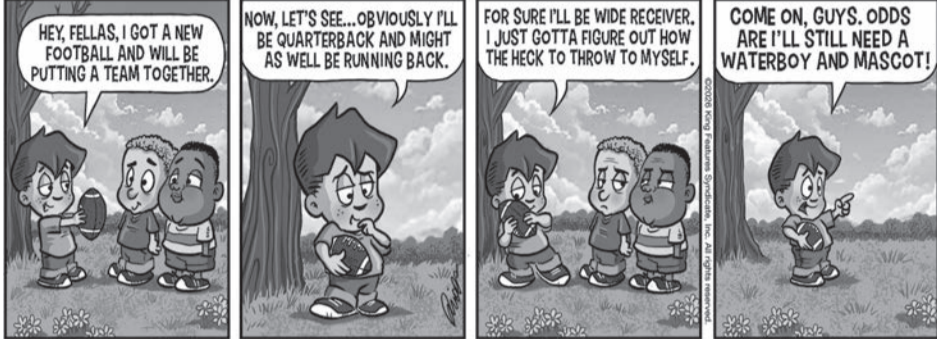
# COMICS & PUZZLES

## The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

## Amber Waves



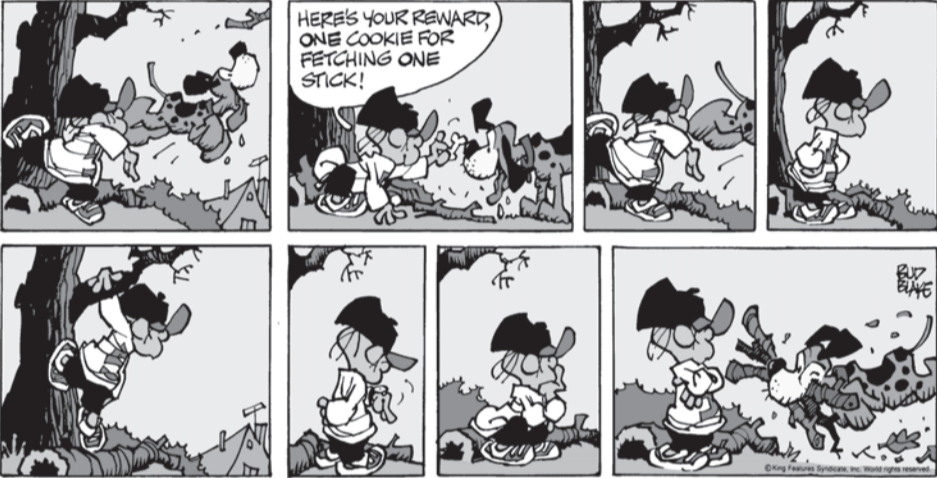
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## Out on a Limb

