



The Galt Herald

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Runners Keep Officer Tonn's Memory Alive



And they are off ... 150 runners begin at once.

Story and photos by Paige Lampson Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - As the sun climbed over the streets of Galt on the morning of July Fourth, more than 150 runners laced up their shoes and lined up together for a race that has become one of the city's most meaningful Independence Day traditions. The 14th Annual Officer Kevin Tonn Memorial 5K Fun Run stepped off at 8 a.m., drawing the largest field

in years: a testament to a community that refuses to forget one of its own. The run honors Galt Police Officer Kevin Tonn, who was killed in the line of duty on Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013. In the years since, what began as a fundraiser organized by grieving community members has grown into an annual gathering where neighbors, athletes and families come together each Fourth of July to celebrate his life and carry his memory forward. This year's event featured a new course. Parks and Recreation

Director Armando Solis opened the morning by explaining the redesigned route, which sent runners along the actual parade route twice. The change was more than a matter of scenery: Running the loop twice allowed police officers to stay in a single set of positions rather than being spread across the city, streamlining coverage and safety for everyone involved. Before the race began, the ceremony paused to honor the family

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County Confirms Year's First Human West Nile Virus Case



County officials announced that a female resident in her 60s, in recovery, has become the first recorded human case of West Nile virus in Sacramento County this year and the second human case statewide, according to the California Department of Public Health. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) and the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District have recorded the first human case of West Nile virus in Sacramento County this year. The California Department of Public Health, as of June 26, has only reported one other human case, making this the second human case statewide. The resident is a female in her 60s and is recovering. West Nile virus is transmitted to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. While approximately 80 percent of people infected with West Nile virus do not develop symptoms, about one in five may experience a mild illness that can include fever, headache, body aches, joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea or rash. In rare cases, the virus can affect the nervous system and lead to serious neurological disease.

"This first human case this season is an important reminder that West Nile virus is actively circulating in our community," said Sacramento County Public Health Officer Dr. Phuong Luu. "While most people who become infected will not develop serious illness, some people, especially older adults and those with a compromised immune system can experience severe complications. The best protection is to prevent mosquito bites by always wearing an effective mosquito repellent, wearing long sleeves and pants and eliminating standing water around your home."

West Nile virus activity has increased significantly in recent weeks, with positive mosquito samples and infected dead birds found in multiple areas throughout Sacramento County. "This human case confirms that West Nile virus is active and the risk to residents is increasing."

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Walker Park Phase II Breaks Ground



Pictured from left are Assistant City Engineer Betsy Flores, Parks and Recreation Director Armando Solis, Councilmember Paul Sandhu, Mayor Bonnie Rodriguez, U.S. Rep. Doris Matsui, Vice Mayor Tim Reed, Councilmember Shawn Farmer and Councilmember Mathew Pratton.

Story and photos by Idaly Valencia

GALT, CA (MPG) - Community leaders and project partners broke ground July 6 on the next phase of improvements at Walker Community Park, 380 W. Elm Ave., launching an expansion that will add new youth sports facilities and amenities to the city's recreation complex located on the west side of town. Phase 2 includes three new youth softball and baseball fields with 22-foot-high fences, expanded

parking and new restroom facilities. Additional improvements also include a food trailer concession area, batting cages, sports field lighting, two picnic areas surrounding the fields and pavement renewal. The project carries a price tag of about \$2.65 million and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. It builds on the park's first phase, completed in 2011, which added a football field and soccer field. Mayor Bonnie Rodriguez said the park's overall improvement project

totals to about \$8 million. Around \$500,000 in funding was provided for Phase 2 through a federal grant secured by U.S. Rep. Doris Matsui, whose district includes Galt and Herald. The remaining funding came from Measure Q, the one-cent sales tax approved by Galt voters in 2022 to support essential city services and the Parks and Recreation Department. Speaking during the groundbreaking ceremony, Matsui said the project reflects priorities identified by

Continued on page 3

In Celebration and Gratitude



Paul V. Scholl, Publisher of Messenger Publishing Group and President of Western Web, Inc.

By Paul V. Scholl, Publisher
Messenger Publishing Group

July 1st marked the celebration of Messenger Publishing Group reaching its 20-year anniversary of publishing local news, beginning with the American River Messenger in 2006. It all started in my garage and one converted bedroom into an office in my home in Roseville.

MPG is currently 18 publications strong, 15 of those would not exist if we hadn't rescued them from closure. The Sacramento region would be a local print news desert if these local newspapers hadn't been purchased as the years went on. Through all the tough times, good decisions and bad decisions, oppressive government regulations and overreach, MPG forged on. We did not surrender.

Over the years, many other publications ceased to exist or have been greatly diminished. At the same time, we re-organized and kept printing. MPG now consists of Carmichael Times, Citrus Heights Messenger, Rancho Cordova Grapevine Independent, Elk Grove Citizen, The Rio Linda News, The Galt Herald, Land Park News, East Sacramento News, Pocket News, River Valley Times, Gold River Messenger, American River Messenger, The Gridley Herald, Territorial Dispatch (Marysville/Yuba City), Colusa County Pioneer Review, Dixon Independent Voice, West

Sacramento News Ledger, Arden Arcade News. Along with our special publications, we publish 722 issues each year. And we don't work on Sundays.

In January of 2026, I purchased Western Web, Inc., a commercial printing company in Northern California to produce and print our publications. Our new printing team has been awesome, and the products now look fantastic. We also print dozens more local newspapers and publications that serve their communities throughout Northern California all the way up to the Oregon border.

We are growing. Leadership matters. Commitment matters. Foundational principles matter. We are founded on "God, Country, Family", the same foundation that our great nation is founded upon. We are leaders in local print news because we are dedicated to a higher power. We lift people up. We lift communities up.

My teams at Messenger Publishing Group and Western Web and I want to thank all those who support us through their advertising, subscriptions, readership, printing work and contributions. I want to thank my entire team for all their hard work, especially when deadlines loom. It takes great teamwork at both companies to produce great products.

We will continue to grow. We will continue to serve.
God Bless America,
Paul V. Scholl

Cal-Waste Offers Residents Free Yearly Bulky Item Pickup



The city shared in its latest newsletter that residents have access to a free annual Handy Hauler and Bulky Item Pickup service through Cal-Waste for items including clothing, toys, books, furniture, mattresses, appliances and exercise equipment. Photo courtesy of City of Galt

City of Galt
News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - Did You Know? Cal-Waste offers Annual Handy Hauler and Bulky Item Pickup services to Galt residents. Each service address is eligible for one free 3.5-cubic-yard Handy Hauler and one free Large Item Pickup per calendar year.

The Handy Hauler is ideal for clothing, toys, books, light household items and

light construction debris. However, it cannot accept dirt, concrete, tires, electronics, hazardous waste or items weighing more than 50 pounds.

The Bulky Item Pickup is available for oversized items such as furniture, mattresses, appliances, electronics, carpet and exercise equipment. Loose debris, yard waste, tree trunks, dirt, rock and concrete are not accepted.

To schedule either service, contact Cal-Waste at 209-369-6887. ★

County Confirms Year's First Human West Nile Virus Case

Continued from page 1

said Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District Manager Gary Goodman. "This comes at a time when residents will be enjoying the outdoor activities for the 4th of July holiday and it's important for residents to stay protected because all it takes is one bite from an infected mosquito to get the virus."

