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The Galt Herald

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Giving to Galt's Needy



Some of the food volunteers put in apple boxes for needy families in Galt this Thanksgiving.

By Keith Burbank

GALT, CA (MPG) - More than 100 families on Nov. 21 received Thanksgiving dinner and enough food staples for a week thanks to donors, businesses, schools, churches and the city of Galt.

"It went so well," said Kathy Finkes, one of the chairpersons for the effort, which involves several churches in Galt. "All the families got fed."

About 30 volunteers gathered at 6 p.m. Nov. 20 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Vintage Oak Avenue to put together boxes of food for the 110 families. The 11 schools in the area each selected 10 families to receive the food.

Stacked on the floor and on tables in the center of a small gymnasium was the dry food that was placed in apple boxes, which were at either end of the room. Finkes and other leaders established an assembly line of volunteers to fill each box. Most of the work was done in an hour.

Galt resident Sean Duryee came Nov. 20 because he works with the youth at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and they were volunteering that evening.

They gave up their social and play time to help, Duryee said.

"It's become a tradition for them to come every year and do that," he said.

It's important for youth to "give back to the community, right, and serve others that aren't as fortunate or maybe having a hard time," Duryee said.

How it started

The giveaway "was started by a deacon at St. Christopher's Catholic Church in Galt," said Finkes, who has been involved for the past 10 years.

And it was a way for him to take care of some families in the church, she said.

That deacon was Tom McGill, said Carlina Stewart, a parishioner at St. Christopher's, who added that Dolores Gregorio, another parishioner at the church, also deserves credit for starting and making the food giveaway a success.

St. Christopher's helped 25 families that first year about 25 years ago.

"Then the need grew and there were more churches that were like, 'Well, we would like to get involved and have some of our people, you know, take care of more people,'" Finkes said.

So, then a community of Galt churches got involved, she said.

How it works

"It usually ends up being more than 110 families," Finkes said. 'I usually make up another 10 to 12 boxes … because … the word gets out and I don't turn anybody away."

City workers collect peanut butter and jelly for the distribution, Finkes said. Additionally, money is donated to buy needed food that cost this year about $6,000, she said.

That included products like flour,

Continued on page 2

Measure L Opponents Winning

By Keith Burbank

GALT, CA (MPG) - The outcome of Measure L here remains uncertain.

The city placed the measure on the Nov. 3 ballot to let voters choose between electing a city clerk and a city treasurer or having the City Council appoint people to those positions.

Voters who said "yes" were in favor of the City Council making appointments to those roles.

"The city has evolved," City Treasurer Shaun Farrell said in September.

Handling the city's money, for example, has become more complicated, he said. Farrell has been in office since 1991.

As of Nov. 20, just 29 votes separate those in favor from those opposed, with 8,000 to 9,000 ballots in the county left to count. It's unclear how many of those ballots are from Galt.

The opposition is leading the count with 4,398 votes to proponents' 4,369. In percentage terms, opponents have 50.2% of the votes, compared to proponents' 49.8%. A simple majority is needed to win.

Those in favor of the measure argue the roles of city clerk and city treasurer have become complex and require professional background and experience to do the work.

Those opposed argue that appointing people to the positions takes the power from the people.

No formal opposition to the measure was filed with the city before Nov. 3. The city received at least one letter in favor of the measure.

Since the election ended Nov. 3, the outcome of Measure L has shifted as unofficial results have been updated by the Sacramento Voter Registration and Elections office.

The initial results showed Measure L failing. Then proponents were leading. Now, opponents are back on top.

Election results will be official when they are certified, which will happen no earlier than Dec. 1. The next update to the results is Nov. 24.

Results can be found at https://results.saccounty.gov/results/public/sacramento-county-ca/elections/69. Measure L is at the end of the page. ★

Camp Okizu Aiming to Rebuild

Story and photos by Keith Burbank



Board Chair Ana Brubaker (left) and Executive Director Suzie Randall stand in front of a pond at Camp Okizu's new property in Valley Springs on Nov. 7.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA (MPG) - Leaders and staff of Camp Okizu – a camp for children with cancer and their families – opened the gates Nov. 7 to a new location in Valley Springs.

Valley Springs is about 30 miles east of Galt in Calaveras County and will be home to a new camp following the destruction of the previous one by the Bear Fire in September 2020. No one at the camp, which was in Butte County, was hurt in that fire.

Camp Okizu is still offering camps since the fire, but at rented locations. The Valley Springs property is owned by Camp Okizu following a purchase about two years ago.

Okizu, a word from the Sioux language, means "unity, to come together, to heal from a hurt, to make whole," according to the organization's website. Camp Okizu serves children from Northern California with "peer support, respite and community" at no charge, the website says.

"We need to raise the funds that it will take to build the camp," said Okizu Board Chair Ana Brubaker, which she and

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WE SUPPORT OUR MILITARY

Sky River Casino Launches Fifth Annual Wreaths of Hope



Representatives of Sky River Casino and Wilton Rancheria, along with nine participating local charities, gathered inside 32 Brews on Nov. 17 to kick off the 5th Annual Wreaths of Hope. The annual holiday program celebrates the season while supporting charitable partners throughout the Elk Grove and Sacramento County region. During the event, participating nonprofits delivered and unveiled their creatively decorated wreaths, which will be displayed throughout Sky River Casino beginning Dec. 1. Guests will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite wreaths throughout the holidays. The nine charities participating in the festive and fun 5th Annual Wreaths of Hope were: Asian Resources Inc., Chicks in Crisis, Cosumnes Firefighters Community Support Foundation, Elk Grove Food Bank, My Sister's House, Project RIDE, Paws for a Purpose, Runnin' for Rhett, and Wilton Animal Rescue.
Photo courtesy of Sky River Casino

Giving to Galt's Needy

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sugar, pancake mix and syrup, chicken broth and an apple pie, Finkes said. She was unable to say what the value of food was that each family received.

Families picked up the food Saturday.

How it feels

"It's a real feel-good type of thing to help your community out," Finkes said. But she admitted she encounters mixed emotions about it each year.

She gets worried, she said, that fewer than enough donations will come in.

But "the Lord provides," she said. "We've never been short."

"And then on the other side of that is I just love this community for it coming together," Finkes said.

Indeed, some churches have small congregations and yet they donate, said Anne Dennis, another chairperson of the distribution.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, for example, gave 110 bags of potatoes, each holding 10 pounds, Dennis said.

"Their generosity is heart-touching," she said. ★



Volunteer David Porter gets an apple box Nov. 20 and walks to fill it with food for needy families in Galt this Thanksgiving.

Galt Updating General Plan: Update Costing Nearly $2M

By John McCallum

GALT, CA (MPG) - The city of Galt is anticipating spending nearly $2 million to update the state-required General Plan document. The comprehensive document of the city's functions and projected growth will help direct planning policy through 2050.

At the Nov. 17 meeting, the City Council unanimously approved a $1,964,986 contract with PlaceWorks as the overall consultant for the General Plan update. The last time Galt updated its General Plan was 2009, and California state law requires plans be updated every 20 years.

"This process is a 3- to 4-year process so we're getting started now on the General Plan update," Community Development Director Jenny Carloni said.

Updating the General Plan is one of the city's six priorities listed in its 2025-2027 Strategic Plan to focus on "responsible growth and maintaining the city's small-town charm and quality of life through innovative and

efficient growth."

The General Plan contains a number of elements dealing with all aspects of the city such as housing, economic conditions, public facilities and services, land use and demographics and public health and safety. The only update to the 2009 plan was an amendment to the Housing element, which is required to be updated every eight years and was last done in 2021.

PlaceWorks, which according to its website was founded in 1975, has six offices throughout California. The Sacramento region office is in Folsom.

PlaceWorks was the highest bidder of three for the General Plan project. Kevin Gardiner & Associates was the lowest at $1,841,922 followed by Mintier Harnish at $1,878,088. All three were invited to interview and all three meet the proposal's requirements and "demonstrated strong qualifications," according to the city's staff report.

A four-member panel from the City Manager's office, Public Works and Community Development departments reviewed the responses. Carloni said PlaceWorks stood out with their proposal that featured an "impressive outreach and community engagement plan" to gather input for the project.

That process includes a minimum of 12 in-person workshops, stakeholder interviews, online and in-person surveys, community outreach at various Galt events and close collaboration with city commissions.

The PlaceWorks' team made the process look easy, Carloni said, something that caught the city's attention, "because it's not."

Councilmember Paul Sandhu asked if an updated General Plan would lead to expansion of Galt's city limits. While not guaranteed, Carloni said this was unlikely, but what might change were "spheres of influence" outside the city where Galt has responsibility to provide services.

Councilmember Shawn Farmer, while acknowledging there was likely "a lot of legwork" involved in the update, questioned what the final document would produce. Farmer said he felt like the city was simply taking the old plan, reviewing it and "maybe moving things around with some changes."

"And it's like, for me, it's just like is that (worth) $2 million?" he said.

"It's a pretty substantial project," Carloni said, noting the entire process will take almost three-and-a-half years.

Besides the existing elements, there are new elements required by state law, she added, such as environmental justice. The state requires General Plans to have a full environmental review conducted, something Carloni said comes at "substantial cost."

According to the staff report, PlaceWorks will use subcontractors to conduct some of the work including GHD for the transportation element, BAE Urban Economics for economics and West Yost for engineering.

"You're basically going to get a full accounting of where you are today and where you're going to grow," interim City Manager Chris Erias said. "It's basically setting your policy document on how you're going to function over the next 20 years."

