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Take Home the Hardware
at UCA Camp

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Earn CIF All-League
Softball Honors

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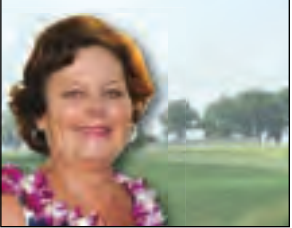
The Galt Herald

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Concerts on C Street Continue



Gary Bohannon & The Bad Habits Band will take the stage at Concerts on C Street this Saturday, Aug. 8. Photo courtesy of Gary Bohannon & The Bad Habits Band

By MPG Staff

GALT, CA (MPG) - Concerts on C Street, a free concert series bringing music genres from around the world to Galt, continues this Saturday with a performance by Gary Bohannon & The Bad Habits Band. The six-person band will perform Motown and R&B favorites. Dancing is encouraged. The concert will take place on C

Street from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Residents are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, gather with friends and neighbors, and enjoy an evening of live music, local businesses, food vendors and family-friendly activities. Local restaurants and food trucks will be present at the event. Temperatures are expected to reach triple-digits on Saturday. Attendees are advised to bring water and stay

hydrated. The final concert of the series is set to take place on Sept. 12, where Latin Magic Band will take the stage to perform salsa and cumbia tunes. Local vendors interested in showcasing their business and products at the concert series are encouraged to contact the city's Special Events Division at 209-366-7165 or abarth@cityofgalt.org. ★

Unsecured
Property Tax
Due Aug. 31



Sacramento County
News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Annual bills for Sacramento County unsecured personal property taxes for fiscal year 2026-27 were mailed on July 17 and are payable without delinquent penalties through Aug. 31. Unsecured property tax bills are mailed to all owners of unsecured property in July of each year. If you owned unsecured property in Sacramento County, such as a boat or aircraft, or if you leased or owned fixtures and equipment related to a business on Jan. 1 and do not receive a tax bill by Aug. 8, contact the Sacramento County Tax Collector's Unsecured Property Tax Unit at 916-874-7833, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Nonreceipt of a tax bill does not excuse delinquency or allow the tax collector to cancel penalties or collection costs. Tax bills become delinquent if not paid in the Tax Collector's Office by 5 p.m. on Aug. 31, or received by mail bearing a postmark of Aug. 31. If the tax bill is not paid by the delinquency date, a 10% penalty and collection cost will be added. DMV registration may be withheld on watercraft if unsecured property taxes are reported delinquent. If a tax bill remains unpaid after Oct. 31, collection costs and monthly penalties of 1.5% will be added to the base tax. Payments may be made by mail or in person at the County Tax Collector's Office, 700 H St., Room 1710, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, holidays excluded. For credit/debit or eCheck payments, visit county-taxes.net/sacramento/property-tax. ★

History of Sacramento Baseball on Display

Story and photos
by Jennifer Corriea

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - For baseball fans looking to escape the summer heat, a drive to the Sacramento History Museum will treat visitors to the Play Ball! exhibit that traces the history of baseball in Sacramento from the first official game in 1860 to the present-day River Cats team. Although not an overwhelmingly large showing, it focuses primarily on the Sacramento Solons following the evolution of the team, then additionally highlights the origins of baseball in the area including barnstorming tour visits by baseball legends including Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Willie Mays and Hank Aaron while also drawing attention to local players who made it to "the show". A minor league baseball team in the Pacific Coast League that had its heyday from 1903 to 1960 before a brief revival from 1974-1976, the Solons were one of baseball's true farm teams and were affiliated with the St. Louis Cardinals dating back to the 1930s. Visitors will find Solon memorabilia displayed throughout along with

Continued on page 2



One of the early Sacramento Solons jerseys on display at the Play Ball! exhibition at the Sacramento History Museum.



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Bradshaw Animal Shelter Celebrates DOGust with Free Dog Adoptions Through Aug. 23



Whether you're looking for an active walking partner, a family companion or a relaxed couch buddy, Bradshaw Animal Shelter has dogs of all ages, sizes and personalities ready for adoption. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Every dog deserves a birthday and a chance to celebrate it in a loving home. On Aug. 1, animal shelters across the country celebrate DOGust, the universal birthday for shelter dogs whose exact birthdays are unknown.

Since many shelter pets arrive without birth records, DOGust gives them all a special day to be recognized and celebrated.

To mark the occasion, Sacramento County Bradshaw Animal Shelter is waiving adoption fees for all dogs from Aug. 1 through Aug. 23.

Whether you're looking for an active

walking partner, a family companion or a relaxed couch buddy, Bradshaw Animal Shelter has dogs of all ages, sizes and personalities ready for adoption.

Every adopted dog goes home spayed or neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and are ready to begin life with a new family.

Choosing adoption doesn't just change one dog's life. Every adoption creates kennel space for another animal in need and helps the shelter continue serving pets throughout Sacramento County.

Residents are encouraged to visit the shelter between Aug. 1 and Aug. 23 to meet adoptable dogs and take advantage of waived adoption fees. To view available dogs and learn more, visit the Bradshaw Animal Shelter website. ★

History of Sacramento Baseball on Display



Memorabilia from the Solons' revival in the mid-1970s is featured in the Sacramento History Museum's Play Ball! exhibit, which runs until Oct. 18.

Continued from page 1

a special section featuring the River Cats, substantiating the claim made by Sacramento native and the most successful player/manager to come from the area, Dusty Baker who said that "This is a baseball city. It always has been, since I can remember."

For those wishing to take in the display that runs through Oct. 18, the museum is located at 101 I Street, Old Sacramento State Historic Park.

Admission is \$12 for adults (18+) and \$6 for youth (6-17). ★



PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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

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Connecting Galt with Elk Grove, Cosumnes River College, Kaiser South and Methodist Hospital

From	To	Depart	Arrive
Galt	Elk Grove	6:00 AM	6:30 AM
Galt	Elk Grove	7:00 AM	7:30 AM
Galt	Elk Grove	8:00 AM	8:30 AM
Galt	Elk Grove	9:00 AM	9:30 AM
Galt	Elk Grove	10:00 AM	10:30 AM
Galt	Elk Grove	11:00 AM	11:30 AM
Galt	Elk Grove	12:00 PM	12:30 PM
Galt	Elk Grove	1:00 PM	1:30 PM
Galt	Elk Grove	2:00 PM	2:30 PM
Galt	Elk Grove	3:00 PM	3:30 PM
Galt	Elk Grove	4:00 PM	4:30 PM
Galt	Elk Grove	5:00 PM	5:30 PM
Galt	Elk Grove	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
Galt	Elk Grove	7:00 PM	7:30 PM
Galt	Elk Grove	8:00 PM	8:30 PM
Galt	Elk Grove	9:00 PM	9:30 PM
Galt	Elk Grove	10:00 PM	10:30 PM
Galt	Elk Grove	11:00 PM	11:30 PM
Galt	Elk Grove	12:00 AM	12:30 AM

From	To	Depart	Arrive
Elk Grove	Galt	6:30 AM	7:00 AM
Elk Grove	Galt	7:30 AM	8:00 AM
Elk Grove	Galt	8:30 AM	9:00 AM
Elk Grove	Galt	9:30 AM	10:00 AM
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Elk Grove	Galt	6:30 PM	7:00 PM
Elk Grove	Galt	7:30 PM	8:00 PM
Elk Grove	Galt	8:30 PM	9:00 PM
Elk Grove	Galt	9:30 PM	10:00 PM
Elk Grove	Galt	10:30 PM	11:00 PM
Elk Grove	Galt	11:30 PM	12:00 AM

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Second Straight Year of Vehicle Theft Declines



CHP officers arrested a suspect after locating and recovering a stolen vehicle. Photo courtesy of CHP Modesto



Officers intercepted a stolen vehicle before it was shipped overseas. Photo courtesy of CHP Modesto



CHP officers recovered a stolen vehicle during an enforcement stop after suspects used an online marketplace to fraudulently sell it to unsuspecting buyers. Photo courtesy of CHP Merced

California Highway Patrol News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - July is National Vehicle Theft Prevention Month, and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is reminding Californians to protect their vehicles while highlighting encouraging statewide trends. California recorded its second consecutive year of declining vehicle thefts in 2025, as the CHP continued working with local law enforcement agencies to combat organized vehicle theft through targeted enforcement and public awareness.

According to the CHP’s 2025

Vehicle Theft Fact Sheet, thieves stole more than 133,000 vehicles statewide in 2025—about 25% fewer than the 176,230 stolen in 2024.

“Vehicle theft is not a victimless crime. It fuels organized criminal activity and creates hardship for families across California. The CHP remains committed to holding offenders accountable, recovering stolen vehicles and working with our law enforcement partners to make our communities safer,” Commissioner Sean Duryee said.