The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District will continue intensive surveillance throughout Sacramento County by trapping and testing mosquitoes,

monitoring reports of dead birds, treating mosquito breeding sources and conducting targeted adult mosquito control treatments when surveillance indicates an elevated risk of disease transmission.

2026 West Nile virus activity update for Sacramento County: one human, 31 dead birds and 20 mosquito samples have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

Practice the District D's of Mosquito Prevention

Drain standing water

that may produce mosquitoes. Dawn and dusk are times to avoid being outdoors. Dress appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outside. Defend yourself by using an effective insect repellent; Make sure to follow label directions.

Door and window screens should be in good working condition.

District personnel are also available to address any mosquito problems. Call them at 1-800-429-1022 or visit www.FIGHTtheBITE.net. ★

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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	
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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Police Honor Nation's 250th Anniversary with Badge

Galt Police Department News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - Over the next year, Galt Police Department officers will have the option of wearing a commemorative badge in recognition of America's 250th anniversary.

The design pays tribute to two important pieces of our history. The seven-point star

is a nod to the Galt Police Department's heritage, honoring the badge worn by those who served this community before us.

Combined with patriotic elements commemorating our nation's 250th birthday, the badge reflects both our department's proud legacy and the country we are honored to protect.

Officers may choose to wear either our

traditional shield or this commemorative badge throughout the anniversary year. Regardless of which badge they choose, the mission remains the same: serving our community with integrity, professionalism and pride.

As we celebrate 250 years of the United States, we're proud to honor where we've come from while continuing our commitment to those we serve. ★



Pictured is the commemorative badge Galt Police Department officers will have the option of wearing over the next year in recognition of America's 250th anniversary. Photo courtesy of Galt Police Department

Walker Park Phase II Breaks Ground

Continued from page 1 residents and demonstrates the value of investing in smaller communities planning for future growth.

"You defined this as a priority, and that is what I really, really appreciate because every bit of federal funding that I fight for is something that is very basic," Matsui said. "Here, families having a better place to gather, kids having a place to play and neighborhoods building an even stronger sense of community. And that's what this investment is for Galt."

Matsui also said supporting projects such as Walker Community Park helps ensure smaller communities receive the same attention as larger cities at the federal level.

"Communities like Galt, and I believe this thoroughly, deserve a strong voice in Washington," Matsui said. "Federal investment shouldn't just flow to the largest cities... It should reach communities that are growing, working hard and really building a future for their residents."

Acknowledging city officials, past and present, for their work on pushing the project forward, Rodriguez



Holding a ceremonial check representing \$500,000 in federal funding secured by U.S. Rep. Doris Matsui for Phase 2 of Walker Community Park on July 6 are, from left, Vice Mayor Tim Reed, Councilmember Paul Sandhu, Mayor Bonnie Rodriguez, Councilmember Shawn Farmer and Councilmember Mathew Pratton.

also extended thanks to the Walker family, the park's dedicatees, for their part in making the site a community hub.

"We have a lot of people that love this town, and some of those people are some of the founding families," Rodriguez said. "We want to especially thank the Walker family because if they had they not shared the vision with city leaders at the time, we wouldn't be here at all."

Parks and Recreation

Director Armando Solis added to the mayor's statement, sharing that the land was once a dairy farm owned by the Walker brothers, who negotiated the sale of the property to the city years ago. He also thanked residents for approving Measure Q, which made the latest improvements and other parks projects possible.

"This is what you voted for," Solis said, while also highlighting other Measure Q-backed improvements

such as the new waterslide at the Gora Aquatic Center and the upcoming skate park renovation. "I really want to thank you guys for that."

Assistant City Engineer Betsy Flores, who leads the project, reflected on the opportunity to help shape a park in the community where she grew up and to give back through her profession.

"To be able to event contribute to something so big that's going to impact the



Assistant City Engineer Betsy Flores speaks to the crowd at the July 6 ground-breaking ceremony for Phase 2 of the Walker Community Park improvement project.



Members of the Walker family pose with ceremonial ground-breaking shovels July 6 in recognition of their role in proposing that the land be developed into what is now Walker Community Park, a community hub for recreation.

community and eventually see my kids and maybe my grandkids play at the park here...it's just amazing," Flores said.

Before joining city leaders and staff to pick up the ceremonial golden shovels, Matsui concluded by saying that the park expansion represents more than

new athletic facilities; it's reflective of the city's close-knit spirit.

"I see those golden shovels in the back, that's really exciting, because it means so much more than a baseball field, soccer fields... the love that you have for sports really do bring people together," she said. ★

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Senate Budget Vice Chair Niello Reacts to Gov. Newsom's Fake 'Balanced' Budget

Office of Sen. Roger Niello News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On June 29, Sen. Roger Niello (R-Fair Oaks), vice chair of the Senate Budget Committee, criticized the latest round of budget bills passed on the Senate Floor as another step in the majority party's fake budget process and a failure to address Californians' basic needs.

"The budget the Legislature passed on June 15 was done purely to meet a constitutional



deadline. Now, a new version of the budget is being rammed through the legislative process with little to no transparency," said Sen. Niello.

"This so-called budget is frankly delusional, borrowing from the future, and

creates multiple new taxes. At the same time, it fails to address families' basic needs."

This year's budget will spend approximately \$353 billion. It includes \$14 billion tax increases on computer and phone

services that will be passed on to consumers and a new healthcare tax that will increase insurance costs for families.

In their budget request letter to Gov. Newsom, Sen. Niello and Senate Republicans asked for

the federal unemployment insurance (UI) debt to be paid down, full funding for Proposition 36, and help for distressed hospitals. This year's budget fails to adequately address all three of those critical items.

As a result, in the case of the federal unemployment insurance debt, California employers will soon face a tax increase of 250% per employee.

"Record spending does not equate to better quality of life, and anyone living in California for the last

decade would likely agree. This budget is bad for job creators and workers. It's bad for public safety and affordability.

"The governor can claim he has a 'balanced' budget on his way out the door, but really, he's just leaving us with his tab," Niello concluded.

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. ★

Lions Club Inducts New Members

By MPG Staff

GALT, CA (MPG) - On May 28, the Galt Lions Club held a meeting at Back Alley Brewhouse. Along with regular club business, the club inducted six new members and reinstated two members.

Past 4-C5 District Governor Zenny Yagen conducted the inductions. The inductees were Sharon Allen, Zachery Atkins, Donna Bakken, Megan Bond, Jonna Johnson, Pamela Deans, Deborah Corbett and Daniel

Corbett.

The Galt Lions Club will now meet at Papas & Wings at 803 C St. at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Anyone interested in learning more about Lions is welcome to attend.

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization with more than 1.4 million members in approximately 46,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas around the world. ★



Pictured at the new members and sponsors for the Galt Lions Club at its May 28 meeting at Back Alley Brewhouse. Past 4-C5 Lions Club District Governor Zenny Yagen, right, conducted the inductions. Photo courtesy of Galt Lions Club

New SCT-Link Service Updates Now in Effect



The city shared in its latest newsletter that the South County Transit (SCT-Link) has new updates in effect for its HWY 99 and Dial-A-Ride services, which now includes medical trips and later operating times. Photo courtesy of City of Galt

City of Galt News Release

GALT, CA (MPG) - South County Transit (SCT-Link) has implemented several service changes effective July 1.