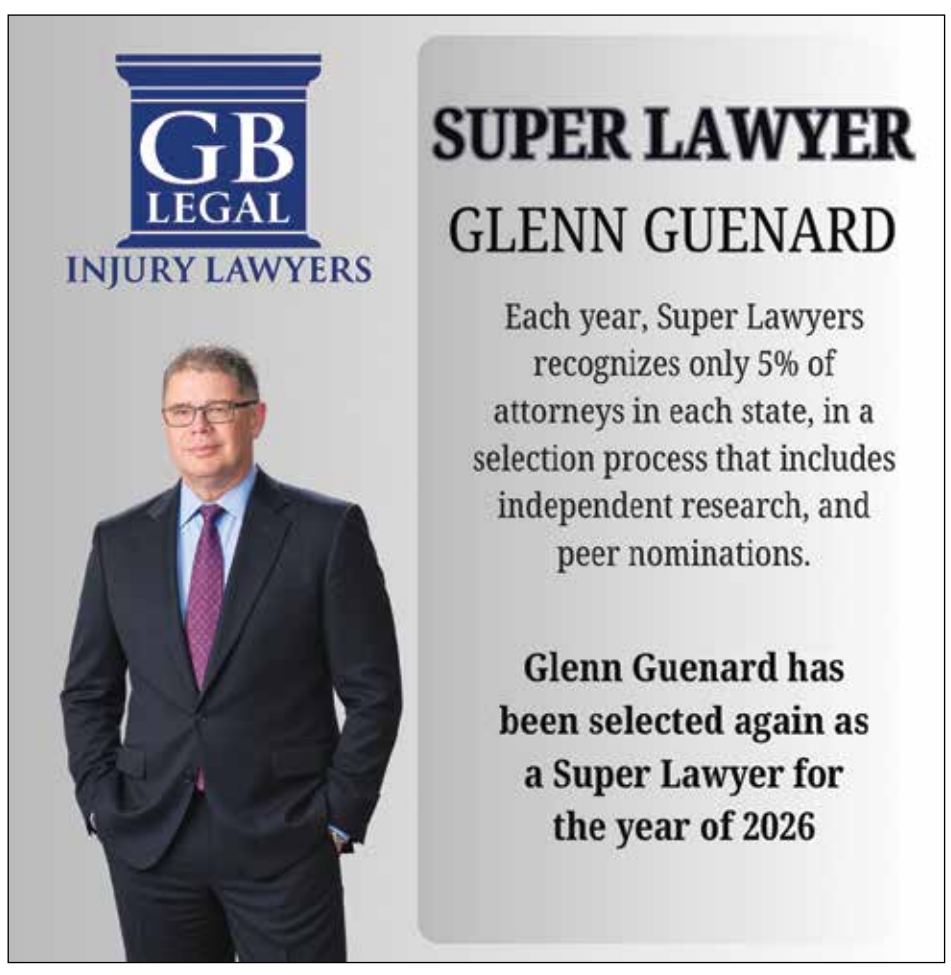
Erias added that once the General Plan is completed, the City Council should follow with updates to the various "master plans" such as ones for parks and utilities.

Carloni said she investigated the amounts other cities in the region were paying for their General Plan updates as a check on the bid numbers Galt received. She noted the city of Lodi was issuing its General Plan contract for about $3 million, with a range of $1.6 to $2 million for cities of Galt's size.

"Unfortunately, the numbers are very high and getting higher," Carloni said.

The city had originally budgeted $1.2 million in its adopted 2026-2027 budget for the General Plan update, money that will come out of the General Fund. To pay the balance, staff recommended using $764,986 from the Citywide Impact Fee Fund. ★





Camp Okizu Aiming to Rebuild

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Executive Director Suzie Randall estimate will cost tens of millions of dollars.

The new location has existing cabins that will need to be modified, buildings that need to be torn down and buildings, such as a lodge, that need to be built.

"We have some price estimators," Randall said.

And a contractor joined the team recently who might be able to provide a cost for construction that can be used for planning purposes for Phase I, she said.

Phase I will include the lodge, health center, swimming pool and amphitheater where campers can gather for campfires, Randall added.

"Unless we can find a very generous donor" who can "give us tens of millions of dollars," Brubaker said, chuckling but serious, too.

A public campaign to raise the necessary money has yet to start. Three million dollars is what is required to provide the camps each year, Brubaker said.

It is unclear when the Valley Springs camp will open to campers. Permits from the county must be obtained and buildings designed.

"We're sort of at the mercy of that schedule," Randall said.

One reason for choosing the Valley Springs location is the ability to get off the property in an emergency, she said.

Camp Okizu serves children 7 to 17 years old. And the camp offers weekends for families when parents and children of any age can participate. Another program offers a camp for teen adults and adults in their 20s.



A view Nov. 7 of part of Camp Okizu's new location in Valley Springs.



A view Nov. 7 of some of the existing cabins on Camp Okizu's new location in Valley Springs. The cabins will be modified.

Camp Okizu has served children with cancer and their families for more than 40 years.

"We serve all kinds of kids," said Brubaker.

Even the sickest children can come to camp here, she said.

"Accessibility is a big part of what we do," she added. "We want to make sure that the most vulnerable can come."

Camp Okizu hosts camps for siblings, too.

"As you can imagine, being in a family where one of the kids is sick, there's a lot going on," Brubaker said. "Those kids have a lot of feelings, scared that their brother or sister is sick, jealous that they're not getting their parents' attention, and a lot of conflicting feelings."

Few services exist to help siblings, she said.

Even children who had cancer and lived through it can come to camp, Brubaker said, which many teenagers do.

"But that actually creates a very nice thing for our campers," she added, "because it's this hope that somebody who has the same disease can look at someone older that went through it and are on the other side and are healthy and doing well." ★

Emergency Preparedness Packets

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County's Office of Emergency Services (OES) is helping residents prepare for emergencies by distributing thousands of free preparedness packets throughout the community.

OES has distributed more than 4,000 packets to volunteer fire districts, community organizations and other locations throughout the county.

Each packet includes a waterproof envelope to protect important documents, an envelope to help residents set aside emergency cash, an emergency communications card and a jar opener.

These supplies can help residents take simple steps toward preparing for emergencies, including winter storms, flooding and power outages. Keeping important documents protected and having emergency cash and communication information readily available can make a difference during an emergency.

Packets will be available in the coming days.

Locations with packets: Elk Grove Senior Center at 8230 Civic Center Dr., Elk Grove; Wilton Fire Station at 9800 Dillard Rd., Wilton; Herald Fire Station at 12746 Ivie Rd., Herald; Courtland Fire Station at 154 Magnolia Ave, Courtland; Walnut Grove Fire Station at 14150 Grove St., Station 96; River Delta Fire Station, 16969 Jackson Slough Rd., Isleton; and Isleton Fire Department, 201 2nd St., Isleton.

Packets are still available for community partners to distribute. If you are a a community partner who would like to distribute packets at your location, contact SacOESInfo@saccounty.gov. ★

Recruitment for the 2027-28 Sac County Civil Grand Jury Opens Soon

Sacramento County Grand Jury News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Civil Grand Jury is appointed to provide oversight of Sacramento County, its cities, public schools, including community colleges and special district agencies and operations. The Grand Jury also investigates complaints submitted by the public and issues reports of its findings. Past Grand Jury reports and government responses can be found online at https://sacgrandjury.org/reports.aspx.

The Civil Grand Jury is also authorized to hear criminal indictments as needed, and is tasked with visiting regional detention facilities, along with the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office Crime Lab and the Sacramento County Coroner's Office. Nineteen Sacramento County residents and 11 alternates will be selected from among qualified applicants. The one-year term for volunteer jurors runs from July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2028.

"Serving on the Grand Jury has been a fantastic experience. It gives you, as a County resident, an opportunity to review and investigate your local government, school and special district operations, and then provide recommendations to improve their service to your community," Dave Comerchero, Foreperson, 2026-27 County of Sacramento Grand Jury.

To serve on the Grand Jury, you must be a U.S. citizen 18 years of age or older, a resident of Sacramento County for at least one year and available for 20 to 30 hours a week. Applicants must also be able to speak, read and write the English language.

The application period opens Nov. 20 and the deadline to apply is Dec. 31 to be considered. The 2026-27 Grand Jury will be empaneled in June 2027. Grand Jurors receive a small stipend for their volunteer work.

For more information about the Sacramento County Grand Jury, applicant criteria and how to apply, visit https://sacgrandjury.org/apply.aspx. ★

Caltrans Receives $480,000 Grant to Strengthen Highway Safety

Caltrans News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Caltrans announced Nov. 17 that it received approximately $480,000 in grant funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to help expand and improve traffic data collection that will help support safety on the state highway system.

Caltrans analyzes a wide variety of data sets to help evaluate road safety, including lane conditions, intersection and shoulder types, traffic controls, speed limits and traffic volumes. The federal fiscal year 2027 funding for the program will help streamline the collection and is provided by a grant from OTS through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"Strengthening California's roadway data helps us better understand crash patterns and make smarter safety investments. This grant will boost our ability to improve safety statewide and advance our goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries," said Dina El-Tawansy, director of Caltrans.

"Accurate and timely traffic records data helps inform our understanding of the most urgent traffic safety issues in California communities. By funding modern reporting systems, we're helping agencies streamline how critical information is collected and shared to strengthen effective, data driven strategies that make our roads safer," said Stephanie Dougherty, director of the California Office of Traffic Safety.

The funds will support data collection of average annual daily traffic (AADT) on non-Federal Aid System (NFAS) roads, which include rural roads, collector roads that feed into the state highway system and urban local roads.