On average, a vehicle was stolen in California about every four minutes in 2025.

Of the 133,372 vehicles stolen statewide last year, 84% were recovered, for a total of 111,661 vehicles. More than half of the recovered vehicles were returned to their owners in drivable condition.

The decline continues a positive trend that began in 2024, when California recorded its first year-over-year decrease in vehicle thefts since 2019. That year, Governor Gavin Newsom deployed CHP officers to work alongside local law enforcement agencies in regional crime suppression operations. Targeted enforcement in Bakersfield, San Bernardino and Oakland helped contribute to reductions

in vehicle thefts and other crime in those communities.

Building on those results, Governor Newsom expanded CHP crime-suppression operations in August 2025 by deploying additional teams to high-crime areas across California.

Several counties where CHP crime suppression teams were deployed also experienced significant declines in vehicle thefts last year. Sacramento county experienced 5,061 vehicle thefts, down 23% from 2024.

Although vehicle thefts continue to decline, motorists remain the first line of defense. The CHP encourages

Californians to reduce their risk by following a few simple safety tips. CHP advises Californians to park in well-lit areas and remove valuables or keep them out of sight. Lock your vehicle every time you leave it, use an alarm system or other anti-theft device. Never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running and report suspicious activity to law enforcement.

Through strategic enforcement, strong partnerships and public awareness, the CHP remains committed to reducing vehicle theft, disrupting organized criminal networks and keeping California’s communities safe. ★

Water Forum Awarded Funding for Lower American River Habitat Enhancement

Federal grants will improve habitat while expanding the science that informs future river management

The Water Forum News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Water Forum has been awarded more than \$10.6 million in competitive federal funding to enhance habitat for salmon and steelhead in the lower American River while expanding the scientific research and monitoring that help inform future river management decisions.

“The lower American River is one of our region’s greatest natural resources,” Executive Director of the Water Forum, Ashlee Casey said. “This funding allows us to continue enhancing habitat for salmon and steelhead while using science to better understand what these fish need to survive and thrive. That knowledge helps us make better decisions that benefit the river, the fish that depend on it and the communities that rely on the river.”

The largest award—\$10 million—will support the long-term maintenance, monitoring and enhancement of habitat enhancement sites that the Water Forum has implemented along the lower American River over the past two decades.

“River habitat isn’t static,” Water Forum Habitat and Science Program Manager, Erica Bishop said. “High flows, shifting gravel, vegetation growth and other natural processes continually reshape the lower American River. What makes the Water Forum’s program unique is that we continue monitoring these sites over time and



The Water Forum has been awarded more than \$10.6 million in competitive federal funding to enhance habitat for salmon and steelhead in the lower American River while expanding the scientific research and monitoring that help inform future river management decisions. Photo designed by Magnific

use what we learn to make targeted habitat enhancements that provide the greatest benefit for salmon and steelhead.”

The project will also monitor how salmon and steelhead use enhanced habitat. It will also map the river corridor using advanced sonar and LiDAR technology to identify future habitat enhancement opportunities. And conduct scientific studies to better understand how habitat enhancement influences fish survival and reproduction.

The second award—\$627,835—will fund a major new study of Central Valley steelhead in the lower American River.

“Steelhead are much more difficult to study than salmon because their behavior and life cycles vary considerably and they are fewer in number,” Bishop said. “This study will help answer important questions about how steelhead grow, move through the river, survive and return to spawn.”

The findings will help scientists and resource managers make more informed decisions to protect this species that is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Acts. The study will complement similar research on the Stanislaus River, providing valuable comparisons between steelhead populations north and south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The awards build on more than two decades of collaboration under the Water Forum Agreement and support implementation of the Water Forum 2050 Agreement, which strengthens the region’s commitment to habitat enhancement, scientific monitoring and collaborative solutions that protect the lower American River while supporting long-term water supply reliability.

The awards, announced by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, include two of only 10 projects selected statewide through the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. The Water Forum received one of just four habitat enhancement awards and one of six scientific research awards funded this year.

Funding is provided through the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. The steelhead study grant will be administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, while the habitat enhancement grant will be administered by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. ★

MMS Strategies Honored with FBI Director’s Community Leadership Award

FBI Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On July 28, the FBI Sacramento Field Office honored MMS Strategies, LLC, a Sacramento-based consulting firm, with the local FBI Director’s Community Leadership Award (DCLA) for their collaborative partnership in support of the FBI’s mission to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution. Michelle Smira, founder and chief executive officer for MMS Strategies, accepted the award.

“MMS Strategies recognizes that we are all on the same team, working toward the same goals: Protect the American people and uphold the Constitution of the United States,” Acting Special Agent in Charge, Brian Tosh said. “Their support strengthens our ability to safeguard communities, enhance resilience and ensure that our efforts reflect the needs and priorities of the region.”

MMS Strategies is a Sacramento-based consulting firm that helps its clients think strategically, communicate effectively and find solutions. The firm prides itself

on its thorough understanding of both problems and opportunities in the region. Following participation in the FBI Citizens Academy at FBI Sacramento headquarters, MMS recognized opportunities to foster mutual understanding, improve public safety and support resilience. This partnership has the FBI to community leaders to better understand public safety concerns and community challenges, identify potential threats and effectively prepare for significant development and growth in the region.

The FBI Director’s Community Leadership Award was established in 1990 to publicly acknowledge the achievements of those working to make a difference in their communities through the promotion of education



and the prevention of crime and violence. Every year, each of the FBI’s 56 field offices selects a person or organization to receive this prestigious award to honor their achievements, emphasizing the importance of community partnerships in keeping our shared communities safe. This year’s recipients were recognized for a broad range of efforts, including building bridges between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve, combatting human trafficking and providing resources to victims and supporting local youth programs.

The FBI Sacramento Field Office serves 34 of California’s 58 counties. The FBI Sacramento Field Office community outreach program supports the FBI’s investigative mission by working to address multiple interrelated societal problems—including crime, drugs, gangs, terrorism and violence. Linking community service, prevention and law enforcement is a national trend spurred by grassroots efforts around the country, and FBI employees have joined this movement, volunteering in a wide variety of community-related efforts. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Mentorship Counts

By V.G. Harris

How does it feel to score 175 points in an NBA game and lose?! Just ask the L.A. Clippers how it feels.

On Feb. 24, 2023, the Clippers ran into a juggernaut by the name of the Sacramento Kings and lost a double overtime game by the score of 176-175.

The Clippers shot a sterling 31 for 36 from the free throw line that night, but just two more made free throws would have won that game.

I was at that game and will never forget it. Domantas Sabonis held down the paint and contributed 20 points and 10 boards which is basically just a day at the office, but first-time all-star DeAaron Fox went off with 42 points and 12 assists to steal the show.

Well, DeAaron is gone and waiting in the wings is someone everyone is hoping will step in and fill those ever so large shoes. Yes, that would be Darius Acuff Jr., and the only question is, do the Kings have the organizational skills to bring this bright young player along at the right pace so as to give him the confidence needed to succeed at basketball’s highest level.

If we are to believe what we hear and read, Sacramento intends to put this 19-year-old into the starting lineup from the get-go and let the chips fall where they may.

I am not necessarily opposed to the idea of letting Darius run the point from the opening bell, but with conditions and maybe a caveat or two.

Any ball player with one year of college basketball under his belt will have some accelerated courses to take in earnest if success is to be expected.

First and foremost, comes mentorship and where is that going to come from, because the current coaching staff does not fill me with trust and admiration.

Coach Christie still has on his water wings, and for all the bravado of how the Kings are going to play defense, at this date I haven’t seen a blueprint that lends acumen in that direction.

Yes, I want this coaching staff to succeed, but I also want to see something tangible that shows the fans that this staff actually knows *how to coach!*

Just the basics sports fans, like team defense

and maybe a lesson or two in how to shoot free throws.

I am so tired of hearing that Zach Lavine and Domantas Sabonis can’t play defense when they are the two highest paid players on the team.

How did they ever get to be all stars and never play defense?

Of course they can play defense, but what ever happened to the concept of team defense that seems to be an unspoken term?

Back to basics gentlemen and start creating the identity you want. It is achievable and would be if you would stop listening to the collective NBA naysayers that would have you believe that Sacramento Kings have no chance of winning 30 games.

How is a coaching staff supposed to instill positive energy into a squad that has no expectation of winning games?

How about preaching your own version of winning games and then laying out the map as to how you get there.

The Wizard of Westwood and that would be John Wooden won 10 NCAA championships in 12 years and led his club to four 30-0 seasons before he retired.

We won’t be confusing Doug Christie with John Wooden and time soon, but is there something to learn here aside from the fact they both coached basketball teams in the state of California?

Yes, I believe it starts with celebrating the veteran talent you have on the current team today.