Updates include: HWY 99 service now operates until 8:20 p.m. (previously 7:20

p.m.); Dial-A-Ride service now operates until 9 p.m.; Dial-A-Ride now offers medical trips to Sacramento and Elk Grove on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

For more information, visit bit.ly/3SLiyYV (case sensitive) or contact South County Transit at 209-745-3052. ★

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The Galt Herald

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Darius Acuff Debut

By V.G. Harris

A new era has begun, and Darius Acuff Jr. will be a focal point in that new era.

Beginning with a rousing 79-76 victory on the Fourth of July over the visiting Nets, Darius Acuff Jr. received by far the most rousing applause from a frenetic Golden One crowd poised to see what the future will look like.

A lot of pressure on young Darius produced a shot that wasn't falling, and after one quarter Acuff missed all but one shot from the field and contributed a paltry three points.

But this crowd was inspired, and as it turns out, so was Darius. Putting doubters to rest, Darius showcased excellent ball handling skills throughout and exhibited court management like a veteran.

What impressed me the most as I sat and watched the Kings No. 1 draft choice in action, was his determination to get the job done, and seemingly no number of missed shots was going to deter him.

Playing alongside older and more experienced players, this young 19-year-old looked like a much older player as he simply put his head down and refused to quit.

The Nets led this game nearly the entire way, but with less than three minutes to play, Acuff sank his first NBA 3-pointer, and would prove to be the margin of victory.

Last year's No. 1 draft choice Nique Clifford made the deciding bucket with a "nothing but net" three-pointer on an assist from Acuff, but without a doubt Darius had made his presence felt, and his first NBA action ended with a win.

Criticized to some degree for his lack of defense coming in, Acuff showed a natural ability and even looked comfortable on the defensive end of the court.

Overall, the Kings fans were treated to an NBA debut that few will forget, and in spite of not having his best shooting night, Acuff finished the contest with a game high 25 points.

Not to be lost in all of this drama was the electric play of Dylan Cardwell, who picked up where he left off from last year, and kept the Kings in the game with his high intensity

play. Without question, Cardwell is an intrinsic key into the success of this year's team, and his joy for the game is contagious and enthusiastic.

Stepping from the shadows was the almost forgotten man, 45th in the draft Emanuel Sharp, who added a well received 13 points and played a brand of defense the Sacramento Kings have been hoping to see for ages.

Defense seemed to come naturally for young Sharp, and he seemed to be everywhere at once. At 6-foot-3 and 210 pounds., Emanuel looked every bit of the NBA ready guard he appears to be, and what a welcome sight that is for a team that has struggled with defense like few other teams.

Although Alex Karaban did not see action due to a rolled ankle, both Acuff and Sharp carried the day and opened more than a few eyes, as the Kings did something that the Sacramento fans saw little of a year ago. They actually closed out a game.

The second game of summer league saw the Kings face their archrival, the Golden State Warriors, and although Darius Acuff was given the night off, once again Emanuel Sharp came to play, and just as the Kings had done the night before, they came from behind to post a solid 91-85 victory.

The final game at Golden One will take place on Monday night, and I expect to see Darius Acuff back in action. Look for attendance to be good as Kings fans are feeling the crescendo that is taking place with a bevy of rookies that are vying for a spot of the big squad.

It's hard to wish for more positivity than this young squad has presented to the Sacramento faithful in the first two games, but if you haven't been paying close attention so far, it's not too soon to get excited.

These guys don't like to lose, and that kind of energy is contagious.

Now surround them with the likes of Domantas Sabonis, Keegan Murray and Zach Lavine, and watch the temperature go up.

The real question is how many times will this new unit light the beam this year?

Stay tuned Kings fans, because the fun is just getting started!

All the best!

★

California Voters will Decide 14 Ballot Measures, Billionaire Tax Included. There Could've Been More



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

When California voters in 1978 passed Proposition 13, the iconic property tax limitation, they simultaneously rejected Proposition 8, which had been placed on the ballot by the Legislature as an alternate tax relief measure. While Prop. 13 flatly limited property taxes, Prop. 8 merely empowered the Legislature to lower property taxes on owner-occupied homes.

It may have been the first use of a campaign tactic that later became known as a "countermeasure." Rather than just oppose a measure, a rival interest group could place its own measure on the ballot, thus muddying the waters. Voters would either choose between the two or be confused enough to reject both.

A classic example occurred in 2022 when California's casino-owning Indian tribes proposed a measure to give them a virtual monopoly on sports wagering and digital sports betting companies countered with a measure of their own. Hundreds of millions of dollars were raised for the rival measures and voters rejected both, thus preserving the state's ban on sports wagering.

It also exemplified another aspect of ballot measure politics: the tendency of competing interests

take their issues to the ballot when the Legislature could not resolve them.

Over time, both trends had made the ballot measure process — rather than legislation — California's dominant method of resolving big issues.

Legislative leaders disliked being forced into a reactive role. Thus, in 2016, the Legislature changed the rules of the ballot measure game to reassert its place. It decreed that even after they had qualified for the ballot, sponsors of initiative measures could remove them up to a deadline.

Sponsors of rival qualified measures could negotiate compromises with input from legislative leaders, have them written into law and avoid very expensive pro and con campaigns.

The 14 measures that will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot were going to be as many as 20 before last-minute compromises settled three dueling measure conflicts. One pitted personal injury lawyers against ride-share companies, a second involved hospital executives and a health care union, and the third dealt with vote minimums for local taxes.

Whether the compromises make policy sense or not, contending parties got enough out of them to warrant dropping their ballot measures.

However, the most prominent ballot measure conflict — over whether California should impose a 5% wealth tax on billionaires — defied resolution. The measure, sponsored by the SEIU healthcare workers union, will be Proposition 40 and will compete with two countermeasures sponsored by billionaire Sergey

Brin and other Prop. 40 foes, Proposition 41 and Proposition 42.

They could, if passed with higher vote counts, kneecap the wealth tax.

At one point the wealth tax advocates offered to reduce its bite to 2% as a compromise, but made no headway with opponents most prominently Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Another tax measure sponsored by the California Teachers Association would make permanent a temporary surtax on high-income taxpayers first enacted in 2012 — but it could get caught in the shootout over Prop. 40. Democratic legislative leaders gave it some protection with a last-minute decree that it would be appear on the ballot as Proposition 3. Thus voters will deal with it before confronting Props. 40, 41 and 42 much further down the ballot.

Given its high stakes and the attention it is getting in national media, the wealth tax is destined to be not only the single most controversial ballot measure this year but probably have the most expensive dueling campaigns, possibly setting a record.

At a webinar on Tuesday covering the array of ballot measures voters will face in November, campaign consultant Tino Rossi said "the pace car (for spending) is the billionaire tax."

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 Doesn't My Social Security Record Show All My Military Earnings?



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: When I look at my earnings on my Social Security account, I see that in 1955 and 1956 have no earnings. I was in the U.S. Navy as a first officer and have my DD-214 paperwork which shows my military service from Oct. 1954-Oct. 1958. My Social Security earnings record shows that I had earnings in 1954, 1957, and 1958 but doesn't show that I was paid in 1955 or 1956. Shouldn't I have received Social Security credit for all my service years? **Signed: An Older Veteran**

Dear Older Veteran: First, I want to thank you for your military service. Whether your earnings while in the military would provide you with any additional Social Security benefit depends on your career earnings after leaving military service. Here's why:

Your monthly Social Security (SS) benefit is based upon the highest earning 35 years over your lifetime (with earlier years adjusted for inflation). From those highest earning 35 years, SS develops your Average Indexed Monthly Earnings (your lifetime

"AIME") which is the basis of the SS benefit you get if you claim for benefits to start at your full retirement age (FRA). So, if - after you completed your military service - you had at least 35 years of other employment where you earned more money than you did while serving, then your military pay won't affect your Social Security benefit.