The funds will also support statewide outreach and coordination with local and regional agencies, including Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs), cities, counties and tribal agencies.

Caltrans is aligning departmental operations with the Safe System approach, which identifies several interconnected elements to achieve a vision of zero fatalities and serious injuries – safe road users, safe roads, safe speeds, safe vehicles and post-crash care.

As part of this policy, Caltrans commits to prioritizing "safety first" in highway planning, operation, construction and maintenance; focusing on eliminating the most serious crashes; and eliminating race, age, ability and transportation mode-based disparities in road safety outcomes by addressing historic and current barriers to transportation access and safety.

Safety is also one of the key pillars of the Caltrans 2024–2028 Strategic Plan. Caltrans is committed to maintaining and improving the state's transportation network to make it safer, more reliable and climate resilient.

For more information about transportation and other infrastructure projects funded with state and federal investments, visit build.ca.gov. ★

Toy Drive for the Needy



Galt police and the Cosumnes Fire Department are collecting toys for needy families this holiday season. Photo courtesy of the City of Galt

By Keith Burbank

GALT, CA (MPG) - Galt police and the Cosumnes Fire Department are collecting toys for needy families this holiday season.

New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off in donation bins during regular business hours at a host of locations: Galt Smog at 515 North Lincoln Way, Galt Food Center at 814 A St., Walmart at 10470 Twin Cities Road, Raley's at 10430 Twin Cities Road, Grocery Outlet at 10570 Twin Cities Road, Ink House Social Tattoo at 812 C St., the Galt Police Department at 455 Industrial Drive, the Cosumnes Fire Station No. 45 on 229 Fifth St. and the Cosumnes Fire Station No. 46 at 1050 Walnut Ave.

Donations will be accepted through Dec. 16.

Families living in the city limits may apply to receive toys for their children. Toys are available for children 1 to 10 years old. Eligibility is based on household size and household income, Galt officials said.

An application workshop for families will be held from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Galt Police Department, 455 Industrial Drive. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, city officials said.

Families must bring identification, proof of residency, proof of income, and a birth certificate or school ID for each child, according to the city. Limited individual appointments might be available for families unable to attend the workshop.

For identification, a driver's license/ID card or picture ID must be brought to the Police Department along with a utility bill or rental receipt as proof of residency; a pay stub, Supplemental Security Income verification, Cal Works summary or proof of student aid as proof of income; and for each child a birth certificate or school ID.

Email nlatino@galtpd.com or mariselasuarez@cosumnescsd.gov or call 916-753-1952 to request an individual appointment. The application deadline is Dec. 4. ★

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

HWY 99 EXPRESS ROUTE — Southbound

Galt City Hall	Lodi Transit Center	Galt City Hall	Consumnes Rivers College	S. Sacramento Kaiser	Methodist Hospital	Consumnes Rivers College
8:25 AM	8:45 AM	9:20 AM	9:45 AM	9:50 AM	9:55 AM	10:00 AM
10:25 AM	10:45 AM	11:20 AM	11:45 AM	11:50 AM	11:55 AM	12:00 PM
12:25 PM	12:45 PM	1:20 PM	1:45 PM	1:50 PM	1:55 PM	2:00 PM
2:25 PM	2:45 PM	3:20 PM	3:45 PM	3:50 PM	3:55 PM	4:00 PM



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California Farm Bureau Announces Recipients of Its Highest Service Awards

California Farm Bureau News Release

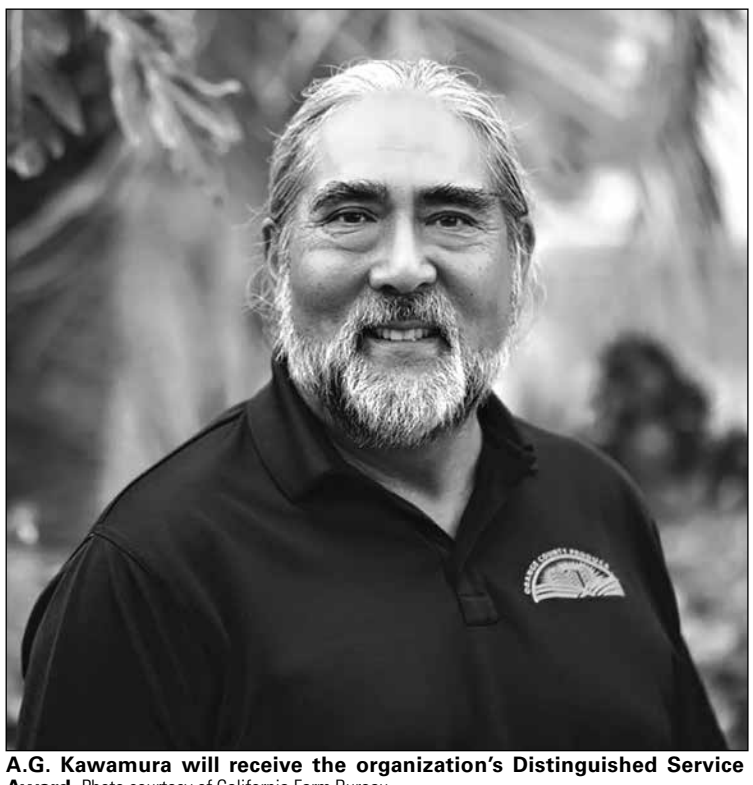
CALIFORNIA (MPG) - The California Farm Bureau will recognize two distinguished leaders whose careers have shaped California agriculture for decades.

A.G. Kawamura will receive the organization's Distinguished Service Award, and Karen Mills will receive the Helen Roberti Lifetime Service Award. Both honors will be presented on Dec. 6 during the California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada.

For more than six decades, the Distinguished Service Award has honored individuals whose dedication, leadership and advocacy have strengthened California agriculture and Farm Bureau.

A third-generation fruit and vegetable grower from Orange County, Kawamura has spent more than four decades advancing agriculture at the local, state and national levels. He served as California secretary of food and agriculture from 2003 to 2010 and remains a leading voice on food security, agricultural innovation, climate resilience and land stewardship. Throughout his career, he has championed practical solutions that support farmers as agriculture respond to a growing population and a changing environment.

Before his state service, Kawamura was president of the Orange County Farm Bureau and chair of Western Growers. He continues to farm with Orange County Produce and serves agricultural, educational and nonprofit organizations working to strengthen the future of food production.



A.G. Kawamura will receive the organization's Distinguished Service Award. Photo courtesy of California Farm Bureau



Karen Mills will receive the Helen Roberti Lifetime Service Award. Photo courtesy of California Farm Bureau

Established in 2013, the Helen Roberti Lifetime Service Award honors the legacy of longtime Plumas-Sierra County Farm Bureau manager Helen Roberti. It recognizes current and retired Farm Bureau employees whose dedication and leadership have made a lasting impact on the organization and California agriculture.

Karen Norene Mills served Farm Bureau members for more than three decades, drawing on her legal and policy expertise. After joining the organization in 1988, she became one of California agriculture's most respected advocates on energy, utility and regulatory issues. She represented farmers and ranchers before state agencies, the Legislature and regulatory bodies, helping secure policies that improved the affordability, reliability and availability of essential services for agricultural operations statewide.

As Vice President of Legal Advocacy and Corporate Secretary, Mills mentored staff, guided Farm Bureau's legal advocacy and helped develop policy solutions to some of the most complex issues facing farmers and ranchers. Colleagues across the state have long recognized her steady leadership, institutional knowledge and unwavering commitment to agriculture.

"A.G. and Karen have dedicated their careers to serving agriculture and the people who make it possible," Shannon Douglass, president of the California Farm Bureau said. "Their leadership, integrity and commitment have strengthened Farm Bureau and helped farmers and ranchers navigate challenges for decades. We are grateful for all they have done and proud to recognize them with these well-deserved honors."

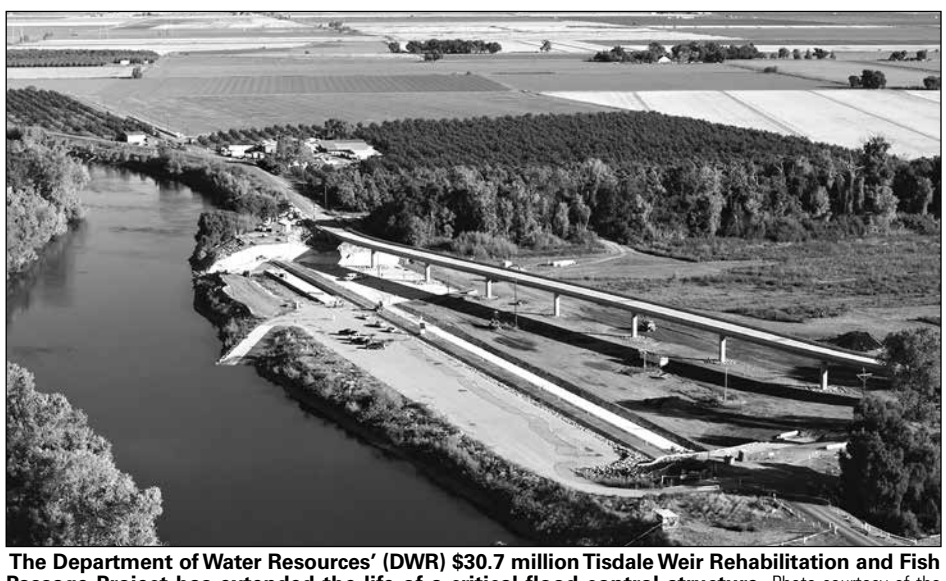
"I've been fortunate to spend my life working alongside people who care deeply about agriculture and the communities it supports," Kawamura said. "This recognition is especially meaningful because it comes from Farm Bureau, an organization that has long been a strong voice for farmers and ranchers. I am honored and grateful to be included among those who have received this award."