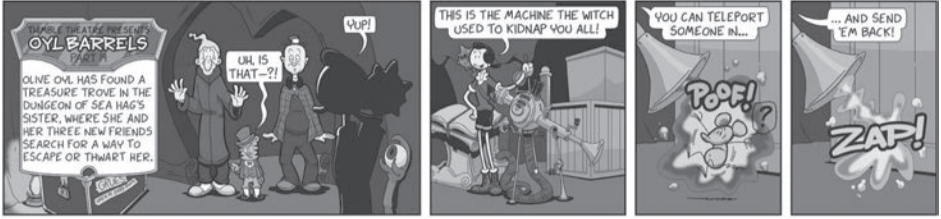


by Gary Kopervas

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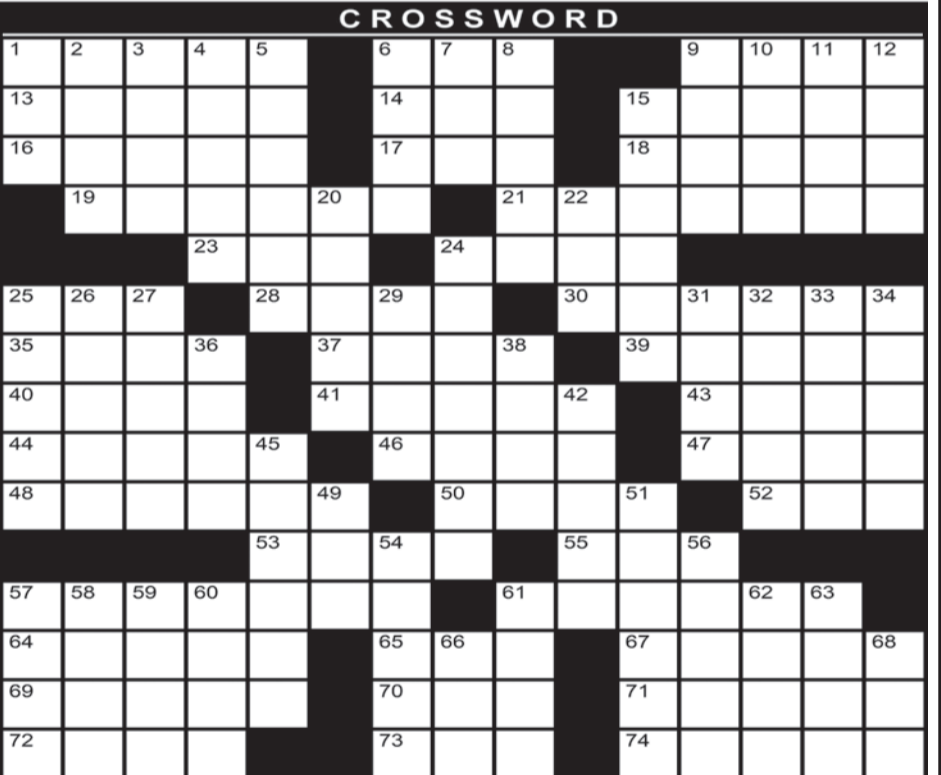
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### CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Last name behind Waldorf Astoria
  - Hawaiian flower garland
  - What beanstalk did
  - Pack animal
  - Charged particle
  - Lacking guile
  - Lumen per square meter, pl.
  - Crime scene evidence, acr.
  - Roast host
  - \*Unalienable ones in the Declaration of Independence
  - \*Colony that originally abstained from voting on independence
  - Baba of "One Thousand and One Nights"
  - Parsley or basil, e.g.
  - Mountain peak
  - \*Four Declaration signers were alums of this CT Ivy Leaguer
  - Most mature, as in fruit
  - It must go on?
  - Small brook
  - \*"...to assume among the powers of the \_\_\_"
  - Cap and gown accessory
  - Where there's trouble
  - Rani's dress
  - Useful quality
  - Volcano off Sicily coast
  - State on Old Glory
  - Dionysus' follower
  - Dems' opponents
  - Not divisible by two
  - Like certain people's glasses
  - Australia's flightless bird
  - \*First Declaration of Independence signer
  - \*Self-evident ones
  - Not a minor
  - "\_\_\_ it or lose it!"
  - Songs for two
  - Formally surrenders land
  - \*Last name of the only brothers to both sign the Declaration
  - Last Supper cup
  - "If you only \_\_\_!"
  - Boy
  - Item in diary
- DOWN**
- \* \_\_\_ men are created equal
  - Talk like a drunk
  - Fare ride
  - Opposite of alpha
  - In a foolhardy manner
  - Jar covers
  - Long, long time
  - Stupid or silly
  - Risqu
  - Puerto \_\_\_
  - \_\_\_ and anon
  - 168 hours
  - Rookie
  - Beauty pageant winner's headgear
  - Make a blunder
  - Serfdom, archaically speaking
  - Indian black tea
  - Capital of Tibet



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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.

27. One's entourage  
29. \*Liberty's partner  
31. Permission to leave  
32. Muse of love poetry  
33. Nickname for a certain violin  
34. \*Certain George, with The  
36. \* \_\_\_ in the course of human events...  
38. Like TV's famous ranger  
42. Candle shape  
45. Fortune teller's deck, pl.  
49. Who is Bugs Bunny talking to?  
51. Blemish  
54. Cranial bones + facial bones  
56. Driver's 180  
57. Bypass firewall, illegally  
58. Yemeni port  
59. Classic art subject  
60. Ball of yarn  
61. Started during the Ryder Cup, e.g.  
62. Miami basketballer  
63. Cookbook direction  
66. Shining one in "America the Beautiful"  
68. Sylvester Stallone's nickname

# F3 Dry Creek Hosts Male-Community Workout

**Story and photos by Nathan Felix Valencia**

**GALT, CA (MPG)** - F3 Dry Creek hosted one of its weekly male-community workouts on Saturday June 13 at Galt Community Park. The group put on two workouts in the morning, the first starting at 5:15 a.m. while the second one started at 6:30 a.m.

The first workout was mainly a ruck that was the distance of 3 miles, which nearly takes up 50 minutes. A ruck is someone who is walking or hiking with a weighted backpack to build both strength and endurance. And once they finished the ruck, some stayed to also participate in the second workout as well.

It was described as a “beatdown” workout by workout/day leader Thomas Gomes. It was going to be more strength training with a little jogging.