Stop with the negative about what you don’t like about Zach Lavine and Domantas Sabonis and start celebrating what they bring to the table.

A lot of youngsters need to immerse themselves in the etiquette of how to compete against other NBA teams, and both Sabonis and Lavine have more than just a tad of experience in that regard.

Double down on that, use their leadership to your advantage, and start preaching the mantra of what home court advantage is supposed to mean. Set the expectation of winning when a visitor enters Golden One Arena and heighten the expectation of *lighting the beam!*

The youngsters need mentors and we have some to celebrate!

All the best! ★

Tech Devices in California’s New Cars Create Thorny Political Issues



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Automobiles have gradually evolved over the last two decades from mechanical devices into electronic platforms featuring computer screens and numerous other digital capabilities.

A few years ago, the California Air Resources Board began requiring automakers to install devices in vehicles to record and store operational data that the agency could access to determine how well emission reduction programs were working.

It was one aspect of the state’s announced goal of phasing out cars and trucks powered by gasoline and diesel fuel and replacing them with zero-emission vehicles.

The auto industry opposed the data collection mandate, arguing it would violate the privacy of vehicle owners. At one point the industry threatened to stop producing cars for California.

The agency insisted it would not collect data involuntarily. But its regulation fueled — pun intended — suspicions in some quarters that recording how and where cars were being used would allow them to be tracked, much as cellphone usage can be traced.

Or, some said, as gas and diesel use declined and gallonage taxes dropped, the

state could begin charging drivers by miles driven, based on their recorded data.

As the data collection mandate was being implemented, another aspect of the situation surfaced — fears that the tracking software to help motorists obtain help in emergencies, such as General Motors’ OnStar system, could be misused by abusive spouses to find and attack their mates.

Two years ago, the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom enacted a law aimed at countering that potential abuse. Senate Bill 1394 required automakers to provide an internet process by which a “connected vehicle service” could be quickly terminated. Those seeking termination would have to prove they either owned the vehicle or possessed it via a divorce decree or domestic violence restraining order.

That was the relatively easy part of SB 1384.

The more contentious portion of the law required new cars to be equipped with a “mechanism that can be used by a driver who is inside a vehicle to immediately disable connected vehicle location access.” The mechanism had to be “prominently located, easy to use, not require access to an online application, not require a password or login information, and only allow re-enabling of the connected vehicle location access by a driver who is located inside the vehicle.”

The deadline for meeting that requirement was last week. The industry has insisted that was, from a practical standpoint, impossible to meet because it is a

complex engineering problem that involves dozens of different auto models, and automakers would have to maintain existing electronic tools, such as GPS navigation, and helpful services, such as OnStar.

Without a change in the mandate, the industry’s lobbyists warned, automakers could be compelled to suspend sales in the state, echoing a threat they made about the Air Resources Board’s data collection mandate earlier.

It was something of a political standoff until Senate Bill 719 emerged from backroom negotiations late last month. Just one day before the deadline, Newsom signed the bill that narrows the application of the requirement, eliminates the hard deadline for it and substitutes a series of deadlines tied to model years and “technological feasibility.”

Thus it is impossible to say for certain when, if ever, cars will be equipped with the ability to disconnect location tracking software.

These two instances imply that the conversion of the automobile from a mechanical device to an electronic one has created a bottomless well of potential issues involving privacy, governmental regulation and the politically heated topic of how California would change the way motorists are taxed once the gallonage taxes on fuels disappear, if they ever do.

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

When Should My Wife File for Spouse Benefits?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: My wife is 66 (born February 1960) and started taking Social Security retirement benefits just over one year ago at age 65. She was a stay-at-home Mom for most of her adult life. I turned 62 this past March and received my first SS payment recently for a May 2026 start. We are scheduled to meet with SSA in late July to initiate spousal benefits because my wife’s current benefits are less than 50% of mine. We also have an adult disabled son who receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security benefits (this split in benefit sources happened after my wife filed - that whole process was confusing and we don’t understand it). My question relates to spousal benefits (I was a career finance person but don’t completely understand these rules). We were going to file in July but is there any benefit to waiting until she turns 67? And will her 50% benefit be 50% of my lower benefit due to my filing at 62 or is that based on another amount? Signed: **Confused Finance Guy**

Dear Confused: First, be aware that your wife’s spousal benefit will be based on her age when she claims it, and half of your full retirement

age, or “FRA,” amount (although you claimed at 62, her benefit as your spouse will still be based on your FRA entitlement).

Because she claimed her SS retirement at 65, your wife will not get 50% of your FRA entitlement; rather she will get her own reduced SS retirement benefit (which was reduced by about 13% from her FRA entitlement) plus a “spousal boost.” The amount of that “boost” will be the difference between her own FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement, but that boost amount will also be reduced because she will be claiming in July before her FRA.

Your wife will reach her FRA in February 2027, so by claiming her spousal boost in July her boost amount will be reduced by about 5%, and the “boost” will be added to her already reduced SS retirement about. The result will be your wife’s benefit as your spouse will be less than 50% of your FRA entitlement. And, FYI, your wife will be automatically deemed to be filing for her spousal benefit (she will not be able to defer claiming it).

As your son is now collecting SS benefits based on your wife’s personal SS record, you should ask Social Security to switch him over to payments based on your record (because you have the higher SS benefit). FYI, because your son is now receiving SSI (Supplemental Security Income), the SSDI (SS disability) benefit he receives will offset by his SSI benefit, and the payment amount will consist of two sources - SSI and SSDI. Nevertheless,

he cannot get more than 50% of your SS retirement amount and will likely be affected by the Family Maximum which may further reduce his SSDI entitlement.

Your wife’s benefit as your spouse will also be affected by the “Family Maximum,” which limits how much can be paid on any one person’s SS record (on your SS record). That also means that your wife will not get a full 50% of your FRA entitlement; rather she will get less because the family maximum limits how much all your dependents can receive to somewhere between 50% and 88% of your FRA benefit amount (after subtracting your own SS entitlement). That also means that your son’s SS payment, as well as your wife’s SS payment as your spouse, will be reduced to less than 50% of your FRA entitlement. SSA will be able to guide you through the Family Maximum calculations for both your son and your wife when you meet.

To recap all of this: a) your wife will be automatically deemed to be filing for her spousal benefit; she cannot delay until her FRA. b) her amount as your spouse will be less than 50% of your SS FRA entitlement. And c) both your wife’s and your son’s SS benefit will likely be also affected by the Family Maximum and, thus, be less than half of your FRA entitlement. Nevertheless, it was likely the right decision to claim as you have, considering that your son and wife have been receiving SS benefits for some time now, and both will continue to receive more as your dependents. ★



Congress has been known to slip indefensible special-interest provisions into large must-pass bills when no one is looking. What it has never done before is use such sleight of hand to hand over control of the U.S. military to a foreign country. But that’s what we’re told is on the verge of happening on Capitol Hill.

The House just passed the National Defense Authorization Act, a sprawling \$1.15 trillion bill that supposedly includes a provision buried in it “merging” the U.S. and Israeli militaries.

This provision, known as Section 219, has united some of the most fervent anti-Israel conspiracy theorists on the right and the left in denouncing the alleged betrayal of America, from Marjorie Taylor Greene to AOC, from Tucker Carlson to Cenk Uygur.

AOC has warned that the provision “is an existential threat to American sovereignty and democracy.” Marjorie Taylor Greene has said anyone who voted for the bill “sold out the American people to a foreign country.” Tucker Carlson wants literal treason trials.

So what is the substance of Section 219? Legislation often has obfuscatory titles, but this provision is deemed, with admirable clarity, the United States-Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative. It calls for the secretary of defense to designate “an executive agent”

The preposterous case against the new defense bill

to coordinate between the U.S. and Israel on “bilateral defense technology research, development, testing, evaluation, integration and industrial cooperation.” The Pentagon will come up with a plan for such cooperation and report back to Congress.

That’s it. There is nothing about merging the general staffs of the U.S. military and the IDF; nothing about creating a joint office where Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and his Israeli counterpart, Israel Katz, work together; nothing about giving Bibi Netanyahu partial control of CENTCOM.

That the United States would want a close working relationship with Israel on military technology is hardly surprising. Israel is one of the world’s most innovative societies and, given its precarious security environment, has become a leader in advanced defense technologies.

That a nefarious interpretation of the bill has gotten some traction underlines how any preposterous lie, so long as it’s about Israel, gets a hearing these days. Like many conspiracy theories, this one depends on a dark view of American society. We are allegedly so corrupt that we are handing control of our military to a foreign country without any senior military leaders or officials in an “America First” administration lodging a complaint. No wonder Tucker Carlson wants the kind of tribunals that attended the end of World War II.