"Serving California Farm Bureau members has been one of the great privileges of my career," Mills said. "For nearly four decades, I had the opportunity to work alongside dedicated farmers, ranchers and colleagues who care deeply about the future of agriculture. I am honored by this recognition and grateful for the many people who made that work so rewarding."

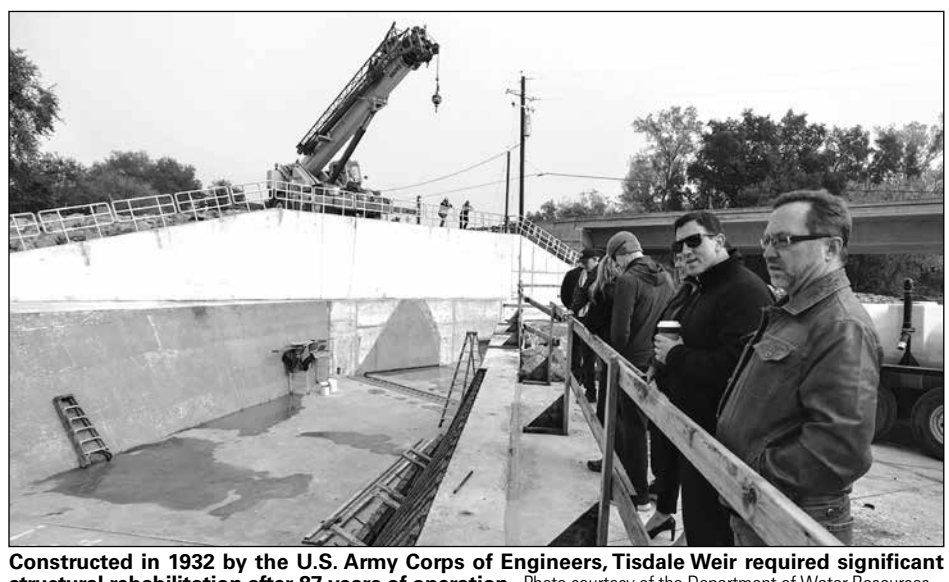
The awards will be presented at the California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Reno, where farmer and rancher delegates from across the state will discuss policy issues and set organizational priorities for the coming year.

California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches as part of a nationwide network representing more than 5 million Farm Bureau members. Learn more at www.cfbf.com or follow @cafarmbureau on Instagram, LinkedIn, X or Facebook. ★

Valley Flood Infrastructure Project Completed Ahead of El Niño Winter



The Department of Water Resources' (DWR) $30.7 million Tisdale Weir Rehabilitation and Fish Passage Project has extended the life of a critical flood control structure. Photo courtesy of the Governor of California



Constructed in 1932 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tisdale Weir required significant structural rehabilitation after 87 years of operation. Photo courtesy of the Department of Water Resources

Department of Water Resources News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - With El Niño conditions raising concerns about potentially heavy winter storms and flooding in California, a major Sacramento Valley flood control project has been completed just in time for the rainy season. The Department of Water Resources' (DWR) $30.7 million Tisdale Weir Rehabilitation and Fish Passage Project has extended the life of a critical flood control structure, helping ensure the historic weir can continue to safely move floodwaters, reduce pressure on levees and protect communities during major storms.

When winter storms cause the Sacramento River to rise, Tisdale Weir is one of the first structures to help protect Sacramento Valley communities from flooding. The Sacramento Valley's system of flood bypasses relies on large structures known as weirs to divert high flows from the Sacramento River, reducing pressure on downstream levees and helping protect communities from flooding.

Constructed in 1932 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tisdale Weir required significant structural rehabilitation after 87 years of operation. Historically, fish could become stranded behind the weir when the Sacramento River receded below the weir crest. As part of the project, a new fish passage was incorporated into the rehabilitated structure to help avoid fish stranding while maintaining the weir's critical flood protection function.

"With El Niño potentially bringing significant storms to California this winter, the completion of this project couldn't be more timely," said Laura Hollender, DWR deputy director for flood management and dam safety. "By extending the life of this critical structure, we're helping ensure the Sacramento Valley's flood management system can continue to do its job when high water arrives, protecting communities and reducing flood risk for generations to come."

The Tisdale Weir is a critical component of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project (SRFCP) and is one of five weirs on the Sacramento River. During high flow events, the Tisdale Weir can convey up to half the river's flow into the Sutter Bypass, relieving pressure on downstream levees. This capability is especially important during prolonged periods of heavy rainfall, when successive storms can cause river levels to remain elevated and place additional stress on the flood control system.

Statewide Flood System Preparations Underway

Every fall, DWR and partner agencies ready California's flood control system for high water by inspecting all 1,600 miles of levees in the State Plan of Flood Control and ensuring the system is ready to operate as designed to reduce flood risk and protect communities.

With El Niño conditions adding uncertainty to the upcoming winter storm season, California is preparing now for potential flooding. DWR's flood operations staff are coordinating closely with local partners in cities and counties across the state, conducting 13 regional workshops, and pre-positioned flood-fighting materials at 74 locations. These materials include 4.4 million sandbags and 400,000 tons of rock for potential emergency levee repairs.

For information on how you can prepare your household for flood emergencies, visit https://www.ready.gov/kit.

For more information on finding your flood risk, visit https://myhazards.caloes.ca.gov/.

For information on obtaining flood insurance, visit https://www.floodsmart.gov/. ★

Society for the Blind Students Take the Stage in 'Roxy's Place'

Society for the Blind News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Local residents with vision loss at nonprofit Society for the Blind in Sacramento debuted their original musical stage play, "Roxy's Place" in early November. Several Society for the Blind students formed their creative arts collaborative, writing, producing and performing in the play. Live audio description was provided for the audience, which was comprised mostly of people who are blind or have low vision.

"Roxy's Place" tells the story of Roxy, described as a "blind no-nonsense café owner," who motivates her guests with vision loss to face their fears, overcome obstacles and fulfill their dreams.

"Roxy is a fantastic embodiment of our mission here at Society for the Blind to empower people with vision loss to discover, develop and achieve their full potential," Shari Roeseler, executive director, Society for the Blind said. "Everyone involved in this production gave their all and developed countless skills while flexing their creative muscles and having fun. What a joy to see this come to life on stage."

Society for the Blind offers an onsite Low Vision Clinic and assistive technology store, as well as four core classes – orientation and mobility, independent living skills, assistive technology and braille – to ensure people with vision loss can stay active, employed and living life to the fullest. The nonprofit also provides a program for seniors that includes support groups, classes and social activities. For youth, Society for the Blind offers a support groups for caregivers and parents of children with vision loss. The nonprofit also provides a braille production program and hosts events open to the public.

For more than 70 years, Sacramento-based Society for the Blind has continued to create innovative ways to empower individuals living with low vision or blindness to discover, develop and achieve their full potential. Since 1954, Society for the Blind has grown from a dedicated group of volunteers to a nationally recognized agency and the only comprehensive rehabilitative teaching center that provides services for a 27-county region of Northern California. The nonprofit provides low-vision eye care, life and job skills training, mentorship and access to tools to maintain independence for more than 5,000 youth, working-age adults and seniors experiencing vision loss each year.

To learn more or make a donation, visit www.SocietyfortheBlind.org. ★

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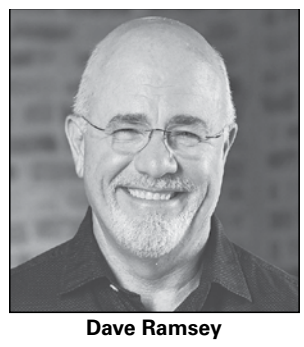
Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey Says

The Ultimate To-Do List

Dear Dave,

Do you have a list of the important, immediate things people should think about if they have to deal with being laid off from a job?

– Oscar

Dear Oscar,

It's great to know you're thinking ahead. Hopefully, you're not facing this problem at the moment, but if you are, here are just a few ideas that come to mind to help hold things together until you're back on your feet again.

First, take any severance pay — plus all the other money you have — and put it in an emergency fund. You never know how long money will be tight in a situation like this. I mean, even if you immediately find a part-time job to tide you over, you're still going to be facing a significant loss of income in the short term.

You know how much I love beating down debt, right? At this point, you need to stop paying extra on any debt you have. Pull the plug on retirement planning temporarily, too. You don't need to worry about this stuff when you're in the middle of a full-blown crisis. A detailed, bare-bones household budget is also a necessity. It's beans and rice time when something like this happens, so no eating out, buying new things or vacations for a while.

Many times, people don't want to experience the pain of a scaled-back lifestyle while they're also feeling the pain of a job loss. Some of them even turn to credit cards, and that's a really bad idea. It only makes a bad situation worse.

Be on the hunt for life insurance, as well, if you previously had it only through your employer. Everyone needs a good, inexpensive level-term life insurance policy outside of what's offered at the workplace. And when it comes to medical insurance, consider looking into a government health care plan, or health savings account (HSA), one with a high deductible and low premium.

Finally, you've got to be willing to take any honest work that comes your way. This means even part-time jobs like delivering pizza. There's no shame in honest work, and you might even be surprised by how much some people make doing this very thing.

Great question, Oscar!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is a nine-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★



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AA 24-Hour Hotline

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Nar-Anon Family Group Meetings

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

POLICE LOGS

The following arrests were reported by the Galt Police Department. All individuals are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Galt police responded to a variety of calls and arrested at least nine people from Nov. 16 to Nov. 22.