The participants worked in rotations of certain workouts with a cinder block, then would jog laps



An F3 Dry Creek group starts the day's second workout.

around the area, constantly working at everyone's individual pace for the entirety of the workout.

Leaders consistently encouraged everyone to not give up and to keep pushing. But it is more than just a workout group.

“It is about getting the male community together around fitness, and then help each other out any way we can,” mentioned Gomes.

The mission for F3 is to revitalize the leadership of the male community by planting, growing and serving workouts to male-only groups. They do

that by following their “3 F's,” which are Fitness, Fellowship and Faith.

Each week they workout in groups that have all levels of fitness and are incorporated with new exercises throughout the week.

Whether it is strength training, obstacle/mud runs or even distant relays, the changes up to allow people to work out together and grow a bond between everyone.

“We all commit to coming and then showing up is proving to yourself that you can complete it, while pushing yourself to

do the workout and supporting each other to grow ourselves in fitness and leadership,” Gomes mentioned.

F3 also offers workouts on Thursday and Friday at 5:15 a.m. during the week as well as the two on Saturdays. And they are not just located in Galt; they have regional groups in Elk Grove and Sacramento.

Going forward for F3, there are going to be more fellowship and faith events, to grow more of a relationship between each other while also helping the community. Learn more at [f3drycreek.com](http://f3drycreek.com). ★



Everyone gathers for a group hug after their workout.



Workout and Day Leader Thomas Gomes: “It is about getting the male community together around fitness, and then help each other out any way we can.”

# McCaffrey Middle Promotion



McCaffrey Middle School Class of 2026 classmates share a moment of excitement before the promotion ceremony.

*Continued from page 1*  
families attending the ceremony. She also reflected on the effort students put forth to reach promotion and encouraged them as they prepared for the next stage of their education.

“To our promoting eighth graders, congratulations. We are proud of all you have achieved, and we look forward to seeing the bright futures ahead of you,” Trull said, with her voice wavering with emotion.

She then asked students wearing special cords to stand, recognizing Top Dog award recipients who achieved a GPA of 3.83 or higher during eighth grade, Student of the Year recipients nominated by teachers and National Junior Honor Society members.

Student leadership representatives Liliana Guterrez and Owen Pennington shared memories of their time at McCaffrey.

“McCaffrey has given us so many memories that we'll carry with us for years to come. One thing



A McCaffrey Middle School Class of 2026 promotee poses for a photo with her family members after the June 3 promotion ceremony.

we'll never forget is the iconic black light dance, with halftime games and everyone singing along to ‘California Gurls,’” Liliana said.

“One day, the dances, the carnivals, the morning high-fives and even walking through these gates will become memories we wish we could relive just one more time,” Owen added.

Principal Crystal Grooms congratulated students on reaching promotion through their dedication

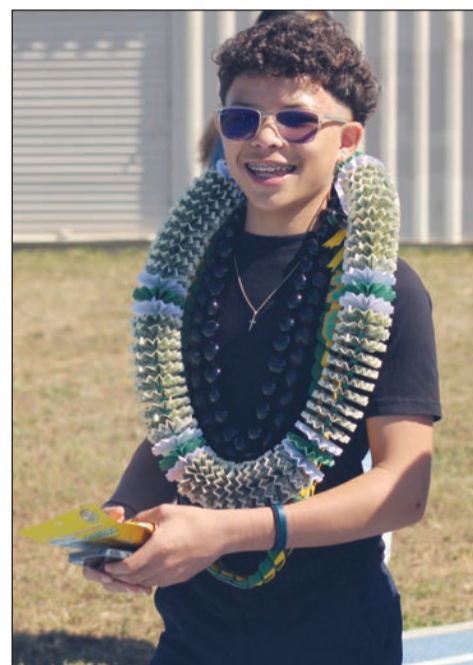
and perseverance, encouraging them to carry those qualities into high school.

“You faced challenges, worked through difficulties and continued moving forward even when things were not easy. That commitment has brought you here today,” Grooms said. “As you move on to high school, remember that success is not about being perfect; it is about showing up, working hard and learning from every experience.”

“...to the Class of



Promotees shake hands with McCaffrey Middle School teachers and staff as they make their way down the promotion stage on June 3.



A McCaffrey Middle School Class of 2026 promotee sports multiple leis and shades during the promotion ceremony June 3.



Class of 2026 classmates pose for a photo together after the June 3 promotion ceremony at McCaffrey Middle School.

2026, we are incredibly proud of you. You have left your mark on this

school through your hard work, growth and kindness. Today we celebrate

not only how far you have come, but all that lies ahead,” she added.

Students Samuel Underwood and Somtochukwu Nwanosike also reflected on their middle school experience and the impact it had on their growth.