FYI, Social Security payroll tax has been withheld from military pay since 1957, which is why your SS earnings record shows your military pay only for 1957 and 1958. Your SS record wouldn't show military pay prior to 1957 because you didn't contribute to SS from your military pay during those years. The earnings you see in your SS earnings record for 1954 are likely from non-military employment prior to starting active duty in October 1954.

SS does provide older veterans with "special extra credits for military service," but those credits are only a supplemental earnings amount added to your military pay record during the years you served. It is not a bonus amount added to your monthly Social Security payment; rather it is only an amount added to your military pay record used when calculating your Social Security benefit. For those who served prior to 1957, Social Security would have no record of your military earnings during those early service years. But when you claimed Social Security later in life, they would have asked if you served in

the military and given you "special extra credit" in the form of presumed earnings for your service years. They likely asked for a copy of your DD-214 and would have added \$160 to your military earnings record for each active-duty month from October 1954 through December 1956, and additional earnings credits for 1957 and 1958.

But that doesn't mean you get a special Social Security bonus for your military service. If you have at least 35 years of civilian employment after serving in the Navy, your service years would only affect your SS benefit if those military service years were among the highest paying 35 years over your entire lifetime. Click here to read more on this topic. And, again, please accept our appreciation for your service to our country.

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



President Trump has been musing about whether he's the most powerful man in world history, and judging by the results lately, the answer is definitely "no."

It's certainly true that Trump has technical tools at his disposal that would have astounded famous pre-20th-century contenders for the title of most powerful man, whether Caesar, Alexander the Great, Charlemagne or Napoleon.

Trump's power, though, isn't defined by, say, the precision and explosive punch of the Tomahawk missile. As the leader of a constitutional republic that disperses power and depends ultimately on democratic consent, Trump is operating under constraints that routinely blunt his ambitions.

If the theme of the first year of his second term was aggression on all fronts, his second year has so far been defined by significant retreats.

Late last year, Trump surged DHS forces into Minneapolis, seeking to make an example of the Twin Cities after Somali immigrants were implicated in welfare fraud schemes. When the operation was met by fierce opposition from city and state leaders and resistance in the streets, the Trump administration steered itself for a gargantuan test of wills -- before Trump, realizing he was losing the battle of political optics, sent Tom Homan to Minneapolis to unwind the operation.

Trump's Three Retreats

Last month, the Department of Justice settled Donald Trump's \$10 billion suit against the IRS over the leak of his tax returns. The department agreed to create a \$1.8 billion fund for the compensation of victims of Democratic lawfare, a slush fund for his allies, presumably including Jan. 6 rioters. Faced with adverse legal rulings and opposition in the Senate, the administration abandoned the scheme that it had initially touted as a means to "right the wrongs that were previously done while ensuring this never happens again."

Then, of course, Trump signed a ceasefire with Iran that wasn't close to the "unconditional surrender" that he had once demanded. The 14-point agreement included more U.S. than Iranian concessions, and Trump admitted that the Iranian closure of the Strait of Hormuz had forced his hand.

TITLE: None of these were incidental initiatives. They all involved core commitments of this president -- to mass deportation, to turning on its head the lawfare campaign against him and to denying the Iranian regime a nuclear weapon.

They were also overreaches that displayed a heedlessness born of hubris. Trump had already driven down overall migration when he surged into Minneapolis; already pardoned the Jan. 6 rioters when his DOJ created the weaponization fund; and already struck a punishing blow against the Iranian nuclear program via Midnight Hammer when he launched Operation Epic Fury.

Trump isn't one for incremental progress toward an objective. He prefers the grand gesture and big gamble. He's drawn to the bridge too far when a drive a couple of blocks down the street would do just fine.

The worry about Trump was that he'd be unconstrained in his second term, and indeed, he's fashioned a team that is loath to tell him "no." But he's subject to checks from the other branches of government and, even more, from routine political pressures.

There was nothing that formally compelled him to remove DHS forces from Minneapolis or to relieve the military pressure on Iran, both of which were within his legitimate powers. It was the poor polling and the potential damage to Republican prospects in the midterms that obliged Trump to declare victory and go home.

The president may enjoy thinking of how he can do things that a Roman emperor never would have imagined, yet Marcus Aurelius wasn't hypersensitive to how stories were playing in the mass media, or to the latest public-opinion surveys.

As the creature of a democratic republic, Trump inherently is mindful of those considerations, which is one reason that it's been a year of retreats. Trump, surely, doesn't think of it that way. As Gen. Oliver Smith put it during the Korean War, he's merely attacking in a different direction -- although not the one he'd intended.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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ABOUT TOWN

Friday, July 10 and Saturday, July 11 Sunset Bat Flyout Paddle – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. each evening at the Cosumnes River Preserve. Experience a magical sunset kayaking tour on the Cosumnes River, featuring fascinating wildlife insights, delicious snacks and the breathtaking sight of bat migrations. Brought to you by Wild Spirit Recreation. Tickets at Eventbrite.com. 13501 Franklin Blvd.

Friday, July 10 Friday Night Movies: "Hoppers" – at Veterans Field. Gates open at 6 p.m.; movie begins at dusk. Our summer movie series is back with family-friendly movies, outdoor fun and concessions available throughout the night. Grab your blankets, lawn chairs and favorite movie crew and join us for a movie under the stars this summer. 900 Caroline Ave.

Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12 StocktonCon Summer – 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at Adventist Health Arena. Featuring a star-studded list of celebrity guests and artists, cosplay costume contests, gaming tournaments, panels and more. A portion of the proceeds goes directly to local charities. See stocktoncon.com for more information and tickets. 248 W. Fremont St., Stockton.

Saturday, July 11 Stockton Auto Swap Meet & Car Show – 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the San Joaquin Fairgrounds. Open to automotive and related collectible items, featuring hundreds of sellers and thousands of customers. Parking is free and pets are not allowed. For more information, call 209-513-8651. 1658 S. Airport Way, Stockton.

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. Vehicles can be registered at galthistory.com. 8899 Orr Road.

Kiwanis Free Day at the Pool – 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Gora Aquatic Center. Join us for this fun day when the Kiwanis Club will cover admission for the first 100 youth (17

years and under) entering the Gora Aquatic Center. Any adult attending with their child will be required to either pay the entrance fee (adults \$8 and seniors \$6) or the dry fee (\$4 for adults and seniors). All regular facility rules apply on these days. A special thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Galt for its continued generosity and support. 630 Chabolla Ave.

Concerts on C Street – 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Downtown Galt. Join us for an evening of live music, local businesses, food trucks and amazing community. This month, enjoy '80s music from the Fast Times Band. Grab your friends and family and stroll down C Street while you enjoy music, dancing, food and more.

The 3 Queens of Motown – 7 p.m. at the Charlene Powers Lange Performing Arts Theatre. The show takes to the stage with a Las Vegas style, fantastic, high-energy show that pays honor to 3 Queens of the music business: Tina, Diana & Aretha. They re-create the soul, glamour and sass of these ultimate divas with lots of attitude and style. "There Ain't No Mountain High Enough" to keep you from "...Coming Out" to pay "Respect" to these women who were "Simply the Best." Special Guest "Kool" Wind and Fire, a tribute to Earth Wind & Fire and Kool & the Gang. "Let's Groove" with a "Celebration" of songs you will be dancing to all night long. Tickets and more information at visitlodi.com/events. 125 S. Hutchins St., Lodi.