Nov. 16

11:26 a.m., Theft, Galt High School, North Lincoln Way. Case report issued.

9:44 p.m., Attempt warrant service, Maple and C streets. Adult arrest.

Nov. 19

9:42 a.m., Missing adult, Glendale Avenue. Case report issued.

11:05 p.m., Domestic violence, Wristen Way. Adult arrest.

Nov. 20

2:21 p.m., Attempt warrant service, Amberhill Avenue. Adult arrest.

Nov. 21

1:37 a.m., Narcotics violation, South Lincoln Way and Ranch Road. Adult arrest.

9:30 p.m., Trespassing, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church on E Street. Adult arrest.

3:20 p.m., DUI, Glendale Avenue and Fairway Drive. Adult arrest.

7:35 p.m., Reckless driving, Vintage Oak Avenue. Adult arrest.

11:44 p.m., Attempt warrant service, northbound state Highway 99 and Walnut Avenue. Adult arrest.

Nov. 22

3:33 p.m., Narcotics violation, Kost Road and Joy Drive. Adult arrest.

4:15 p.m., Vandalism, Starbucks on East Stockton Boulevard, three subjects "harassed the store", banged on a window, and tore apart drive-thru cones. Case report issued. ★

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Strong Member Demand Leads to Sellout of Republic Stadium's First Two Clubs

Sacramento Republic FC News Release



Quail Club members will have direct access to a climate-controlled space with select refreshments and food included, as well as a private bar for speedy service. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Well in advance of the club's 2028 stadium opening, Republic FC announced that the first two club seating products introducing a new standard of comfort and premium hospitality for matchdays have sold out in just over three weeks.

After the club opened Republic Preview Center to guests in mid-October, Season Ticket Members were provided with an exclusive presale window as a thank you for their unrivaled support since the 2014 inaugural season. Since opening, the club has hosted over 600 appointments, and fans selected all the available inventory for the team's two new top tier premium experiences. As a result of the incredible demand from fans, Republic FC is accelerating its stadium offerings and introducing its next seating product – the Quail Club. Seat-selection appointments began by appointment only, Nov. 17.

"Our Season Ticket Members built this club, and selling out our two top-tier club offerings in three weeks shows how excited fans are for the amenities and experience that is coming in our new home," said Tim Holt, president and general manager, Sacramento Republic FC. "We're excited to welcome more people to Republic Preview Center to showcase the thoughtfully appointed Quail Club and the special experiences that we'll have for fans in 2028."

A world-class fan experience is a guiding principle in the development of Republic FC's new home. For the first time in the club's history, the team will be able to provide a modern, elevated matchday experience with amenities that will rival the best soccer-specific venues in the country.

Republic FC's new stadium ticketing, premium and partnership sales are being led by Elevate, the award-winning global sports and entertainment agency. Elevate also partnered with Republic FC to develop and design Republic Preview Center, where fans and customers can get a first look at the stadium design features and experiences awaiting fans in 2028.

"This is what it looks like when a club and its partner work as one team," said Dustin Vicari, chief revenue officer, Sacramento Republic FC, and EVP, Property Sales, Elevate. "The Republic Preview Center has given fans a chance to envision the type of matchday experience they desire by providing an incredibly personalized seat selection opportunity. Tunnel Club sold out in only 13 days, and based on that pace, we fully expect Quail Club to move quickly as well, therefore anyone who wants a premium seat should place a deposit now."

Season Ticket Members who did not purchase in Tunnel Club or The Fourteen keep their priority for Quail Club Seats and will receive details directly from their Republic FC representative. Premium Seating depositors will receive an email to begin booking their seat-selection appointments as well.

Fans can become a depositor and secure their place in line for an appointment by placing a $50 Premium Seating deposit at RepublicStadium.com. Based on demand for the first two clubs, Quail Club Seats are expected to sell out.

Embedded in the East Stand, Quail Club brings fans closer to the pitch than ever before. Twenty-two-inch-wide mesh seats with high back rests provide additional fan comfort. Quail Club members will have direct access to a climate-controlled space with select refreshments and food included, as well as a private bar for speedy service. With only 300 seats, Quail Club seats are expected to go quickly.

Tucked into the stadium's West Tower, Republic FC's first club offerings – The Tunnel Club and The Fourteen – are examples of the club's commitment to creating a world-class fan experience. The first-floor Tunnel Club puts guests at the heart of the action, located behind the team benches with a view to the team lineup before players step on the field. The Fourteen is designed as a club within a club located on the second floor of the West Tower located on the field's midline. Its name is homage to the inaugural season of the club when Republic FC smashed records, made Sacramento a soccer city, and earned our first championship hardware – proudly on display in the club. Award winning designer Edith Ponciano of EP Atelier worked with the club to develop the spaces with Sacramento Elegance as the central theme. EP Atelier has curated premium experiences at Chase Center, LAFC's BMO Stadium, Austin FC's Q2 Stadium, San Diego FC's Snapdragon Stadium, and most recently the Tennessee Titans' Nissan Stadium ahead of Super Bowl LXI.

Republic Stadium construction continues to make significant progress toward a 2028 opening. Foundations for the stadium super column structures that support the massive 4,300-ton canopy and trussing grid are actively pouring and curing. Some of the vertical elements of the stadium are set to begin later this month with structural retaining walls. Stadium infrastructure continues with construction of the streets surrounding the stadium site east of 7th Street. Over 100 jobs have been created since groundbreaking, with an expected $750 million in economic impact connected to construction.

For more information, visit RepublicStadium.com. ★

Akridge Makes History as the Hornets' First-Ever Big West Women's Basketball Player of the Week

Sacramento State Athletics News Release



Junior guard Koko Akridge became the first-ever Sacramento State women's basketball player to be named The Big West Player of the Week on Nov. 16. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Junior guard Koko Akridge became the first-ever Sacramento State women's basketball player to be named The Big West Player of the Week on Nov. 16 after helping the Hornets to a pair of victories to improve to 4-1 overall on the year.

Entering the week as the leading scorer in The Big West, Akridge spearheaded the offense for the green and gold, averaging 20.7 points, 2.7 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 2.3 steals per game against Cal State East Bay, University at Buffalo, and Niagara, while shooting a robust 56 percent (20-for-36) from the field overall and 50 percent (9-for-18) from beyond the arc.

After opening with an 18-point showing on 7-of-10 shooting in the win over the Pioneers to tip-off the home portion of the schedule, the San Diego, Calif., native netted her second and third 20-point performances of the year during the team's first-ever trip to New York, finishing with 21 points against the Bulls and matching her collegiate high with 23 points against the Purple Eagles.

She added three rebounds, a team-high six assists, and a pair of steals against Buffalo, while playing only 28 minutes in a rout of Niagara, adding two rebounds, two assists and two steals as part of a 57-point victory.

All told, Akridge has scored in double figures in each of the team's first five games, while her 99 points in that stretch are the most by a Hornet in the first five games of a season since Lianna Tillman collected 113 in her first five games in 2021-22 en route to Big Sky Conference Player of the Year laurels.

Aside from her conference-leading scoring average, Akridge also leads the league in total points, field goals made, and free throws made, while standing second in three-pointers made and three-pointers per game, sixth in both free throw and three-point percentage, and ninth in field goal percentage.

Her two 23-point performances against Nevada and Niagara are tied for the third-most in a single game in The Big West this year, while her five makes from beyond the arc in both of those contests are tied for the second highest total in a game this year as of press time. ★

Brent Martin Named Preseason All-American



Cosumnes River College sophomore Brent Martin has been named a 2027 California Community College Baseball Coaches Association (CCCBCA) Preseason All-American. Photo courtesy of Consumnes River College

Consumnes River College News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Cosumnes River College sophomore Brent Martin has been named a 2027 California Community College Baseball Coaches Association (CCCBCA) Preseason All-American, earning recognition among the top returning players in California community college baseball.

Martin enters his sophomore season following an outstanding freshman campaign in which he established himself as one of the Hawks' most productive two-way players and earned First-Team All-Conference honors.

The standout infielder/pitcher was a key offensive contributor for Cosumnes River throughout the 2026 season, leading the team with seven home runs while hitting .370 with 57 hits, 35 RBIs, 41 runs scored and 18 extra-base hits in 41 games. Martin also posted a .418 on-base percentage and .584 slugging percentage, finishing with an impressive 1.002 OPS.

His 57 hits ranked among the team's top offensive totals, while his seven home runs made him one of the Hawks' leading power hitters. Martin's combination of contact, power and run production made him a consistent presence in the Cosumnes River lineup.

"Brent, being named a Preseason All-American is a tremendous honor and a special accolade," said Don Mico, Cosumnes River head baseball coach. "He is a very good player but also a great human being."

Martin's contributions extended beyond the batter's box. He also appeared in 15 games on the mound as a freshman, recording 40 strikeouts in 34.1 innings while earning three saves. His ability to contribute in multiple roles made him one of the most versatile players on the Hawks' roster.

"Brent has earned the respect of his teammates and coaches through his work ethic, leadership, and competitiveness," said Scott Haynes, Cosumnes River associate head coach. "Being named a preseason All-American is well deserved."

Martin's freshman season also included a strong finish to the year. He helped the Hawks close the regular season with a three-game sweep of Diablo Valley from April 22-24, collecting wins in each of his final two appearances of the regular season before continuing to contribute on both sides of the ball during the postseason push.

Now entering his sophomore season, Martin returns as one of the Hawks' most experienced offensive weapons and a proven two-way contributor. His combination of power at the plate, defensive versatility and ability to impact the pitching staff gives Cosumnes River a dynamic piece as the Hawks prepare for the 2027 campaign.