“It’s hard to believe that next year we will all be starting high school as freshmen,” Samuel said. “Looking back, I can see how much my classmates and I have grown over the past two years... Whether you are going to Liberty Ranch High School or Galt High School, let’s take that little extra with us throughout all four years of high school.”

Somtochukwu thanked teachers for the role they played in students’ success.

“I’m also really grateful for the teachers here. Honestly, they played a huge role in my journey. They helped me grow, pushed me when I needed it, and sometimes they were the reason I didn’t mentally check out during class and spend 40 minutes staring at the clock,” she said.

“And I think that matters because you don’t always realize how much teachers impact you until you look back and see it clearly.” ★

## McCreery Joins Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Story and photo by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Liberty Ranch High School stand-out Mikina McCreery will continue her athletic and academic career at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where she has signed to compete with the university's Division I STUNT program and pursue a degree in public health.

McCreery leaves behind an exceptional legacy at Liberty Ranch, where she competed in STUNT for four years and helped lead the program to league championships in all four seasons. Her impact on the mat was equally impressive on an individual level, as she was named league MVP three times, an unprecedented achievement that reflects her consistency, leadership and elite level of performance throughout her high school career.

A talented main base and tumbler, McCreery has been a key part of Liberty Ranch's success. Her strength, technique and competitive drive helped set the standard for the program, while her experience



Mikina McCreery is shown on Signing Day with parents Daniel and Mindy McCreery and brothers Chance, Logan and Justin.

and leadership made her a valuable teammate during one of the most successful stretches in school history.

When asked why she chose Cal Poly, McCreery said the decision came down to both athletics and lifestyle.

"I chose Cal Poly because they have a Division I STUNT program, and I want to live by the beach," McCreery said.

In addition to competing at the collegiate level, McCreery plans to major in public health. She said she is grateful for the opportunity to continue doing what she loves while taking the next step in her education. ★

"I am so excited and honored," McCreery said. "I loved my time here at Liberty and want to thank my family and friends for everything they've done for me, and of course Coach Barbara Welch."

McCreery's signing marks an exciting next chapter for both the athlete and the Liberty Ranch STUNT program.

After four years of league titles, three MVP honors and countless contributions as a main base and tumbler, she now takes her talents to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and the growing stage of collegiate STUNT. ★

## Babcock Signs with Jessup University

Story and photo by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Liberty Ranch High School STUNT athlete Bailey Babcock will continue her athletic and academic career at Jessup University in Rocklin this fall, joining a national champion STUNT program led by Liberty Ranch alumna Alexis Welch.

Babcock, a backspot, will take the next step in her STUNT journey with one of the top programs in the country. Jessup's success as a national champion program, combined with its location and values, made the university an ideal fit for her future.

"I chose Jessup because it was pretty close to home, and they have an amazing STUNT program," Babcock said. "They're national champions. It's a Christian school, so I get to further my faith, my academics and my athletics. I'm just really excited. This is a wonderful opportunity."

At Jessup, Babcock plans to major in child development.

Her decision reflects her passion for growth, learning and making a difference, while also allowing her to continue competing in the sport she loves.

The Liberty Ranch connection adds another special layer to Babcock's commitment. Jessup is coached by Alexis Welch, a Liberty Ranch alumna, creating a meaningful link between Babcock's high school program and her next chapter at the collegiate level. ★



Bailey Babcock prepares to sign her scholarship contract for Jessup University with her parents Gary and Roxanne Babcock.

As she prepares to move forward, Babcock said she is thankful for the many people who have supported her throughout her journey.

"I would like to thank my family, friends and everyone that has supported me along the way," Babcock said. "This journey has been crazy, but we made it. I am especially grateful for the coaches I have had over the years. Most have been family, and the rest feel like family."

Babcock's commitment marks an exciting milestone. As she joins a national champion program, she carries the support of her family, friends, coaches and teammates, along with the determination that helped her to reach the next level. ★

## Webb to Join University of the Pacific

Story and photo by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Liberty Ranch High School STUNT athlete Emma Webb will continue her athletic and academic career at the University of the Pacific in Stockton this fall, where she will be part of the school's inaugural STUNT program.

Webb, a flyer for the Liberty Ranch STUNT program, has been recognized for her strength, skill and athleticism in the air. This season, one of her stand-out honors was earning the Best Basket Toss award, a recognition that highlights her talent, trust, timing and technique as a flyer.

Joining a brand-new collegiate program makes Webb's next chapter especially meaningful. As a member of University of the Pacific's inaugural STUNT team, she will have the opportunity to help build the foundation and culture of the program from the very beginning.