Friday, July 17 State of the County – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Pavilion at Elk Grove Regional Park. \$60 per person; register at elkgroveca.com. Keynote speaker Pat Hume, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, District 5. 9950 Elk Grove Florin Road.

Saturday, July 18 Guided Paddle along the Cosumnes River – 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Join experienced naturalists for a leisurely paddle along the Cosumnes River and its peaceful sloughs. This unique on-the-water experience offers an opportunity to explore one of California's last free-flowing rivers while learning about the wildlife, plants and history that make this area so special. This is a free program, but space is limited. By registering at

Eventbrite.com, you are reserving a spot that could otherwise be offered to another participant. If your plans change, please cancel your registration as soon as possible so we can accommodate those on the waitlist. 13501 Franklin Blvd.

Guided Tour of the San Joaquin County Historical Museum – 10 a.m. to noon. Step into the past and discover the stories that shaped our community. Pre-registration is required. To reserve your spot, call 209-331-2055. \$5 plus park admission. 11793 Micke Grove Road, Lodi.

Astronomy in the Park – 8:25 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Shumway Oak Grove Regional Park. Bring a blanket and chairs; Stockton Astronomical Society will bring the telescopes. Visitors of all ages are invited to explore the universe through guided telescope viewings, hands-on learning and fascinating presentations from local astronomers. Free event; \$6 parking. 4520 W. Eight Mile Road, Stockton.

Sunday, July 19 Stockton Cars & Coffee – 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at West Lane Bowl. Gather with other car enthusiasts to showcase vehicles from classics to exotics and connect over a shared passion for automobiles. It's a casual, family-friendly morning filled with great cars, good coffee and even better conversations. All makes and models are welcome. 3900 N. West Lane, Stockton.

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 and fresh cheeses to 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 – July 10, 10 a.m.: Hand and Foot card game at Elk Grove United Methodist Church, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd. A small donation to the church is expected. Contact Gerri at 916-698-1940.

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

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

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

Wilton Bingo – First Saturday each month. The next bingo will be on Saturday, 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, July 10: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (G) English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (G)

Saturday, July 11: Summer reading – West Coast Falconry, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. All ages are invited to get an up-close look at the physical structures, feather types and wing shapes that allow birds of prey to survive in the wild. (WG)

Tuesday, July 14: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (WG)

Wednesday, July 15: English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (G)

Thursday, July 16: STEAM for kids – rocket-propelled cars, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Invent a sweet set of wheels and watch as the inflated balloon propels it across the room. (G)

Friday, July 17: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (G) English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (G) Adult space, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. (WG)

Saturday, July 18: Summer reading – summer camp crafts, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Join us for a fun-filled, camp-inspired crafting adventure the whole family will love. (WG)

Call 916-264-2920 or 800-561-4636 for more information on any of these events.

Veterans Meetings American Legion Post 55, Veterans and

Auxiliary Units – fourth Wednesday each month. 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 – general meetings the fourth Thursday each month at 7 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 9240 Survey Road, Elk Grove. Dinner at 6 p.m.

Post 233 Family Breakfast – first Saturday each month at 9 a.m., Mimi's Café, corner of Laguna Boulevard and West Stockton Boulevard (just off Highway 99) in Elk Grove. For more information, call Henry at 916-205-9296 C or Sue at 916-683-6128 H.

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

Marine Corps League Detachment #1238 – first Thursday each month. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., District56 Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove.

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

VFW Post 2073 – second Thursday. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., District56 Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove. For more information, call 916-684-3849. ★

MEETING MINDERS

Friday, July 10

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

Saturday, July 11

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

Wednesday, July 15

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

Thursday, July 16

Herald Fire Protection District, 6 p.m., Station 87, 12746 Ivie Road, 209-748-2322.
Galt Beautification Committee, 10 a.m.,

Community Development Dept., 495 Industrial Drive, 209-366-7130.

Friday, July 17

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

Tuesday, July 21

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

Thursday, July 23

NO MEETING: Galt High School Board, 6 p.m., Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive.

Friday, July 24

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

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

Drive Suite 130, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Pizza Guys #165/Pizza Guys" 640 Carol Drive Suite 130, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the

Clerk of Sacramento County May 26, 2026
Publish: June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2026
PIZZA 7-17-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-04642

Juan Lopez, 765 Belfast Court, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Golden State Site Services/Reserved Concrete" 765 Belfast Court, Galt, CA

95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County June 12, 2026
Publish: July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026
GOLDEN 7-31-26



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice of Public Hearing Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan – 2025 Update

The Urban Water Management Planning Act (California Water Code §10608–10656) requires the City of Galt (City) to update its Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) and associated Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) every 5 years. The City must also make the draft documents available for public review and hold a public hearing before adopting its UWMP and associated WSCP.

This is to notify you that the City will hold a public hearing on July 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the regular City Council meeting to consider proposed revisions and updates to the 2025 UWMP and associated WSCP. We invite your agency's participation in the process. In conjunction with the update to the UWMP, the public may also provide input on the urban water use target included in the UWMP, any impacts to the local economy, and the City's method of determining its urban water use target.

The UWMP and associated WSCP will be made available for public review by June 1, 2026 at <https://www.cityofgalt.org/>.

If you have any questions about the 2025 UWMP or WSCP or the process for updating these documents, please contact me at:

City of Galt
495 Industrial Drive, Galt, CA 95632
Phone: (209) 366-7260 ARicci@cityofgalt.org

Notice of Regulatory Fees – Water Code Section 10730

The 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that each groundwater basin in the state be managed sustainably within its statutory timelines. The City of Galt overlies the Cosumnes River Subbasin and is one of the groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) responsible for SGMA compliance in that groundwater subbasin. The City carries out this effort as a member of the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA). If the City and its partner agencies in the CGA fail to act, or if the state determines that those actions are insufficient, the Subbasin would be subject to intervention and fees levied by the California State Water Resources Control Board.

SGMA authorizes a GSA to impose fees on the extraction of groundwater or other regulated activity to fund the costs of a groundwater sustainability program. (Water Code, § 10730.) The City, in its capacity as a GSA, has partnered with CGA to develop a basin-wide model for cost sharing and fee development to support the ongoing sustainable management of the Subbasin.

Information supporting the fee and its calculation may be found at www.cityofgalt.org/SGMF. The proposed fee for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is \$35.59 per groundwater-using parcel plus \$10 per irrigated agricultural acre.

Because the amount to be charged is attributable to the costs assigned to the City as part of its participation in CGA (and the attendant groundwater management services that CGA coordinates on the City's behalf), the proposed fees do not exceed the cost of providing this service to City of Galt irrigators and groundwater users. By participating in this effort, the City will continue to ensure that its interests are represented in the Subbasin, and that the required GSP is implemented in a timely fashion (thus avoiding potential state intervention).

The City Council will consider the proposed Sustainable Groundwater Management Fees at a public meeting on July 21, 2026 at 6:00 pm at 380 Civic Drive, Galt, CA. For further information and data regarding the fee's calculation, to protest, or to provide additional comments, please contact the City of Galt Public Works Department by email at publicworks@cityofgalt.org or call 209-366-7260.