The preseason honor adds to a growing list of accolades for Martin, who was already recognized as a First-Team All-Conference selection following his freshman season.

With Martin returning to the Hawks' lineup and continuing his role as a two-way player, Cosumnes River enter the 2027 season with one of the region's premier returning talents looking to build on a breakout freshman campaign. ★

ABOUT TOWN

Continuing through Sunday, Dec. 20

Small Works & Itty-Bitty Mini Art Show

1 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily at the Lodi Art Center. Join us for a joyful 3-in-1 holiday art show featuring small works, itty-bitty mini art, and a special youth division. This event celebrates creativity in small and miniature sizes. 110 W. Pine St., Lodi.

Continuing through Sunday, Dec. 6

Miles for Migration

This fall, join the Friends of the Cosumnes River Preserve for this virtual fitness and fundraising challenge inspired by one of California's greatest wildlife spectacles – the annual arrival of Sandhill Cranes at the Cosumnes River Preserve. Choose your own activity, set a personal mileage goal, and invite friends and family to support your journey with flat donations or per-mile pledges. Whether you're walking your neighborhood, hiking your favorite trail, biking scenic backroads, or paddling local waterways, every mile you complete helps protect the habitats that migrating birds depend on. Funds raised support the Friends of the Cosumnes River Preserve's work to restore habitat, inspire future conservationists through environmental education, support volunteers, and protect one of California's most important wetland ecosystems. Registration and more information at Cosumnes.org.

Friday, Nov. 27 through Sunday, Jan. 3

Lodi's Magical Christmas

Opens at 5 p.m. each night. Open select nights through Sunday, Dec. 13, then nightly Wednesday, Dec. 16 through Sunday, Jan. 3 at the Lodi Grape Festival Grounds. A brand-new holiday tradition transforms the grounds into a dazzling winter wonderland filled with synchronized light shows, nightly drone performances, festive activities and plenty of Christmas cheer for the whole family. Guests can also dance across an interactive LED floor, play games, pose for holiday photos and enjoy the sight of falling snow in Lodi. Tickets and more information at magicallightshows.com. 413 E. Lockeford St., Lodi.

Friday, Nov. 27

Live Music with Phil 'n da Pinots

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Barsetti Vineyards. Call 209-744-6062 for more information and reservations. 400 4th St., #150, Old Town Galt.

Saturday, Nov. 28 through Monday, Nov. 30

Holiday Boutique

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lodi Community Art Center. Shop local this holiday season at the Holiday Boutique, featuring unique handmade gifts created by local artists. Browse jewelry, greeting cards, paintings, stocking stuffers, and more while searching for thoughtful gifts for everyone on your list. 110 W. Pine St., Lodi.

Saturday, Nov. 28 and Sunday, Nov. 29

Holiday Makers' Fair

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at Lavender Estates. This event promises a delightful experience. With over 20 curated talented vendors showcasing their unique creations, you'll find the perfect gifts to spread holiday cheer while supporting local artisans. Embrace the holiday spirit and discover one-of-a-kind treasures that will make your season even more special. Let's come together as a community to celebrate creativity, craftsmanship, and the joy of giving. Mark your calendars and bring your loved ones along for a festive shopping experience. 9050 Tavernor Rd., Wilton.

Saturday, Nov. 28

Holiday Cookie Tasting & Craft Fair

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at All Roots Allowed Farm Stand. Enjoy fresh food, homemade goodies, local crafters, and more. 12003 Walmort Rd., Wilton.

Holiday Gift Boutique

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Revel Lodi. We're excited to welcome a variety of talented local vendors offering unique, homemade gifts and one-of-a-kind treasures perfect for finding something special for everyone on your holiday shopping list while supporting small businesses in our community. This is also a wonderful opportunity to tour our community, meet our residents, learn more about life at Revel Lodi, and connect with the amazing local artisans and vendors who will be joining us for the day. 2923 Reynolds Ranch Parkway, Lodi.

Big Oak Nursery Small Business Saturday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Take a picture with Santa, enjoy free kids' activities, and shop our selection of treats and Christmas trees. 10071 Grant Line Rd., Elk Grove.

Holiday Sip & Shop

Noon to 4 p.m. at Jessie's Grove Winery. Get a head start on your holiday shopping. Browse unique handcrafted gifts, shop from local vendors, and enjoy festive treats and beverages in a beautiful winery setting. Live music from "Network" follows the market from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Entry is a donation benefiting PAL's Haven and Friends of Feral Felines, two local animal rescue organizations. 1973 W. Turner Rd., Lodi.

Lodi Small Business Saturday

Enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides from noon to 4 p.m. The rides are free, and tips are appreciated. Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Gingerbread House in Santa's Village at Post Office Plaza. Then join us for the Downtown Lodi lighting ceremony at 5 p.m., presented by Lodi Electric Utility. Downtown Lodi.

Sandhill Crane Guided Tour

3:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. at the Cosumnes River Preserve. The tour begins at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center, rain or shine, with an introduction to Sandhill Crane biology, behavior, migration, and conservation. Participants will learn about the unique features of these remarkable birds and why the Central Valley plays such an important role in their annual migration. Following the introduction, participants will either walk or drive to a viewing location, depending on where the cranes are expected to roost that evening. Along the way, guides will help participants spot and identify a variety of other wildlife, including shorebirds, ducks, geese, swans, and raptors. Registration and more information at Cosumnes.org. 13501 Franklin Blvd.

Miracle Mile Tree Lighting Ceremony

5:30 p.m. Enjoy pictures with Santa, shop with the Grinch, listen to holiday carolers, and shop Small Business Saturday specials. Miracle Mile District at Tuxedo Court, Stockton.

Tuesday, Dec. 1

A Very Merry Market

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Wilton Hall. Join us for a little shopping and a lot of giving. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy or baby item to donate. Our drive supports Miracles in Old Elk Grove. 11040 Wilton Rd., Wilton.

Community Orchestra Concert

7 p.m. at English Oaks Sevent-day Adventist Church. Experience the magic of live music while supporting your community. This concert showcases performers of all ages, featuring both beginner and advanced orchestra groups. From young talents to seasoned musicians, the shared passion of music unites us all. Bring your family and friends for an inspirational night of live music and engagement with our beloved community. Tickets available at saylamusicacademy.com/tickets. 1260 W. Century Blvd., Lodi.

Thursday, Dec. 3 through Sunday, Dec. 6

Holiday Boutique – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lodi Community Art Center. Shop local this holiday season at the Holiday Boutique, featuring unique handmade gifts created by local artists. Browse jewelry, greeting cards, paintings, stocking stuffers, and more while searching for thoughtful gifts for everyone on your list. 110 W. Pine St., Lodi.

Christmas at the Fair

1 p.m. to 8 p.m. each day at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds. For eight spectacular days across two holiday weekends (Fair continues Thursday, Dec. 10 through Sunday, Dec. 13), the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds in Stockton transforms into a festive wonderland filled with twinkling lights, carnival rides, ice skating, fireworks, holiday shopping, delicious fair food, live entertainment and Christmas memories waiting to be made. Bring the kids. Bring your friends. Bring the whole family. And best of all? Your event tickets are free! Reserve your spot on Eventbrite.com. 1658 S. Airport Way, Stockton.

Thursday, Dec. 3

Christmas Night Market

5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Downtown Lodi. Join the fun for an evening of holiday shopping, local vendors, and festive finds. Browse unique gifts, support small businesses, and enjoy the holiday atmosphere as you shop your way through the market. Bring your family and friends for a festive night. 210 N. Sacramento St., Lodi.

Lodi Parade of Lights

6:17 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Downtown Lodi. Lights, food, lights, floats, lights, fun! Come out to see the biggest and brightest Christmas parade in Lodi. Our whole community shines brightest when we're all celebrating together, and there's even a chance Santa will be watching. The parade winds through the heart of downtown Lodi, showcasing the city's festive spirit and small-town charm. Arrive early to secure your spot – many locals set out chairs days in advance. Parking fills up quickly, so carpooling is encouraged. Presented by your Lodi Kiwanis Club. See visitlodi.com/events for parade route.

Friday, Dec. 4 through Sunday, Dec. 6

34th Annual Festival of Trees

At the San Joaquin County Historical Museum. Join us for this festive celebration of the holidays featuring, crafts, entertainment, food, and beautifully decorated Christmas trees. Enjoy performances by local artists, pick up a festive swag or wreath made by our Docent Council members, and stroll our beautiful 18-acre grounds as you and your families make memories which will last a lifetime. Friday preview at 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. is for those who have difficulty in large crowds; main event Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ticket information at sanjoaquinhistory.org. 11793 N. Micke Grove Rd., Lodi.

Friday, Dec. 4 and Saturday, Dec. 5

Christmas Stroll

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Oak Farm Vineyards. Adults are invited to bundle up and join us for a festive evening. Wander through the vineyard and enjoy the magic of our annual Christmas Stroll surrounded by thousands of sparkling Christmas lights. Your evening includes a complimentary welcome pour of wine, cozy wagon ride around the property, local artisan vendors to browse and shop, and more. Tickets available at oakfarmvineyards.com. 23627 N. DeVries Rd., Lodi.

Friday, Dec. 4

Galt Tree Lighting Ceremony

4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at City Hall. A beloved holiday tradition is getting even brighter this year. Celebrate the season and enjoy an evening of holiday festivities, including performances by local school and community bands and choirs, photos with Santa, Christmas crafts, cookie decorating and more. 380 Civic Dr.