At the first Nuremberg Trials, Wilhelm Keitel was found guilty of crimes against humanity

and hanged; at the second Nuremberg Trials, Mike Johnson will be found guilty of supporting mutually beneficial technology sharing between allies -- means of execution yet to be determined.

One perversity here is that Netanyahu conceives of the technological cooperation as a substitute for the U.S. military aid that he supports phasing out. In other words, enemies of Israel oppose U.S. military aid, and when a constructive plan is offered for how to go about ending it, they oppose that, too, as an Israeli plot.

Another perversity is that the U.S. should want a very close relationship with Israel on missile defense, an area where Israel excels and that, as we’ve seen in the Ukraine and Iran wars, is crucial to modern warfare. And yet, the same people who portray themselves as zealously protective of the U.S. national interest want us to turn our back on a source of technological advance.

Israel naturally fits in the Western alliance, but nations ultimately pursue their selfish interests. If we spurn the Jewish state out of irrational animus, it will inevitably look elsewhere and perhaps build a stronger relationship with China. Then we will surely be told by the critics now obsessed with ending the U.S.-Israel relationship that Israel has shown its true colors and deserves even more of our scorn.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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ABOUT TOWN



The Galt Herald

Serving Galt and Sacramento County since 1901

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

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Elk Grove High Class of 1981 Celebrates 45th

By Christina Wagner

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - Elk Grove High School’s Awesome Class of 1981 recently enjoyed its 45-year reunion. Festivities commenced the morning of Friday, July 24 with a golf tournament at Wildhawk Golf Course in Sacramento, followed by a casual evening of food and drink at Dust Bowl Brewery in Elk Grove.

The reunion’s main event was a dinner and dance held Saturday, July 25 at the beautiful Murieta Inn and Spa in Rancho Murieta. Smiles, laughter and hugs were abundant as classmates reconnected, shared updates with each other and made plans to keep in touch.

Ongoing entertainment during the Saturday event included a slideshow of snapshots taken during high school and other reunion events, as well as a memorabilia table stocked with yearbooks, photos, Class of ’81 souvenirs, and the ever-growing collection of “What Everyone’s Doing Now” binders. There was also a second slideshow, a quiet reminder of classmates who have passed away since graduation.



Members of the Elk Grove High School Class of 1981 pose for a photo July 25 at the Murieta Inn and Spa in Rancho Murieta. Photo courtesy of Christina Wagner

Background music, an enjoyable mix of favorites from “back in the day,” was provided by DJ Argonaut Event Audio Service during the cocktail hour and dinner.

The volume was cranked up for dancing a while later, giving those so inclined the

chance to demonstrate they can still shake it!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this a fun and very successful reunion. Ideas are already being shared for the Class of 1981’s 50th reunion. Don’t miss out; 2031 will be here sooner than we

expect!

Those who’d like to make sure they’re kept in the loop for upcoming gatherings, join the planning committee or, perhaps, simply update their contact information may do so via email to EGHS1981@gmail.com. ★

POLICE LOGS

During the time period of July 27 to Aug. 3, Galt Police received and responded to a variety of calls, resulting in six arrests.

July 27

2:15 p.m., Theft reported, Marengo Road/Simmerhorn Road: Fuel siphoned from construction equipment.
3:42 p.m., Theft reported, Anytime Fitness on Twin Cities Road: Key for business has been stolen.

July 28

9:53 a.m., Vandalism reported, Wild Bill’s Old West Trading Company on Twin Cities Road: Filing cabinets, in the back by dumpster, destroyed. Reporting party declined report.
6:34 p.m., Hit and Run/Non-Injury reported, Walmart on Twin Cities Road.
11:58 p.m., Animal Cruelty reported, Casado Drive: Unknown subject “shot cat in the abdomen with a pellet gun.”

July 29

12:44 a.m., Vandalism-In-Progress Reported, Empire Village Apartments on Palin Ave.: Male adult wearing dark T-shirt, breaking reporting party’s windows.
8:54 a.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Police Department on Industrial Drive.
2:31 p.m., Battery/Adult Arrest, Staypoint Residential on Danny Drive.
10:33 p.m., Vandalism/Adult

Arrest, More For Less on North Lincoln Way.

July 30

3:06 p.m., DUI/Adult Arrest, Highway 99 Northbound/A Street.

July 31

4:54 p.m., Warrant Served/Adult Arrest, Galt Market, Meladee Lane.

Aug. 2

4:55 p.m., Hit and Run/

Non-Injury, Geranium Circle.

11:16 p.m., Vandalism reported, Vintage Oak Avenue: Damaged toolbox.

Aug. 3

9:23 p.m., Vandalism reported, Comfrey Senior Apartments on Lake Park Avenue: Tires slashed.
11:51 p.m., Narcotics Violation/Adult Arrest, 3rd Street/F Street. ★

MEETING MINDERS

Saturday, Aug. 8

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

Thursday, Aug. 13

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

Friday, Aug. 14

Galt Sunrise Rotary,

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

Tuesday, Aug. 18

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

Wednesday, Aug. 19

Cosumnes CSD, 5:30 p.m., Elk Grove CSD boardroom, 8820 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove. Galt Elementary School Board, 7 p.m., City Hall, 380 Civic Drive,

209-745-4545.

Thursday, Aug. 20

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

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

Friday, Aug. 21

Galt Sunrise Rotary, 7 a.m., Comfort Inn & Suites. ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-05149
Margies Market LLC, 712 Benteen Way, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "B.O.P. Botanical Organic Products" 712 Benteen Way, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County July 6, 2026
Publish: July 17, 24, 31, August 7, 2026
BOTANICAL 8-7-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-05359
Nguyen Grocery LLC, 9058 Double Dove Lane, Stockton, CA 95210 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Galt Grocery Outlet" 10570 Twin Cities Road, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County July 10, 2026
Publish: July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2026
GALT 8-14-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-05430
Ashley Nimmo, 149 E Street, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Gen 3 Environmental" 149 E Street, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County July 14, 2026
Publish: July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2026
GEN 8-14-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-05770
Miguel A Munoz-Casillas, 688 Cedar Flat Avenue, Galt, CA 95632 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "M & R Mobile Tractor Repair" 688 Cedar Flat Avenue, Galt, CA 95632. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County July 21, 2026
Publish: August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026
MOBILE 8-28-26

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF DELIA RODRIGUEZ CASE NO. 26PR001893
To all heirs, beneficiaries, credi-

tors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Delia Rodriguez, Delia Herrera Perez.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Alfredo B. Rodriguez, in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, requesting Alfredo B. Rodriguez be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows September 9, 2026, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 126; Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse, 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California

Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Ramona C. Glasgow, P.O. Box 686, Woodridge, CA 95258; 209-331-6553

Publish: August 7, 14, 21, 2026
RODRIGUEZ 8-21-26

TRUSTEE SALE

APN: 148-0560-080-0000 TS No: CA13000017-24-1 TO No: 2487218CAD NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE (The above statement is made pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(1). The Summary will be provided to Trustor(s) and/or vested owner(s) only, pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(2).) YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED December 5, 2005. 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 PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On September 8, 2026 at 09:30 PM, In the Courtyard of Sacramento City Hall, located at 915 I St, Sacramento, CA 95814, MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on December 9, 2005 in Book 20051209, on Page 1534, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Sacramento

County, California, executed by RIGOBERTO HERNANDEZ, AN UNMARRIED MAN, as Trustor(s), in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., as Beneficiary, as nominee for COUNTRYWIDE BANK, N.A. as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: EXHIBIT "A" LOT 33, AS SHOWN ON THE "PLAT OF LIBERTY OAKS (SOUTH FORK)", FILED SEPTEMBER 11, 1990, MAP BOOK 209, PAGE 15, SACRAMENTO COUNTY RECORDS. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 851 WRISTEN WAY, GALT, CA 95632 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$39,730.14 (Estimated). However, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issu-

ance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. 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 junior 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 visit the Internet Website address <https://www.servicelinkauction.com/> or call ServiceLink Auction | Hudson and Marshall at (866) 539-4173 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA13000017-24-1. 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 informa-

tion or on the Internet Website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Notice to Tenant NOTICE TO TENANT FOR FORECLOSURES AFTER JANUARY 1, 2021 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) 539-4173, or visit this internet website <https://www.servicelinkauction.com/>, using the file number assigned to this case CA13000017-24-1 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. Effective March 1, 2026, new federal regulations (89 Fed. Reg. 70.258) may impact residential real property (1-4 residential units) title transfers to covered entities trusts, with reporting requirements unless exempt. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers> Date: July 23, 2026 MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps TS No. CA13000017-24-1 17100 Gillette Ave Irvine, CA 92614 Phone: 949-252-8300 TDD: 711 949.252.8300 By: Bernardo Sotelo, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ONLINE AT <https://www.servicelinkauction.com/> FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: ServiceLink Auction | Hudson and Marshall at (866) 539-4173 Order Number 127034, Pub Dates: 07/31/2026, 08/07/2026, 08/14/2026
THE GALT HERALD 8-14-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are pleased to announce that the Galt Joint Union High School District will continue to operate under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2026-2027 school year.