Newsom's Financial Ties to Pentagon-Blacklisted Chinese Military Company

Gavin Newsom's China connection goes back to when he was Mayor of San Francisco

By Katy Grimes,
California Globe

California Governor Gavin Newsom received \$50,000 in campaign contributions from a top executive at a Chinese electric vehicle company (BYD) that Newsom fawned over during his 2023 visit to China. BYD is now on a Pentagon blacklist due to its ties to the Chinese military, the Washington Free Beacon reports.

If BYD rings a bell for *California Globe* readers, it should. In 2020, we reported that Gov. Gavin Newsom spent over \$1 billion in taxpayer funds to buy masks from the Chinese electric vehicle maker BYD at the start of the COVID pandemic.

An electric car company suddenly pivots to making masks — and Newsom chooses them over American suppliers?

Then he went back for more. Newsom signed a second deal worth another \$315 million.

The *Globe* broke the story. RedState amplified it. Even some mainstream outlets in California covered it.

A handful of unhappy Democrat lawmakers in the Legislature demanded an audit of the unauthorized purchases, but they fell silent after a single demand letter to the governor.

And then — POOF — the media lost interest. At least the mainstream media did.

In 2023, the *California Globe* covered Newsom's trip to China and reminded readers exactly who BYD was, and how the governor's corrupt \$1.4 billion mask deal went down.

While the mainstream media chased the next shiny object, the *Globe* kept digging. What we uncovered was a \$1.4 billion contract that smelled like well-connected insider dealing at the highest levels of the governor's office.

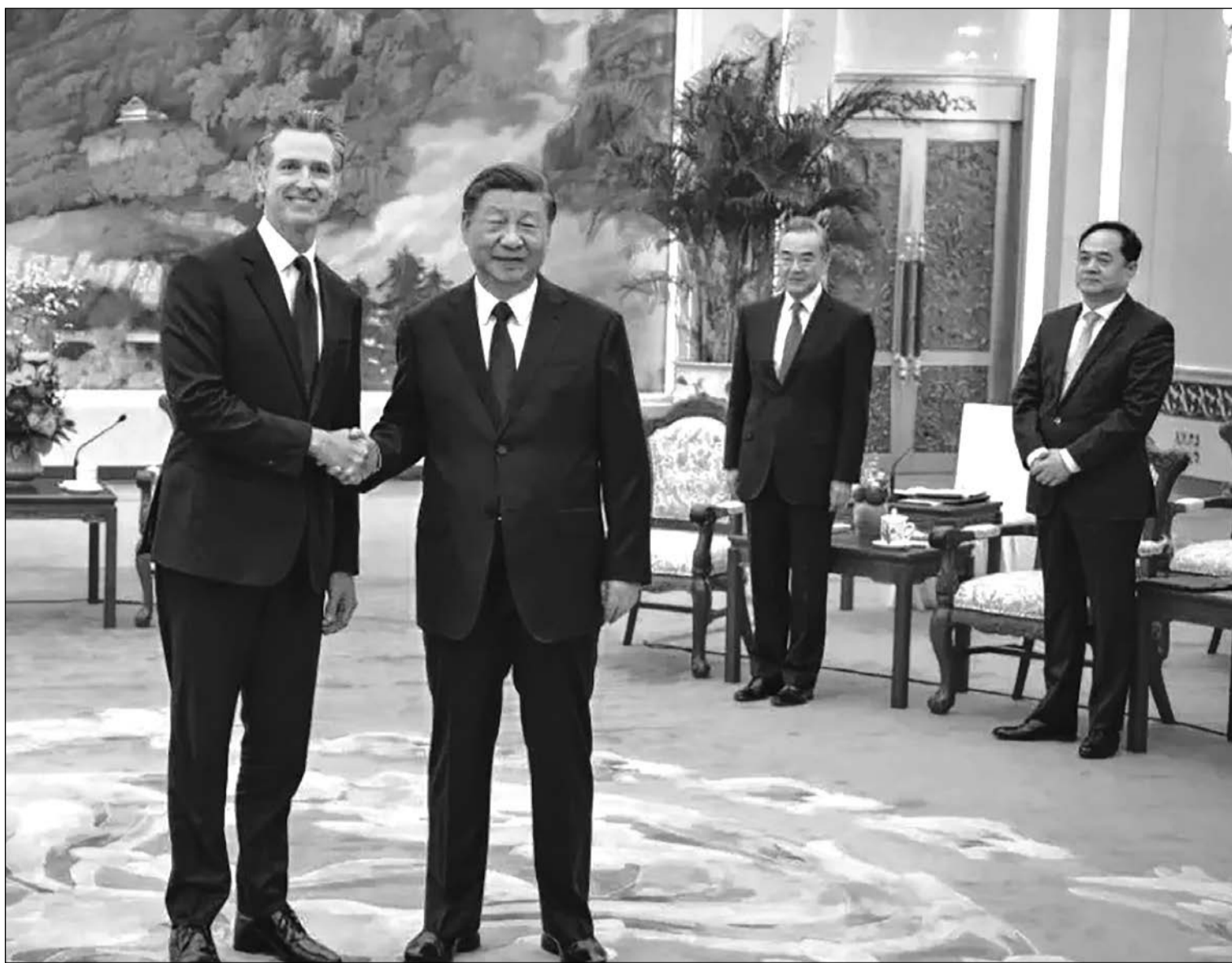
Here's what we found:

BYD — “Build Your Dreams” — is a Chinese electric vehicle and battery giant headquartered in Shenzhen. The company operates a California subsidiary in Lancaster that employs roughly 1,000 people.

Our reporting exposed a web of influential players tied to the unusual mask contract, with connections reaching directly into Governor Newsom's inner circle.

The prominent lobbyist representing BYD is Mark Weideman of The Weideman Group. Newsom's campaign received \$40,000 in contributions from BYD's automotive division.

Weideman also lobbies for Bloom Energy, a San Jose fuel-cell manufacturer that retooled its operations to refurbish ventilators during the pandemic. He additionally represents NextGen America, owned by Tom Steyer — the same Tom Steyer who chaired Newsom's economic recovery committee after his own failed presidential bid.



Newsom's Deep Financial Ties to Pentagon-Blacklisted Chinese Military Company. Photo courtesy of gov.ca.gov

When the *Globe* contacted Weideman for comment, neither a phone call to his office on May 19, 2020, at 1:07 p.m., nor a follow-up email sent on May 25 received any response.

Adding another layer of insider access: Weideman's wife, Jennifer Wada, runs her own government relations firm, Wada Government Relations Group. Few Sacramento insiders realize the two are married. Wada previously partnered in the law firm Wada Williams Law Group with Anthony Williams — the same Anthony Williams who now serves as Gov. Newsom's Legislative Affairs Secretary and was once described in news reports as the governor's “chief lobbyist.”

Newsom's 2023 trip to China raised more questions than answers. The governor never clearly explained its purpose beyond setting up yet another round of sweetheart deals with Beijing.

The most memorable (and telling) moment came when Newsom was filmed behind the wheel of a sleek new BYD electric vehicle. A California Fox News anchor traveling with him apparently never connected the dots, we reported.

The itinerary included stops in Hong Kong, Beijing, and Shanghai. Newsom billed the visit as a “climate-focused tour,” complete with a wind farm and Tesla's Shanghai Gigafactory. Critics saw something else entirely: a governor willfully

ignoring China's industrial espionage, human rights abuses, and military ambitions.

As the Washington Free Beacon reported:

“Ke Li — a Chinese national who serves as BYD's executive vice president and is reportedly married to the company's billionaire founder and CEO, Wang Chuanfu, a Chinese Communist Party member and close ally of Xi Jinping — donated \$20,000 to Newsom's 2018 gubernatorial campaign and another \$30,000 to his 2022 reelection bid.”