Let the Season Begin with Barsetti

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. We're bringing together seven hand-selected local businesses, live Christmas music by the amazing Matt Davis and the kind of holiday atmosphere that will put you in the Christmas spirit. Your $25 ticket includes a welcome glass of sparkling wine, a custom Barsetti Christmas tote, and entry into our Holiday Gift Collection raffle. Small bites and additional wine will be available for purchase. This event is for 21 and over, and tickets are limited. 400 4th St., #150, Old Town Galt.

Inaugural Holiday Parade

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Stockton's Miracle Mile. Stockton's historic Miracle Mile will come alive with festive floats, beautifully decorated vehicles, marching bands, holiday music, and plenty of holiday cheer as local businesses, schools, and community organizations light up Pacific Avenue. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the sights of the season. Pacific Avenue from Alpine Avenue to Harding Way, Stockton.

Grinchmas at the Market

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Galt Market grounds. Something wonderfully Grinchy is coming to the Galt Market. After enjoying the Tree Lighting Ceremony on Civic Drive, head over to the Galt Market Grounds for a free old-fashioned drive-in movie featuring Dr. Seuss' The Grinch. Bring the family, get cozy and enjoy a festive movie night complete with hot cocoa and a sweet treat. 610 Chabolla Ave.

Saturday, Dec. 5 and Sunday, Dec. 6

Jingle Mingle Holiday Sip & Shop

At Calivines Winery & Olive Mill. Two shopping experiences each day: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Celebrate the season with a festive weekend of shopping, sipping, and giving back. Explore a curated marketplace featuring more than 20 local artisans and vendors offering jewelry, holiday décor, candles, baked goods, and other handcrafted gifts perfect for loved ones or a little self-treating. Delicious seasonal mimosas will be served and options to reserve brunch after are available. This year's event partners with Eleanor By Young Women, who will be collecting canned foods, socks and blankets for St. Mary's Community Services to support those in need. A portion of ticket sales will be donated to support their mission. Every contribution will also enter you into a drawing to win a Calivines product gift package. 13950 N. Thornton Rd., Lodi.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Wilton Winter Festival and Parade

8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wilton Community Center. Enjoy one of Wilton's favorite holiday traditions as our community comes together to celebrate the season. Join us for a festive day filled with holiday cheer, family fun, shopping, delicious food, and a visit from Santa himself. Breakfast and lunch will be available for purchase during the event. 9717 Colony Rd., Wilton.

Stockton Santa Dash

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the University of the Pacific Brookside Fields. Join us for this annual 5K and 10K run/walk event. Runners and walkers all get dressed up as St. Nick for a holly-jolly closed-course run that brings a thousand people to the scenic waterside of the 209 for hot chocolate, candy canes, music, a toy drive, a good time, and of course a good time. This is a benefit for The Midsole Project, a nonprofit organization that donates shoes to young runners. At this event, they also help provide toys to every little runner. Registration and more details at runsignup.com. 1234 Brookside Rd., Stockton.

Santa Loves Lodi

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Klinker Brick Winery. Kick off the holiday season in true Lodi fashion at this event hosted by Love Lodi and Klinker Brick Winery. Enjoy an afternoon filled with festive fun, including wines and food available for purchase, holiday shopping with local vendors, live music, and a special visit from Santa, ready for family photos. 15887 N. Alpine Rd., Lodi.

Toys 4 Music Annual Toy Drive

Noon to 5 p.m. at Jeremy Wine Co. Join the festivities at a special holiday benefit concert collecting toys for Toys for Tots and raising funds for Hospice of San Joaquin. Enjoy an exciting lineup of live musical performances while supporting two meaningful causes. Bring a toy, gather your friends and family, and get ready for a festive celebration filled with music and community spirit. 16750 CA-88, Lockeford.

"Believe!"

A Magical Musical Christmas Spectacular – 2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the Littleton Community Center. Everyone is welcome at this entertaining family-friendly Christmas spectacular. Direct from Nashville, stars from "A Swingin' Little Christmas" bring their vocal talents to the west coast in this singular performance that touches on the importance of believing in the magic of the Christmas spirit. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the City of Galt Senior Programs, making this holiday celebration even more meaningful. Tickets are $10 for ages 8 and up, 7 and under are $5 and available at realmagicevents.net. 410 Civic Dr.

Lighting of the Night

4 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the 4th Street Promenade. Join us for an evening filled with holiday cheer in Old Town Galt. Explore the Holiday Market on 4th Street, enjoy delicious food from local vendors, and watch the streets come alive during the Lighting of the Night Parade, starting at 6:30 p.m. 4th and C Streets.

"Oh. What. Fun!"

4 p.m. at the Charlene Powers Lange Performing Arts Theatre. Join us for an unforgettable celebration of talent, creativity, and the joy of dance as performers from Galaxy Dance Arts take the stage. Tickets and more information at lodi.gov/845/events-performances. 125 S. Hutchins St., Lodi.

Delta Reflections Lighted Boat Parade

5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Weber Point Events Center at the Downtown Stockton Waterfront. Stockton Yacht Club and Roger Hahn will sponsor the 45th Annual Lighted Boat Parade. The parade is a gift to the community from Stockton Yacht Club, Roger Hahn, and its many registered boaters. The parade will begin at 5:00 p.m., upriver at Windmill Cove, reaching the downtown Stockton Marina and Weber Point Events Center at around 6:15 p.m. and then will return to Light 39 in the Stockton Deep Water Channel. Parade viewing is free to the public. 221 N. Center St., Stockton.

Sunday, Dec. 6

World of Wonders Science Museum Free Admission Day

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Experience a day of discovery and enjoy the museum at your own pace while taking part in hands-on, family-friendly activities offered throughout the day. No tickets or reservations are needed – just arrive and explore. 2 N. Sacramento St., Lodi.

Band Rehearsal

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Barsetti Vineyards. Join us to sing along with "Phil 'n da Pinots," request your own songs, or even join the band on stage to play along. Call 209-744-6062 for more information and reservations. 400 4th St., #150, Old Town Galt.

Deck the Cookie!

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Appellation Lodi – Wine & Roses. Step into the sweetness of the season with a hands-on holiday cookie decorating class led by local artisan Katie Wood. Guests will learn approachable techniques for working with icing, piping festive details, layering colors, and adding decorative finishes to create a collection of beautifully designed holiday cookies. Made for families, this cheerful experience invites guests of all ages to gather, create, and enjoy a little holiday magic together. Each participant will leave with their decorated cookies, helpful tips from Katie, and inspiration for making festive treats at home. $95 – all decorating supplies, cookies, and hot cocoa are included. Register at appellationhotels.com/hotels/california-lodi. 2505 W. Turner Rd., Lodi.

Continued on page 10

ABOUT TOWN (CONT)

Continued from page 9

Monday, Dec. 7

Police Department Holiday Open House

4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Join the Galt Police Department for a sweet holiday adventure at their annual Holiday Open House. Bring the whole family to help catch the Gingerbread Man, meet our officers, explore the department, enjoy cookies and story time, and take a photo with Santa. We hope to see you there for an evening of holiday fun. 455 Industrial Dr.

Ongoing Events

Galt Café & Cars

Every second Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at Café Latte. Open to cars, trucks, bicycles, motorcycles and anything else with wheels. Next event is Saturday, Dec. 12. 1000 C St.

Twin Cities Cruisers Cars and Coffee

Last Sunday of every month, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Life's Grind coffee house in the Raley's shopping center. All makes and models are welcome. 10420 Twin Cities Road.

Widowed Persons Social Club

Has a variety of events coming up this month:

November 27 – 10:00 a.m. Mixed variety game day at Elk Grove UMC, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd. A small donation to the church is expected. Contact Gerri at 916-698-1940.

November 28 – 1:00 p.m. Book club at special location for this month. Contact Merrylyn at 916-549-4264.

December 3 – Noon: no-host lunch and Bunco at Patty's Pizza, 8591 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact Lois at 916-212-4196 or Susie at 916-798-0007.

December 4 – 10:00 a.m. Pinochle at Elk Grove UMC, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd. A small donation to the church is expected. Contact Jim at 916-768-1923.

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

Wilton Bingo

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

Library Events

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

Friday, Nov. 27: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (G) English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (G)

Tuesday, Dec. 1: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (WG)

Wednesday, Dec. 2: English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (G)

Friday, Dec. 4: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (G) English conversation group, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (G) Adult book group, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. This month we're reading and discussing "The House on the Cerulean Sea" by T.J. Klune. (WG)

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

Veterans Meetings

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

American Legion Post 233 and Auxiliary Unit 233 – general meetings the fourth Thursday each month at 7 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 9240 Survey Road, Elk Grove. Dinner at 6 p.m. EXCEPTION: No meeting in December.

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

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

Elk Grove American Legion Post 233 has a Rider's Chapter #233 that meets at District 56. Point of contact is Steven Hernandez at shernandez64@comcast.net. Any member of the Legion, Sons and/or Auxiliary who has a motorcycle is welcome to join. 8230 Civic Center Dr., Elk Grove.

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

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

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

Legal Advertising
916-483-0946

LEGAL ADVERTISING

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

2508 Garfield Ave. • Ste. A
Carmichael, CA 95608

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

NOTICE INVITING FORMAL SEALED BIDS

Galt Joint Union Elementary School District ("District") invites sealed bids for the Vernon E. Greer Elementary School E-Rate Network Cabling and Fiber Backbone Upgrade, FCC Form 470 No. 270000144. Bids must be received by the date and time and at the location stated below.