When asked if she was excited to be part of Pacific's first STUNT team, Webb said, "Yes, I am."

Webb said she chose Pacific because it felt like the right place for her both academically and athletically.

"It's a nice school, and they offered me a good scholarship," Webb said.

At Pacific, Webb plans to major in sports medicine, a field she was inspired to pursue in part because of one of her



Emma Webb poses on signing day with her parents Jaylene and Steven Webb and siblings Penelope and little Steven.

teachers, Ashley Wood at Liberty Ranch.

"I want to thank Ms. Ashley, our sports medicine teacher, for inspiring me," Webb said. "And my family for being there for me through all the hard work."

As Webb prepares to move on from Liberty Ranch and begin her college journey, she leaves behind a strong legacy as a flyer and award-winning athlete. Her opportunity to join University of the Pacific's first STUNT program marks an exciting milestone in her athletic career and a proud moment for the Liberty Ranch STUNT community. ★

## Welch Launches Five Hawks to University



Legendary Head Coach Barbara Welch poses with her athletes heading to play STUNT at four-year universities: Mikina McCreery, Sofia Richardson, Bailey Babcock, Ava Ramos and Emma Webb. Photo by Paige Lampson

## Richardson Joins Northwest Nazarene

Story and photo by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Liberty Ranch High School STUNT athlete Sofia Richardson will continue her athletic and academic career at Northwest Nazarene University, a private Christian university in Nampa, Idaho, where she plans to pursue nursing while competing in STUNT.

Richardson has been a key member of the Liberty Ranch STUNT program for four years. As one of the team's main upfront flyers throughout her high school career, she has helped to lead the program through every championship season and every league championship during her time on the team. Her consistency, skill and willingness to take on important roles have made her an important part of Liberty Ranch's success.

As a flyer, Richardson has been counted on in some of the most visible and high-pressure positions in STUNT. Her experience and dedication have helped her to grow into the athlete she is today and prepared her for the opportunity to compete at the collegiate level.

When asked why she



Sofia Richardson poses on signing day with parents Chris and Tais Richardson and sisters Olivia, Ana and Lauren.

chose Northwest Nazarene, Richardson said the university offered the right combination of faith, academics and athletics.

"I chose Northwest Nazarene because of its strong Christian values and the opportunity to do nursing and STUNT," Richardson said.

Richardson's commitment is also a special family story. Sofia is a triplet, and her triplet sisters have been part of the Liberty Ranch STUNT team with her, making the journey even more meaningful.

As she prepares for her next chapter, Richardson said she is grateful for the people who have helped support and guide her along the way. ★

"I definitely want to thank Coach Barbara for putting me in all the spots that needed to get me to where I am now," Richardson said. "I also want to thank my dad for always coming to my games and supporting me, my triplet sisters for being on the STUNT team with me, and my mother for all her support."

Richardson's move marks an exciting new chapter after four successful years with Liberty Ranch STUNT. As she prepares to continue as a flyer while pursuing nursing, she carries with her the experience of championship seasons, the support of her family and the foundation built through her time at Liberty Ranch. ★

## Ava Ramos Heads to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Story and photo by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - Liberty Ranch High School STUNT athlete Ava Ramos will continue her athletic and academic career at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where she will join the university's STUNT program and pursue her goal of becoming a teacher.

Ramos, a side base for Liberty Ranch, has been part of a successful STUNT program known for developing athletes who are prepared to compete at the next level. Her commitment to Cal Poly is a major accomplishment, not only athletically but academically as well.

With Cal Poly's highly competitive 28% acceptance rate, earning the opportunity to be recruited to an athletic team reflects the strong grades, dedication and work ethic required to succeed both in the classroom and in competition.

When asked why she chose Cal Poly, Ramos said the school and the team both felt like the right fit.

"I picked Cal Poly because I like the school, and I like the STUNT



Ava Ramos is shown on signing day with family Kendra McSparren, Tony Ramos, Brooke Ramos and Kendall McSparren.

team," Ramos said. "I think it will be a great experience going there."

Ramos plans to major in liberal studies with the goal of becoming a teacher. Her decision reflects not only her academic focus, but also her desire to make a positive impact beyond athletics.

As she prepares for this exciting next chapter, Ramos said she is grateful for the people who have supported and encouraged her along the way.

"I would like to thank

my parents and family for all their support, and Coach Barbara Welch for believing in me," Ramos said.

Ava Ramos' move from Liberty Ranch STUNT to Cal Poly marks an exciting step forward in her journey.

As she prepares to compete at the collegiate level and work toward a future in education, she carries with her the support of her family, coaches, teammates and the Liberty Ranch community. ★