Schools that participate in the CEP program are able to provide a healthy breakfast **and** a healthy lunch at **NO CHARGE** to every enrolled student at our district.

If we can be of any further assistance, please contact us at 209-745-3061 ex 1044 or GHSDFOODSERVICES@ghsd.k12.ca.us

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

TOPS Weekly Meetings
TOPS, Taking Off Pounds Sensibly, meets every Wednesday at Grace Presbyterian Church, 10 N. Mills Ave., Lodi. Meeting time: 10-10:45 a.m. Weigh-ins: 9-9:50 a.m.
No charge for first meeting.

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.

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.

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

Nar-Anon Family Group Meetings
Narcotics Anonymous (Nar-Anon) family group meetings for friends and family members who

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

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.

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.

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. ★

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Let the Light Shine on the Purple Heart

Today is National Purple Heart Day. According to the daysoftheyear.com website, today is the day we pay honor and respect to the recipients of this medal who have been wounded or lost their lives in service of the United States military.

While the day is a more recent event, the history behind the Purple Heart can be traced back to 1782 when President George Washington created the Badge of Merit as an honor to be presented to any soldier who made any “singular meritorious action.” Prior to this time, medals of honor were typically only given to officers who won grand victories in battle.

Though this Badge of Merit fell away from use in the 19th century, it was brought back in 1932, this time in the form of the Purple Heart. Because he was the original founder of the badge, George Washington’s profile still graces the medal, wearing a continental army uniform inside an enamel purple heart with a border of bronze. The Purple Heart medal hangs from a purple ribbon made of silk with a white stripe on the edge.

By 1944, on the heels of World War II, the function of these medals changed a bit



and now they are typically awarded to soldiers who were wounded in battle or to the next of kin of those who were killed in battle. General Douglas MacArthur was the first service member to be awarded the modern version of the Purple Heart in recognition of his service during World War II. Since then, there have been more than 1.8 million of these medals awarded to deserving military personnel.

Why the color purple, you may be wondering? The color purple has long symbolized bravery and nobility. In ancient times purple dye was rare and expensive, reserved for royalty and the elite. This symbolism influenced the creation of the Purple Heart, representing the courage and sacrifice of those who served in the military.

Purple Heart Day was first celebrated

in 2014 with purpose of reflecting on the courage of all of those who have fought for their nation.

With the assurance that their bravery will not be forgotten. Most honorees are quiet about this honor. Their actions speak for themselves. If you know of a Purple Heart recipient, thank them for their service.

A light that shines in the darkness to protect and alert. Sounds like something one would say about that friend or mentor who helps us in the most difficult of times, but alas, this is not that reference. This is a reference to the silent but bright guardians of our coastlines and ships, the majestic lighthouse.

The lighthouse has been a staple of culture in the world since we built boats to sail the seas.

Protection from fog, reefs, rocks and other hazards of the coastline have been signaled by these monoliths of light, even before the advent of electricity. Surprisingly, large fires were lighted in the top of the early lighthouses, so ship

captains knew not to sail too close to them in order to avoid dangers to their ships. Some even used early forms of light refraction to make the light spread farther out to sea. Mirrors were used in some cases, but most of the time, it was actually metal polished to a shine that was used, because mirrors were not as easy to come by as they are today.

Electricity and the light bulb paved the way for current lighthouses: the rotating beam of light that is a cone with some creative positioning of mirrors, glass and a motor to spin a curved mirror in a circle around the light bulb.

This effect channels the light outwards in a beam, rotating around and around to catch the eye, and helps the light pierce the fog. The next time you drive along the coast, take time to visit a lighthouse.

The Galt High School District schools had its first day of school yesterday. Keep an eye out for our kiddos; they are our future.

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



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Differences: 1. Line in sidewalk is moved. 2. Window sill is missing. 3. Rear car window is smaller. 4. House window is moved. 5. Man is thinner. 6. Briefcase is larger.

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by Dave T. Phipps

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CLUES

ACROSS
1. Thankgiving tubers
5. ____ Patrol
8. Boo hoos
12. Burn soothing plant
13. "Frat Pack" member Wilson
14. ____ ligation
15. Sound an alarm
16. Marvin, Majors and Greenwood
17. O. Henry's specialty
18. *Marilyn Monroe: "Happy Birthday, Mr.
20. Sporting sword
21. Blue pencil marks
22. Knight's title
23. *One for every year
26. Custodian
30. Be in debt
31. Stay clear of
34. Accompanies relief
35. #1 Down, pl.
37. Owned
38. Subway in Paris
39. Shore extension
40. Per
42. Even, poetic
43. City in Netherlands
45. Like voice during laryngitis
47. Barents or Laptev, e.g.
48. Noah's passengers
50. Type of code
52. *Astrological sign for those born on New Year's Eve
56. Black one and white one, for Tchaikovsky
57. Crematorium jars
58. "The Odyssey," e.g.
59. Make this, not waste
60. Let it stand, to proofreader
61. Governmental space agency, acr.
62. The windows to the soul
63. Money in Myanmar
64. Theodora or Dorothea

DOWN
1. Bark or yelp
2. Relating to armpit
3. *...and many ____
4. Detected
5. *Like 16
6. Hiking sandals of a certain brand
7. Of the present month
8. *Greeting to the birthday honoree, sometimes
9. Bassoon cousin
10. Misery cause
11. Canny
13. Dated tunes
14. Make a logical connection (2 words)
19. Runs without moving
22. Lumberjack's tool
23. Another word for nutria
24. Look forward to
25. Not as old
26. George Lucas' warrior-monk
27. Concentration of a solution lab test
28. Shrek and Fiona, e.g.
29. Cotes du ____, wine region
32. Online room
33. As opposed to mishap
36. *"...We want your presence, not your ____"
38. New Zealandian

minority
40. Cuban dance syllable
41. *Quench it with punch
44. Precedes desist
46. Antonym of descent
48. *Traditional birthday celebration
49. Sleeper's woe
50. Up, up and there
51. Level a building
52. Crescent point
53. Colorful fish
54. Greet the judge, e.g.
55. March Madness org.
56. Pronoun

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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.

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Galt High Cheerleaders Take Home the Hardware at UCA Camp, Land Seven on the All-American Team

By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

ROCKLIN, CA (MPG) - Fifty-three athletes, four grueling days and a trophy case that is about to get a little more crowded. That is the story of the Galt High School cheer squad’s trip to Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) camp at Jessup University in Rocklin last week, where the Warriors’ combined varsity and junior varsity contingent came home laden with hardware and a fistful of individual honors.

Head Coach Barbara Welch took 53 varsity and JV cheerleaders to the residential camp, a noticeable jump from the 39 athletes who made the trip a year ago. The growth of the roster is matched only by the growth in results, and the Warriors made sure everyone in the gym knew it.

“It is an exhausting time,” was a sentiment echoed by parents and coaches alike, and the official UCA four-day schedule backs that up. The days at a traditional overnight camp run from breakfast through bedtime, packed with stunt classes, game-day classes, pyramid work, private coaching sessions, safety awareness training and material review. Athletes break only for meals. The idea is to pack as much learning as possible into the limited window so the squad can carry a fresh playbook of cheers, stunts and dances back to campus for the season ahead. For Galt, the investment paid off in nearly every category the camp judges.

The final day of camp is when the season’s work is put on the mat. Schools compete head-to-head in the Camp Routine



The Galt cheer squads show off their four trophies and other awards. Courtesy photos

Championship and the Game Day Championships, the culmination of everything the athletes have absorbed over the previous three days. Competing against roughly 10 other high schools in attendance, Galt’s varsity squad claimed first place in the Large Varsity Camp Routine, the marquee team event of the week. The junior varsity squad matched the energy, taking first place in the Medium JV Sideline Chant and second place in the JV Spirit Routine overall. Add in several other camp awards noted by Welch, and the Warriors’ haul was one of the deepest of any program at camp.

“Taking 53 athletes to camp and watching them grow in confidence, leadership and teamwork was an incredible experience,” Welch said. “Earning first place in the Large Varsity Camp Routine, along with second-place finishes and several other camp awards, is a testament to the hard work and dedication these athletes have shown all summer. They represented Galt High School with pride, and this is just the



The Galt All American award winners are Camila Ramirez, JJ Arlet, Emery Winch, Melanie Flores, Rylie Lamb, Isla Brum and Izzy Brum.

beginning of what I know they can accomplish this season.”