That's more money than Li has given to all other California candidates combined.

Newsom's cozy relationship with BYD has only deepened. He has showered the company with state contracts and, during his 2023 visit to its Shenzhen headquarters, test-drove a BYD model that floats on water. “Who needs a car when you can have a car and a boat?” Newsom quipped.

Three years later, that relationship is apparently on a crash course. This week, the Pentagon formally classified BYD as a Chinese military company, adding it to a list of entities that help Beijing fuse private industry with its military buildup.

Newsom's ties to China go back decades to his time as mayor of San Francisco. Just this week, Peter W. Wood at *American Greatness* published a powerful new piece titled “How China Captured California,” detailing exactly how deep that entanglement has become:

In 2005, the mayor of San Francisco paid a visit to Shanghai, where he worked out some agreements that furthered city-to-city cooperation. Mayor Gavin Newsom was at the beginning of a career that married environmental alarmism to close cooperation with the Chinese state. The memorandum he signed with Shanghai Mayor Han Zheng brought Chinese police officers, attorneys, and judges to the Fog City. Newsom in turn brought bottles of PlumpJack from his Napa Valley winery.

Wood, president of the National Association of Scholars, continues:

My organization, the National Association of Scholars (NAS), has spent a year attempting to trace the connections, the political favors, and the interweaving of Chinese state interests with California's political establishment. We don't have subpoena power or deep connections to the regime. We are, instead, specialists in higher education, so we naturally learned more about that side of the picture than anything else. But the political side was unavoidable.

My assessment: California's energy policy is made in China, and California is in many respects a vassal of China. Best of all, from China's perspective, few Californians realize it. They live in a dream world where high-price energy is just the cost they pay for a really clean environment. NAS's report, *Behind the Climate Curtain: China's*

Hidden Role in California's Energy Mandates and University Partnerships, presents our evidence to back these audacious claims. I can't say we have the kind of proof that will lead to future perp-walks of politicians by the FBI. But we have wind farms, solar plantations, and tankers full of the kinds of details that investigators might want to examine.

Gavin Newsom's relationship with BYD isn't a series of unfortunate coincidences. It is a damning pattern of favoritism that has funneled billions in California taxpayer dollars to a Chinese company now officially designated by the Pentagon as a military asset of the Chinese Communist Party. From no-bid mask contracts worth \$1.4 billion to campaign donations routed through a BYD executive married to the firm's CCP-connected founder, Newsom has repeatedly chosen Beijing over American interests and California taxpayers.

While he grins behind the wheel of floating BYD vehicles in Shenzhen, the Golden State grows more economically dependent and strategically compromised. As Peter W. Wood exposed this week in *American Greatness*, California hasn't merely been influenced by China, it has been captured. And no one has held the door open wider, or longer, than Gavin Newsom.

Executive Editor Megan Barth contributed to this report. Reprinted with permission. ★

DOJ's Fraud Crackdown Hits New Milestone with Bank Fraud Arrest

U.S. Attorney Bill Essayli warns that the fraud in California could exceed billions of dollars

By Megan Barth, California Globe

First Assistant United States Attorney Bill Essayli announced today the arrest of Mahender Makhijani on federal charges of defrauding a bank out of nearly \$100 million through a sophisticated scheme involving falsified title policies and forged documents. Makhijani is a 44-year-old lawful permanent resident from India living in the exclusive enclave of Spyglass Hill in Corona del Mar, owning neighboring mansions for him and his in-laws on Montecito Dr.

Makhijani, who controlled Cantor Group V LLC, a Newport Beach-based lending company, allegedly manipulated first-lien real estate loan collateral requirements between September 2024 and April 2025.

According to the criminal complaint, he and a subordinate forged title policies in Adobe, altered metadata, and submitted false records to the victim bank while providing misleading explanations during calls and in spreadsheets. If convicted, Makhijani faces up to 30 years in federal

prison. He is expected to make his initial appearance this afternoon in U.S. District Court in Santa Ana.

In a statement accompanying the announcement, Essayli emphasized the broader impact of such fraud: “Our nation's economy and welfare depend on a healthy banking system. When lenders are deceived, it has downstream effects on consumers and businesses.” All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

This latest arrest comes as part of Essayli's aggressive push against fraud in California, which has already uncovered more than \$200 million in taxpayer losses through arrests and indictments across multiple schemes since he launched targeted task forces. Key cases include:

Homelessness Fraud and Corruption Task Force (launched April 2025): Early arrests in October 2025 targeted Cody Holmes and Steven Taylor, involving tens of millions in embezzled affordable housing funds (including over \$20 million in direct damages sought in one civil suit) and bank fraud tied to properties sold to

homeless housing developers. Essayli called these cases “just the tip of the iceberg,” with ongoing probes into billions in misused homelessness spending.

Operation Never Say Die (April 2026 health care fraud takedown): Eight defendants arrested (with 11 charged total) in a \$50+ million Medicare scam involving sham hospice facilities that billed taxpayers for non-terminal patients. Essayli stated, “We are enforcing a zero-tolerance policy for criminals who defraud American taxpayers. The defendants arrested this morning who are charged with stealing millions of dollars of health care benefits got caught and now face years in federal prison.”

Identity Theft Ring (March 2026): 10 arrested for stealing approximately \$17 million from elderly California homeowners through fraudulent loans.

Additional probes into election fraud, voter rolls, and other white-collar schemes are underway, with Essayli's office coordinating with the FBI and IRS.

In a recent Fox News appearance, Essayli noted that just three

homelessness-related cases had already exceeded \$100 million in exposed fraud, warning the total could reach billions. This latest arrest marks the continuation of Essayli's zero-tolerance approach.

As reported previously in the *California Globe*, that initiative targeted waste, abuse, and corruption in funds meant to address California's homelessness crisis, a problem that has consumed billions in taxpayer dollars with little visible results.

Essayli, who leads the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, has repeatedly vowed to hold fraudsters accountable regardless of status. “Fraud arrests are under way,” he has stated. “California leads the nation in fraud, and we will hold those responsible accountable.”

As investigations expand, Essayli's office continues to urge the public to report direct evidence of fraud. For election-related tips, contact CAElectionFraudTips@usdoj.gov.

California Globe will continue to monitor these developments. Reprinted with permission. ★

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

AA 24-Hour Hotline

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

Sunshine Food Pantry Donations

Sunshine Food Pantry is a food closet that helps provide for residents.

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

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

Senior Bingo Weekly at Chabolla

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

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

together and socialize.

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. ★

POLICE LOGS

During the time period of June 29 to July 5, Galt Police received and responded to a variety of calls, resulting in four arrests.

There were 29 calls for fireworks on July 4 and nine on July 5.

June 29

9:10 a.m., Burglary reported, Bellawood Drive: Electrical wire and electrical breakers taken.

9:23 p.m., Stolen Vehicle reported, Steiner Road.

June 30

8:40 a.m., Burglary reported, Whitechapel Drive.

8:44 a.m., Attempt Theft/Tamper reported, Park Valley Way: Catalytic converter stolen.

1:40 p.m., Battery/Adult Arrest, Galt Mobile Estates on North Lincoln Way.

July 1

5:18 a.m., Narcotics Violation/Adult Arrest, 4th Street.

2:13 p.m., Fraud reported, The Galt Place on D Street: Receiving Fasttrack

bills from vehicle she no longer owns.