But for all the team trophies now destined for the display case in Warrior Gym, the achievement that tends to resonate longest with the athletes themselves is the individual honor: selection to the UCA All-American team. Each year, campers have the chance to try out for All-American, an invitation extended to those

whose coaches believe they have the sharpest, cleanest skills and the strongest jumps. To qualify, each cheerleader must learn an additional routine – beyond the regular camp material – and perform it in front of the entire camp, judged by UCA staff members. According to UCA’s official tryout format, candidates perform a jump of choice, the All-American cheer and the camp dance, typically on the third day

of camp, with results announced before the close of the week.

This year, seven of Galt’s best earned the distinction. Congratulations to: Camila Ramirez, JJ Arlet, Emery Winch, Melanie Flores, Rylie Lamb, Isla Brum and Izzy Brum.

All-American honorees are invited to perform at Varsity Spirit special events across the country: opportunities that in past years have included

Thanksgiving parades at Disney World and Philadelphia, the Pearl Harbor Memorial parade in Hawaii, a New Year’s Day parade in Rome, and halftime performances at college bowl games. For seven Galt cheerleaders, the summer just opened a door that extends well past the school year.

Flores’ repeat appearance on the All-American list is worth noting; she earned the honor a year ago as part of Galt’s first group of winners under the new coaching staff, a sign of the continuity and rising standard Welch has instilled in the program in a short time.

For the program as a whole, the annual pilgrimage to UCA camp has become something of a reset button: a chance to refresh the squad, absorb new material and rebuild the team’s collective identity before the lights of Friday night return. Stunts get taller, cheers get sharper, dances get tighter and the athletes return to Galt carrying a season’s worth of new material they will deploy from the sidelines of Warrior Stadium through basketball season and into the spring.

If the trophy cabinet in Warrior Gym is feeling a little tight these days, that is a problem the Galt High community will likely welcome. With a first-place Large Varsity Camp Routine, a first-place JV Sideline Chant, a second-place JV Spirit Routine, a pile of additional camp awards and seven All-Americans, the Warriors sent a clear message at Jessup University last week: The bar in Galt has been raised, and the rest of the section will have to deal with it. ★

Men’s Soccer Welcomes Magaña to the Roster for 2026



Washington native Jesus Magaña comes to Northern California after spending his true freshman season at Western Oregon in 2025. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

Sacramento State Athletics
News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento State men’s soccer team made another addition to its roster for 2026, welcoming Washington native Jesus Magaña to the fold, Interim Head Coach Matt McDougall announced on Monday, July 27.

“We are extremely excited to have Jesus join our Sacramento State men’s soccer family,” McDougall said. “Jesus is a hardworking forward that will push to make an immediate impact with his work rate and ability to be dynamic in the final third of the field. He had a very successful club career, winning two ENCL National Championships with the Crossfire Premier Soccer Club in Washington and we look forward to him bringing that winning experience to our program this fall.”

Fans of the Hornets’ men’s soccer program may recognize the last name as Jesus’ older brother, Francisco, was a four-year letter winner at Sacramento State from 2019-23, earning All-Big West Conference honors as a junior in 2022 and

finishing his Hornet career with nine goals and five assists.

Magaña comes to Northern California after spending his true freshman season at Western Oregon in 2025, appearing in five matches and making one start as the Wolves finished 11-5-4 overall en route to a Great Northwest Athletic Conference tournament title and a NCAA Division II Tournament berth. He put two of his four shot attempts on frame, eventually netting his first collegiate goal against St. Martin’s while playing 26 minutes.

That followed a senior season at Auburn Senior HS that saw him pick up All-North Puget Sound League first team honors after scoring 10 goals in 2024 and a decorated club career with the Crossfire Premier ECNL squad.

In five years with Crossfire, Magaña helped the club to a pair of ECNL Northwest championships and back-to-back ECNL National Championships in 2024-25. He finished with five assists during the run to the 2024 championship and added a goal and two assists en route to the crown in 2025. ★

Mountain West Announces Credit Union 1 Basketball Championships Brackets

UC Davis Athletics
News Release

LAS VEGAS, CA (MPG) - The Mountain West announced the 2027 Credit Union 1 Mountain West Basketball Championships presented by Palms Casino Resort brackets on Thursday, featuring all 10 men’s and women’s teams competing at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas from Sunday, March 7, to Saturday, March 13.

“We look forward to two premier championships at the Thomas & Mack Center in 2027,” said MW Commissioner Gloria Nevarez. “In evaluating our men’s and women’s championship formats, we considered the NCAA tournament’s expanded field in addition to maximizing postseason opportunities for Mountain West teams and providing our student-athletes with meaningful postseason competition. This format enhances the championship experience by creating additional opportunities to compete, extend seasons, and be part of the excitement and visibility that comes with postseason basketball in Las Vegas. As we do every year, we will continue to study the behavior of both the men’s and women’s NCAA basketball selection committees



“We look forward to two premier championships at the Thomas & Mack Center in 2027,” said MW Commissioner Gloria Nevarez. Photo designed by Magnific

to ensure that our championship format gives the Mountain West the best opportunity to secure multiple NCAA bids at the highest seeds possible.”

As MW basketball enters a new era with three new members, the 2027 basketball championship formats maximize national television exposure for the Mountain West, while also providing a format that prioritizes travel planning for its loyal fans who attend annually.

The women’s tournament begins on Sunday, March 7, and concludes on Wednesday, March 10, with the championship game. The men’s tournament will begin on Wednesday, March 10, and conclude with the champion crowned on Saturday, March 13.

Seeding for the postseason championship is determined by the regular

season with the top six seeds receiving a bye into the quarterfinals on the second day of competition.

The updated bracket will begin the Conference tournament with the No. 7 seed playing the No. 10 seed and the No. 8 seed matching up with the No. 9 seed in the first-round games. The quarterfinals feature the No. 1 seed against the winner of game one, the No. 4 seed versus the No. 5 seed, the No. 3 seed playing the No. 6 seed and the No. 2 seed facing off with the winner of game two.

The semifinals will feature the winners from the day before with the winners of each semifinal squaring off for the championship title and the league’s automatic berth to the NCAA tournament.

The Mountain West basketball championships will air on a combination of CBS, CBS Sports Network and MW+. Tip times and network designations will be released at a later date.

Mountain West basketball is Built Bold. Six MW women’s basketball programs have appeared in the postseason over the last two seasons, while MW men’s basketball has sent four or more teams to the NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship each of the last five years, including a league record six in 2024. ★

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PRESENTED BY THE GALT HERALD

Brittany Lampson Becomes UC Davis’ Inaugural Stunt Coach

Story and photos
by Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - At 2 a.m. on June 1, Brittany Lampson finished a job application.

She had started the paperwork on her last day with students at Lodi High School, gotten pulled away by the demands of a teacher’s calendar, and let it sit. A reminder from the UC Davis application site nudged her back. A link a fellow coach had posted in a stunt coaching group had caught her eye, and now, in the quiet middle of the night, she hit submit.

She did not know it then, but that application would close a 25-year arc: from a freshman cheerleader at Galt High School to the first stunt coach in UC Davis history, tasked with building a Division I program from the ground up.

“My reaction when I was offered the position was shocked at first and then tears of happiness,” Lampson said. “Everything that I had experienced and learned and been through in the last 34 years all led up to that moment where I was blessed to be given this opportunity.”

For someone who has spent a quarter-century in the cheer world, the word she keeps returning to is “dream.”

“This opportunity is a dream come true,” she said. “Being in the cheer world for the last 25 years has truly been my passion, but I never thought that I would be able to do it full-time. How many people get to say their dreams have come true?”

Lampson cheered for four years at Galt High School, and from the first day, she was hooked.

“From the day I started cheerleading, I absolutely fell in love with it,” she said. “I loved performing. I loved leading the crowd. I loved being someone that people remembered and looked up to. I especially loved how athletic cheerleading is when it comes to stunting, and I love that every year the rules change so we got to continue working on harder stunts.”

She carried that love to UC Santa Barbara, where she cheered for four more years while earning a degree in sociology. The college game opened her eyes to how vast and competitive the cheerleading world really was: She even found herself at the Cheerleading World Championships in 2018. But it was the relationships that anchored her.

“I also made lifelong friendships through both my teams in high school and college cheer,” she said. “I think the bonds that cheerleading brought me are one of the many reasons that I fell in love.”

Her time at UCSB shaped more than her athletic career. Studying sociology taught her to think about how groups function, how people influence one another, and how culture and systems shape an individual’s experience: a framework she would carry into every gym and classroom afterward.

“A successful team is about so much more than individual talent,” she



Brittany Lampson, left, jumps with excitement when her team hits a particularly difficult stunt during a game.

said. “It’s about creating a culture where everyone understands their role, feels valued and is working toward the same goal.”

After UCSB, Lampson earned her teaching credential and a master’s degree from the University of the Pacific. Teaching taught her how to meet people where they are and find new approaches when something isn’t working.

“Ultimately, I see coaching and teaching as very connected,” she said. “My goal isn’t just to develop better athletes; it’s to help develop confident, accountable, resilient people.”

Lampson taught English at McNair High School for six years, and in her second year she started the school’s stunt program from scratch: the first time she would build something from nothing.

“It was super challenging building the program from the ground up,” she said, “but I had so much support from my athletic director at the time, Quincey Noble. He made sure that I had everything that I needed to build a successful program.”

What carried the program through those early years was not pedigree. Many athletes had never been on a cheer team or stunted before. What they had was a willingness to learn and put in the work.

“The work ethic of the athletes was really what got us to be successful in those first few years,” Lampson said.

It was a pattern that would repeat: Give Lampson athletes willing to work, and she would give them a culture worth believing in.

From McNair, Lampson moved to Lodi High School, where she taught English and took over both the cheer and stunt programs. What followed was three consecutive league championships, built not on talent alone but on a culture of consistency and collective belief.

“When I took over the programs, I wanted to create an environment with high expectations, but also one where athletes felt supported and genuinely wanted to be there,” she said. “We focused

on the little things every day: accountability, fundamentals, preparation, communication and being willing to work for each other.”

“Winning three consecutive league championships was incredibly rewarding,” she said, “but I’m probably most proud of the culture that developed along the way. We had athletes who bought into the process, leaders who helped bring younger athletes along, and a program where people understood that the standard was bigger than any one person.”

Ask her what she is most proud of from her time at Lodi, and the answer comes without hesitation, and it is not the trophies.

“When I look back at Lodi, I don’t think first about the trophies,” she said. “I think about the athletes who walked through those doors and the relationships we built. Knowing that I had a small part in helping them become more confident, resilient, accountable people is what I’m most proud of.”

Lampson’s coaching philosophy is simple: high standards and high support.

“I believe you can demand excellence from athletes while still making sure they know you genuinely care about them as people,” she said. “I want my athletes to know exactly what is expected of them, and I’m going to hold them accountable to those expectations. But accountability doesn’t have to mean a lack of compassion.”

She believes the best coaches push athletes outside their comfort zones while creating an environment where it is safe to make mistakes and grow. And it all comes back to relationships: knowing athletes beyond what they can do on the mat.

“When athletes know that you believe in them and are invested in their success, they’re much more willing to be challenged,” she said.

What motivates her is the love of the sport itself and the simple fact that she is, in her words, “literally living my dream.” She loves the competition, but her favorite part



Brittany Lampson spots an athlete during a back tuck.

of coaching stunt is being on the sidelines with athletes, cheering them on, and knowing she may be a part of their lives forever.

Asked about the coaches or mentors who shaped her, Lampson points first to home, to her mother, Paige Lampson, who was also her first cheer coach through high school.

“My mom has been one of the biggest influences in my life,” she said. “She taught me the value of hard work, resilience and always believing in myself.”

The other name she returns to is Barbara Welch, the longtime Galt coach whose influence on the community runs deep.

“Barbara Welch has also had a tremendous impact on how I lead,” Lampson said. “She showed me what it means to lead with integrity, hold people accountable while supporting them, and create a positive, encouraging environment.”

In her mother and in Welch, Lampson found the two pillars of her own philosophy modeled long before she had a name for them: hard work and resilience from one, integrity and accountability balanced with support from the other. The high standards and high support she would later build her programs around were lessons handed down from the women who coached her first.

For all the excitement of a dream realized, the path to UC Davis required Lampson to walk away from the life she had built: her teaching career, her students and the athletes she had coached for years at Lodi.

“Honestly, saying goodbye to my students and athletes was probably the hardest part of making the decision to leave Lodi High,” she said. “I had spent years building those programs and relationships, and some of those girls had been with me for multiple seasons.

They weren’t just athletes I coached; they became a really important part of my life.”

The goodbye was emotional: tears, hugs, conversations she will never forget. What stayed with her most was hearing from athletes about how much the program had meant to them.

“You always feel like you’re making an impact, but you don’t actually know if you have until you leave,” she said. “The love and support that I received from the girls and the community at Lodi High showed how valuable I really was.”

The hardest part, she said, was knowing she would not get to see some of those girls finish their high school careers. But she had to trust that she had built something strong enough to continue without her.

“I’m grateful that I got to leave knowing that I gave everything I had to those programs and those kids,” she said.

Lampson arrives at UC Davis with a significant advantage: She is not starting from zero. A club stunt team already existed on campus, and she respects the foundation it laid.

“The club program created a really important foundation for stunt at UC Davis,” she said. “There are athletes, alumni, traditions and a culture that already exist, and I have a tremendous amount of respect for the work that went into building that.”

The task now is to build on that foundation the infrastructure and standards of a varsity Division I program: a sustainable recruiting pipeline, strength and conditioning, sport-specific training, a competitive schedule and the operational structure that comes with varsity status. But Lampson believes the most important transition is cultural. The athletes are not simply joining a new team; they are establishing the identity



Brittany Lampson-UC Davis’ new STUNT coach.

of the first varsity stunt program in school history.

“My approach is to honor what already exists while being intentional about where we’re going,” she said. “I want to listen to the athletes, learn what has worked, preserve the things that make UC Davis stunt special, and then raise the standards to what we need to compete at the Division I level.”

Recruiting will be central to that effort. Lampson plans to be out at combines, looking for athletes who bring more than physical ability.

“Talent can get someone noticed, but attitude and discipline determine how far they’ll go,” she said. “I want players who are willing to learn, support their teammates, stay accountable and handle both success and adversity with maturity.”

For a brand-new program, Lampson is clear that success has to mean more than the win-loss record.

“In year one, I’m also measuring success by whether we establish a strong foundation that can sustain success for years to come,” she said. “That means creating a clear identity and culture, building trust within the team, establishing high standards and developing athletes who understand what it means to represent UC Davis.”

“The goal isn’t just to have a successful inaugural season,” she said. “It’s to build a program that is still successful five, 10, and 20 years from now.”

Asked what she would say to a young cheerleader in Galt reading this article, Lampson – the woman who was once that girl, who cheered four years on that same sideline and never forgot where she came from – did not hesitate.

“I want her to know that I was her. I was once in her shoes,” she said. “No matter where you come from, your dreams are possible. Don’t let fear, self-doubt or setbacks convince you to give up. Work hard, stay coachable and believe in yourself even when others don’t. Success isn’t about being perfect. It’s about being consistent, resilient and willing to keep learning.”

Then, in a line that could serve as the motto for the program she is about to build and the life she has already lived, she added: “If I can make it from Galt to pursuing my dreams as a D1 college coach, so can she. Your journey can start right here in Galt.”

It started there for Brittany Lampson. Now it continues at UC Davis: the first stunt coach in school history, building a Division I program one standard, one relationship and one athlete at a time. ★

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Five Standouts Earn CIF All-League Softball Honors

By Paige Lampson
Sports Editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - When the CIF all-league softball rosters were released following the conclusion of the 2025-26 spring campaign, the small Sacramento Valley community of Galt could point to its two high schools with considerable pride. Liberty Ranch High School placed three players on the all-league team – catcher Bella Granata, pitcher Laura Quinn and infielder Shelby Duarte – while crosstown Galt High School earned two selections of its own in junior Rianna Mayer and sophomore Zoe Sanchez. Between them, the five honorees represent the depth of talent that has made Galt a quietly formidable softball town, and their numbers tell a story of power, precision and promise that extends well beyond the local diamonds.

Bella Granata: A Catcher Bound for San Diego State

Of the five all-league selections, none carries a more complete résumé than Bella Granata, the Liberty Ranch senior backstop who signed a National Letter of Intent with San Diego State University on Nov. 12, 2025, joining Head Coach Stacey Nuvean Deniz’s freshman class of 2027. Granata will trade the Hawks’ scarlet and gold for the scarlet and black of the Aztecs, who are preparing for their inaugural Pac-12 conference season, and she arrives in San Diego with a prep career that reads like a recruiting profile come to life.

Granata played varsity softball for all four years at Liberty Ranch, though her posted statistics cover her junior and senior seasons: a body of work spanning 45 games that is nonetheless staggering in its scope. She compiled a career varsity batting average of .497, reaching base at a .597 clip while slugging an eye-popping 1.048 and posting an OPS of 1.645. Across those 45 contests she amassed 72 hits, drove in 70 runs and crossed the plate 57 times, collecting 24 doubles, seven triples and 14 home runs along the way. Perhaps most striking for a power hitter of her caliber, she drew 31 walks against just nine strikeouts in 145 at-bats, an extraordinary ratio of discipline to production that speaks to a hitter who was feared and respected in equal measure by opposing pitching staffs.