July 2

3:48 a.m., Recovered Stolen Vehicle. A Street/Crystal Way.

10:26 a.m., Burglary reported, Honeysuckle Hill Avenue: Houses burglarized.

July 4

9:10 a.m., Weapon-Brandishing reported, McDonald's, Pine Street.

2:35 p.m., Narcotics Violation reported, Van Parker Lane.

8:05 p.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Highway 99 Northbound/Twin Cities Road.

11:12 p.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, Amador Avenue/Cottonwood Grove Court.

11:24 p.m., Hit and Run/Non-Injury, Galt Market on Caroline Avenue/Pine Street.

July 5

9:13 a.m., Burglary reported, Black Canyon Court: House broken into.

8:02 p.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, Lower Sacramento Road/Liberty Road. ★

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I'll Have a Pina Colada with Fries on the Side, Please

"If you like pina coladas and getting caught in the rain, If you're not into yoga, if you have half a brain"

—Words from the song "Escape" (the Pina Colada song, by Rupert Holmes.

According to daysoftheyear.com website, the Pina Colada has a long and noble history both as a mixological standard and as the heart of a song about not giving up on love, just because you think it's gotten stale.

The name of the drink comes from the basis of its creation, Pina meaning "pineapple" and Colada meaning "Strained." The drink is a delicious mix of all the things that speak to the Caribbean and tropical locales, with the pineapple juice mixed together with a rich coconut cream, spiked up with just a bit of white rum.

Is there anything that speaks more of warm white sand beaches and beautiful azure skies than a drink that was born on those same shores?

"Yes, I like pina coladas and getting caught in the rain, I'm not much into health food, I am into champagne."



— "Escape" by Rupert Holmes.

As befits a drink born of tropic fruits from tropical shores, stirred with a drink distilled from the rich sugar-born drink favored by merchants and pirates alike, the history of the Pina Colada is steeped in mystery, folklore and conflict.

The first and oldest story of the drink is born in the Caribbean waters around Puerto Rico, upon the ship of one Roberto Cofresi, captain of a crew of the foulest batch of pirates to sail the seas in the early 19th century.

While this is the earliest-known origin of the drink, used to boost the morale of the crew, the recipe was lost for a time after his death in 1825.

It wasn't until 1954 that the drink was

to find itself rediscovered by one Ricardo Garcia, a mixologist born in Barcelona and working at a Hilton.

This story tells that it was discovered as a series of fortunately unfortunate events starting with a strike of the coconut cutters union that led to a shortage of the favored cup of the resort's favored drink, The Coco-Locho.

Without a freshly macheted coconut shell to serve it in, Ricardo adapted to the circumstances in front of him by presenting the drink in a hollowed-out pineapple instead. Thus, according to this bit of lore, the Pina Colada was reborn.

My favorite Pina Colada has a swirl of Strawberry puree and is called a Lava Flow. It is the drink of choice in Hawaii.

Remember, last week we talked about fried clams, and What Fries my Pie? Well, today is the day to celebrate the king of fried food: It is French Fry Day!

Whether you call them French Fries, Chips, Finger Chips or French-Fried Potatoes, this delicious treat is loved

around the world. Not to be confused with the American "chips," which are thinly sliced pieces of potato fried until crisp, French Fries are the delicious result of "batons" of potato cut to various thicknesses and then fried in oil. The outside of this staple companion food to hamburgers and other grease-ball favorites generally has a golden texture, varying from soft to crispy, and most often served with little more than a dusting of salt.

I love French fries. Fat ones, thin ones, crinkled or curly, they all have place and time to be eaten. We use the thin ones as tonic to get well from an upset stomach from motion sickness.

Hot crispy salted fries dipped in vanilla ice cream or Frosty and TA DA! Stomach problem cured. No, really; it works every time.

I really like Curly Garlic Fries. They have nothing to do with the cure; they just taste scrumptious. I think I will go get some for lunch.

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



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Coaches Vote Behrmann Tops for Hawk Tennis

Galt 9U Captures State Title



Shelby Behrmann, in just her second year leading the Liberty Ranch High School tennis team, has been voted Coach of the Year by her fellow coaches. Under her guidance, the team doubled in size and climbed to a third-place league finish – a remarkable turnaround from last year's near-last-place season – while also earning a trip to the section playoffs. Congratulations, Coach. We can't wait to see how the team grows next year. Photo by Paige Lampson

The Galt 9U All-Stars are your 2026 Cal Ripken Baseball 9U State Champions, showing off their banner and championship rings after capturing the state title in Elk Grove. Galt had to knock off Windsor twice on the day to claim the crown. "It was amazing. We never gave up," said Galt's Colt Williams. Courtesy photo

GTown Basketball Represents in Reno



For the second straight season, GTown Basketball headed to Reno on Memorial Day weekend to represent our town, uniting youth players from Galt High School and Liberty Ranch High

School. The boys finished second ... and stayed sharp for the high school season while doing it. Courtesy photo

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Runners Keep Officer Tonn's Memory Alive



Galt Police Chief Brian Kalinowski presents flowers and challenge coin to William and MaryAnn Tonn.



Bayside Church Senior Pastor Tim Wallmark offers up the prayer.



Runners leave the starting line on Civic Drive.



Galt Police officers Sgt. Casteneda, Valdez and Franklin start the race off on their new e-bikes.



Crossing the finish line first is 16-year-old Daniel Crownover.



Anthony Tiapon is the second to finish the race.



Jaylan Griffith is all smiles as the first woman to cross that line.



Runners finish the race.



Finishing third, Thomas Dehoney takes a water from MaryAnn Tonn.

Continued from page 1

at the heart of the day. Galt Police Chief Brian Kalinowski presented flowers to Kevin's mother, MaryAnn Tonn, and gave Kevin's father, William Tonn, a "250 Years of America" Galt Challenge Coin. Will Tonn was visibly moved and excited to receive the commemorative coin, a keepsake marking both the nation's milestone and his son's enduring place in the community.

Vice Mayor Tim Reed also addressed the crowd, thanking the runners and volunteers for turning out year after year to keep Kevin's memory alive.

Bayside Church Senior Pastor Tim Wallmark then offered a prayer over the assembled crowd. Moments later, the runners lined up behind officers from the Galt Police Department, who

were ready to lead the field on their new e-bikes as the race got underway.

The competition up front was swift. At 17 minutes and 30 seconds, Galt High cross country member Daniel Crownover was the first to cross the finish line: an impressive feat for the 16-year-old. The first adult to finish was Anthony Tiapon, a Galt High graduate who now works as an engineer. Thomas Dehoney was the third to finish, and Jaylan Griffith was the first female runner to complete the course.

At the finish line, as they do every year, the Tonn family waited to greet the runners. MaryAnn and Will Tonn handed out water and snacks, offering thanks and congratulations to each participant who came through: a personal touch that has become a signature of the event.

For Will Tonn, the

annual run remains a source of comfort amid an unimaginable loss.

"We lost so much, but seeing this community come out every year to remember Kevin lifts our hearts in a way words can't fully capture," Will Tonn said. "It reminds us that he's not forgotten, and that means everything to us. Being here to thank every runner who shows up: That's what keeps us coming back year after year."

As the runners caught their breath and the city prepared for its Fourth of July parade, the message of the morning was clear. More than a decade after his passing, Officer Kevin Tonn's memory continues to run strong through the streets of Galt, carried forward by a community that shows up, year after year, to honor a fallen officer and comfort the family he left behind. ★