Her senior season was the capstone. Over 22 games in 2025-26, Granata hit .533 with a .607 on-base percentage, a 1.053 slugging mark and a 1.660 OPS, delivering 40 hits, 34 RBIs and 27 runs scored while hammering seven home runs and legging out 12 doubles and three triples. Behind the plate she was flawless, recording a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage on 80 total chances with 79 putouts and one assist and not a single error. Her junior campaign had been nearly as dominant, with a .457 average, 32 hits, 36 RBIs, and 30 runs, paired with a .947 fielding mark. Granata’s career varsity fielding percentage of .978 – 132 putouts, two assists and only three errors across 137 total chances – rounds out the profile of a two-way catcher whose glove work matches her thunder at the plate.

The San Diego State coaching staff cited Granata’s leadership in its signing announcement, noting her role as a two-year captain who helped Liberty Ranch to a pair of league championships and a second-place finish, as well as her selection to the MaxPreps All-Sac-Joaquin Section Team during her junior season. The honor roll regular and multi-sport club veteran – she has competed for Universal Fastpitch, the Sorcerers, Lady Magic and NorCal Rising – will join a program that posted a 38-19 record last year and won the Mountain West Tournament, and she steps onto a national stage with the credentials to compete for immediate playing time.

Laura Quinn: The Arm That Anchored the Hawks

If Granata was the thunder in Liberty Ranch’s lineup, Laura Quinn was the steady hand that navigated the Hawks through the season from the circle. The senior right-hander served as Liberty’s primary pitcher across the 2025-26 campaign, and while her batting contributions were modest – a .182 career average with four hits, one RBI and four runs scored over 43 games – her value to the program was measured in innings, outs and the trust she earned from her coaching staff to take the ball game after game.

Quinn threw 188 career innings across 38 appearances, compiling a 13-4 record



Bella Granata-Liberty Ranch All League. Photo by Paige Lampson



Laura Quinn Liberty Ranch All League. Photo by Paige Lampson



Shelby Duarte-Liberty Ranch All League. Photo by Paige Lampson



Rianna Mayor-Galt High All League. Courtesy photo

with a .765 winning percentage and a 3.54 earned-run average. She surrendered 215 hits and 95 earned runs while striking out 171 batters against 50 walks, facing 839 hitters in total. Opponents managed a .276 batting average and a .327 on-base percentage against her, and she limited the damage to just six home runs over her two posted seasons. Her workload was substantial – she threw 2,811 pitches across her varsity tenure – and her durability was a defining feature of the Hawks’ competitive identity.

Her senior season was the heavier of the two in terms of volume. Quinn logged 102.2 innings in 19 appearances in 2025-26, posting an 11-4 record with a .733 winning percentage and a 4.30 ERA, striking out 87 while walking 32 over 482 batters faced. She surrendered 126 hits and 63 earned runs in that span, and her 1,636 pitches thrown reflect the central role she played down the stretch. The previous spring, as a junior, she had been even more efficient, posting a 2.63 ERA with a 2-0 record across 85.1 innings, fanning 84 against just 18 walks and yielding 89 hits and 32 earned runs over 357 batters faced. The contrast between the two seasons – a near-unhittable junior year followed by a high-volume senior campaign in which she shouldered the bulk of the pitching load – paints the picture of a competitor who answered every call her team made.

Shelby Duarte: A Three-Year Climber in the Hawks’ Infield

The third Liberty Ranch selection, Shelby Duarte, authored one of the more quietly impressive developmental arcs of the group. A junior in 2025-26, Duarte has played varsity softball for three consecutive seasons, and her year-over-year improvement traces a steady upward line from a promising freshman to a polished junior who now anchors the Hawks’ infield.

Duarte’s career varsity totals across 63 games include a .374 batting average, a .450 on-base percentage, a .443 slugging mark and an .893 OPS, built on 65 hits, 45 RBIs and 44 runs scored, with eight doubles and two triples. Her progression is the defining feature of her profile: As a freshman she hit .293 with a .373 on-base percentage and a .735 OPS; as a sophomore she elevated to .380 with a .456 OBP and a .916 OPS; and as a junior she broke through to a .439 average, a .513 on-base



Zoe Sanchez-Galt High All League. Courtesy photo

percentage and a 1.013 OPS, delivering 29 hits, 18 RBIs and 15 runs scored over 21 games. Her senior year now looms as an opportunity to cement her status as one of the section’s premier infield bats, and her all-league recognition this spring suggests that trajectory is well underway.

In the field, Duarte has grown into reliability as well. Her career fielding percentage sits at .834 across 145 total chances, with 104 putouts and 17 assists, but her junior season saw her raise that mark to .904 on 52 chances with just three errors: a meaningful jump from her freshman campaign’s .782. As she enters her final prep season, the consistency she has built at the plate and in the field positions her as a cornerstone of whatever Liberty Ranch fields next spring.

Rianna Mayer: Galt’s Steadiest Bat Across Three Seasons

Across town at Galt High School, Rianna Mayer earned all-league honors on the strength of a three-year varsity career defined by remarkable consistency and dependable defense. The junior has been a fixture in the Warriors’ lineup since her freshman season, and her career numbers reflect a player who has produced at a high level in every campaign without the dramatic peaks and valleys that often define prep careers.

Mayer’s varsity totals across 66 games include a .362 batting average and a .434 on-base percentage, with 68 hits, 33 RBIs and 45 runs scored. She has contributed six doubles, eight triples and two home runs, and her defensive work has been exemplary: a .955 career fielding percentage built on 267 total chances, 237 putouts, 18 assists and just 12 errors. That defensive reliability, particularly her sophomore and junior seasons in which she posted fielding marks of .936 and .971, respectively, has made her a stabilizing presence for Galt on the left side of the infield.

Her offensive track record is notable for its evenness. As a freshman she hit .403 with 25 hits and nine RBIs; as a sophomore she posted a .328 average with 22 hits and 16 RBIs, adding two home runs; and as a junior she hit .356 with 21 hits, eight RBIs and 18 runs scored. The slight dip in counting statistics this past season reflects a lineup role in which she frequently set the table rather than cleared it, as her 18 runs scored were a career high and her on-base skills continued to fuel the

offense ahead of her. With one more season ahead of her, Mayer stands as Galt’s most established and trusted position player, and her all-league nod confirms what three years of steady production have already demonstrated.

Zoe Sanchez: A Two-Way Sophomore with Power and Promise

The youngest of the five honorees, Galt’s Zoe Sanchez, may also carry the highest ceiling. A sophomore in 2025-26, Sanchez has already logged two varsity seasons and has distinguished herself as a genuine two-way threat: a power bat in the lineup and a strikeout arm in the circle, both of which she has only begun to fully harness.

At the plate, Sanchez owns a career .322 average with a .406 on-base percentage, a .517 slugging mark and a .923 OPS across 33 games, with 28 hits, 14 RBIs and 22 runs scored. She has collected two doubles, three triples and three home runs, and her sophomore season represented a significant leap forward: After hitting .255 with a .655 OPS as a freshman, she exploded to a .400 average, a .467 on-base percentage, a .775 slugging mark and a 1.242 OPS as a sophomore, belting three home runs and three triples in just 15 games while scoring 15 runs. The power surge, combined with a sharply reduced strikeout rate, marked her as one of the section’s most improved hitters and a name to watch over her final two prep seasons.

In the circle, Sanchez’s development has been more uneven but no less intriguing. She has thrown 65.1 career innings across 19 appearances with three starts, compiling a 4-10 record and a 6.11 ERA while striking out 85 batters against 53 walks and surrendering 84 hits. Her strikeout stuff is undeniable – she fanned 63 in 39.2 innings as a sophomore, a rate of better than 1.5 strikeouts per frame – and the challenge ahead lies in refining her command, as her walk totals have run high in both seasons. If she can pair her swing-and-miss repertoire with improved control, she has the tools to develop into one of the more formidable two-way players in the region. For now, her all-league selection stands as recognition of a sophomore who has already made her presence felt on both sides of the ball and whose trajectory points sharply upward.

A Community Reflected on the All-League Roster

Taken together, the five selections from Liberty Ranch and Galt High paint a portrait of a softball community punching comfortably above its weight. Granata’s leap to the Division I ranks at San Diego State anchors the group and provides a flagship story for the town, while Quinn’s innings-eating senior campaign and Duarte’s three-year ascent round out a Liberty Ranch roster that has become a perennial league contender.

Across town, Mayer’s three-year consistency and Sanchez’s precocious two-way talent give Galt High a foundation that suggests the Warriors’ best days may still lie ahead.

For a community that fields two high schools within a few miles of one another, the sight of five local names on a CIF all-league roster is a reminder that small-town softball in the Sacramento Valley is alive, thriving and producing talent worthy of national attention. ★