Project Description

The Project consists of utilizing E-Rate funding to update the existing network cabling infrastructure at Vernon E. Greer Elementary School. Approximately 55 rooms, 285 drops (avg.195 ft) and 9 fiber runs (Avg. 483 ft). Work includes removal of obsolete and abandoned cabling; installation of Category 6A copper cabling and an OM4 fiber optic backbone; installation and modification of cable pathways; improvements to network equipment racks and cable management; and testing, certification, labeling, and documentation.

The contractor shall furnish all labor, materials, equipment, supervision, and services necessary to complete the Project in accordance with the Contract Documents, except for equipment expressly identified as District-provided.

Project location:
Vernon E. Greer Elementary School
248 W. A Street
Galt, CA 95632

Work will include, but is not limited to:

- Assessment and removal of legacy cabling (Cat5/Cat5e, coax, unused runs, abandoned wiring) in accordance with NEC and industry standards.
- Installation of new cabling, including Cat6A (or district-specified standard) network cabling, fiber optic backbone runs, and updated patch panels.
- Modernization of pathways, including new conduit, J-hooks, cable trays, surface raceways, and wall penetrations as required.
- Upgrades to MDF/IDF rooms, including rack reorganization, labeling, cable management, while using existing fiber enclosures.
- Testing and certification of all installed cabling to meet TIA/EIA standards, with full documentation provided to the district.
- Coordination with district Technology Coordinator to ensure minimal disruption to instructional operations and alignment with existing network architecture.
- Compliance with all applicable codes, including fire-stopping, plenum requirements, seismic bracing, and ADA considerations.

Scope of Work

- **Cabling Installation**
  - Install approximately (285) Cat6A plenum-rated data drops. Label all drop with the following pattern: nn-xx; nn = room number, xx = port#. For example, 02-01 is room 02 port 01.
  - Each drop shall terminate at a Leviton Cat6A RJ45 jack in a single-gang faceplate at the workstation end.
  - Cables shall be Belden 10GX or equivalent, blue jacket, plenum-rated, tested to 10 Gbps.
  - All terminations shall be certified to meet or exceed Category 6A performance using Fluke DSX-8000 or equivalent tester.
  - There are 37 classrooms that have an access point. Install approximately 37 Cat6A plenum-rated data drops for each access point connection in addition to the data drops above.
- **Pathways and Conduit**
  - Provide new 1-inch EMT conduit from wall plates to ceiling space, with J-hooks spaced ≤ 4 ft apart.
  - Install 1-inch underground conduit between portable buildings and the existing IDF location.
  - Include pull strings in all conduit runs. Label all pull string with "To: XX"; XX = destination location.
- **Fiber Backbone**
  - Install nine (9) 6-strand OM4 multimode fiber optic cable from the MDF (Admin/Office Building) to each of the IDFs.
  - Terminate fiber in LC connectors within existing rack-mounted enclosure.
  - Provide test results for insertion loss and continuity.
- **MDF/IDF Upgrades**
  - MDF (Admin/Office Building): Use existing fiber patch panel, install 1 × 19U cabinet, install 1 × 48-port Cat6A patch panel, label all ports, and integrate with existing HP/Aruba switches.
  - IDF (Portables/buildings): Use existing fiber patch panel, install × 5 - 12U rack, install 1 × 48-port Cat6A patch panel, 1 × UPS (District-provided), and 1 × Aruba 2930M-48G-PoE+ switch (District-provided).
  - IDF (Library/BFLC): Use existing fiber patch panel, install × 1 - 26U rack, install 1 × 48-port Cat6A patch panel, 1 × UPS (District-provided), and 1 × Aruba 2930M-48G-PoE+ switch (District-provided).
  - Provide cable management (horizontal and vertical), labeling, and rack grounding.
- **Testing and Documentation**
  - Provide full certification reports for all copper and fiber runs.
  - Deliver updated as-built drawings, labeling maps, and test documentation in PDF format.
- **Coordination**
  - Coordinate with District Technology Coordinator for switch installation and cutover.
  - Schedule work to minimize disruption to school operations.

Performance Requirements

- All cabling shall support 10 Gbps Ethernet and PoE++ up to 90 W per port.
- All materials shall be UL-listed and compliant with NFPA 70 and TIA/EIA-606-B labeling standards.
- Contractor shall provide a 25-year manufacturer warranty on installed cabling system.

The objective of this project is to deliver a reliable, high-performance cabling infrastructure that supports increased bandwidth demands, improved network stability, and long-term scalability across the site.

Bid Due Date, Time, and Delivery Location
The District must receive sealed bids by 10:00 a.m. PST on Thursday, January 21, 2027. Bids will be opened at that time at the delivery location listed below. Late bids will be rejected.

Bid Delivery and Opening Location:
Galt Joint Union Elementary School District
Business Office
1018 C Street, Suite 210
Galt, CA 95632

Submittal of Bid
Bidders must submit sealed bids using the forms furnished by the District and include all documents required by the bid package. Bids must be received at the designated delivery location by the bid deadline stated above.

Bid Documents Available
On the District's website, Facilities and Planning page: **https://www.galt.k12.ca.us/Our-District/Facilities-and-Planning/Formal-Bids/**

E-Rate FCC Form 470 Tool Data: **https://opendata.usac.org/E-Rate/E-Rate-FCC-Form-470-Tool-Data/jt8s-3q52/about_data**

Mandatory Pre-Bid Walk
The mandatory pre-bid walk will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 2026, at 1:45 p.m. PST at Vernon E. Greer Elementary School, 248 W. A Street, Galt, CA 95632. Bidders must meet at the school's administrative office and submit any questions arising from the walk in writing as described in the Request for Information section below. Bidders who fail to attend the mandatory pre-bid walk will be disqualified. Bidders must submit any questions arising from the walk in writing as described in the Request for Information section below.

Request for Information
All Requests for Information (RFIs), including questions arising from the mandatory pre-bid walk, must be received by 10:00 a.m. PST on Thursday, January 7, 2027.

Email RFIs to Alicia Valdovinos, Administrative Assistant to the Chief Business Official, at **business@galt.k12.ca.us**. Use Greer Network Cabling and Fiber Backbone Upgrade — RFI as the subject line.

The District will post written responses by Thursday, January, 14, 2027, on the District's Facilities and Planning Formal Bids page and in the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) under FCC Form 470 No. 270000144. Clarifications or changes affecting the bidding requirements will be issued by written addendum. Oral statements do not modify the Contract Documents.

District Contact
Galt Joint Union Elementary School District
Alejandra Garibay, Chief Business Official
Alicia Valdovinos, Administrative Assistant to CBO
business@galt.k12.ca.us
1018 C Street, Suite 210
Galt, CA 95632

Pre-Qualification of Contractors
Bidders must hold a current and active California contractor license in the C-7 (Low Voltage Systems) or B (General Building) classification. The District must receive completed prequalification applications by Friday, December 18, 2026, and bidders must receive written prequalification approval from the District before submitting a bid. To obtain the application and submission instructions, contact the District's Business Office at business@galt.k12.ca.us. All contractors and subcontractors must hold a California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) license appropriate for the work they perform. A B-licensed bidder must also hold the C-7 classification or subcontract the installation, termination, and testing of data, voice, and fiber-optic cabling to a properly licensed C-7 contractor. Any work requiring a C-10 (Electrical) license must be performed by a properly licensed C-10 contractor or subcontractor. All required licenses must be current, active, and in good standing at the time of bid and throughout the project. The District will verify licenses through the CSLB before awarding the contract.

Prevailing Wages and DIR Requirements
This is a public works project subject to applicable California prevailing wage laws. The contractor and all subcontractors must pay no less than the applicable prevailing wage rates established by the Department of Industrial Relations ("DIR").

Applicable wage determinations are available at:

https://www.dir.ca.gov/OPRL/DPreWageDetermination.htm

Contractors and subcontractors must be registered with DIR pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5, as required by law. No contractor or subcontractor may be listed in a bid or awarded work unless properly registered, except as expressly permitted by law.

This project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations.

The contractor and subcontractors must comply with applicable certified payroll, apprenticeship, nondiscrimination, and other public works requirements.

Payment and Performance Bonds
The successful bidder must furnish:
- A performance bond equal to 100% of the contract amount; and
- A payment bond equal to 100% of the contract amount.

The required bonds, executed agreement, and insurance documentation must be submitted within seven calendar days after receipt of the District's written Notice of Award and before work begins.

Rejection of Bids
The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any irregularities or informalities in any bids or in the bidding.

DVBE Participation Goal
The District has established a Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Participation Goal of 3%. All contractors will be required to submit DVBE Worksheets that confirm outreach efforts to meet this goal.

E-Rate Requirements
The District is participating in the Federal Communications Commission's Schools and Libraries (E-Rate) program administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). The competitive bidding process must be fair and open. The District must select the most cost-effective responsive proposal, with the price of eligible products and services serving as the primary evaluation factor.

- The Form 470 and this documentation will be made available as required by E-Rate rules.
- The District will observe the E-Rate minimum 28-day waiting period before selecting a service provider or executing a contract.
- Ineligible work may be included only when separately identified and priced. Ineligible costs will not be included in the E-Rate eligible-price evaluation factor.
- Service Providers are required to be in full compliance with all current requirements and future requirements issued by the SLD throughout the contractual period of any contract entered into as a result of the bid award. The Service Provider is responsible for providing a valid SPIN (Service Provider Identification Number) and FCC Registration Number (FRN) at the time the bid submitted. More information about obtaining a SPIN may be found at this website: **https://www.usac.org/e-rate/service-providers/step-1-obtain-a-spin/**

Bid Advertisement Dates
November 20, 2026 and November 27, 2026

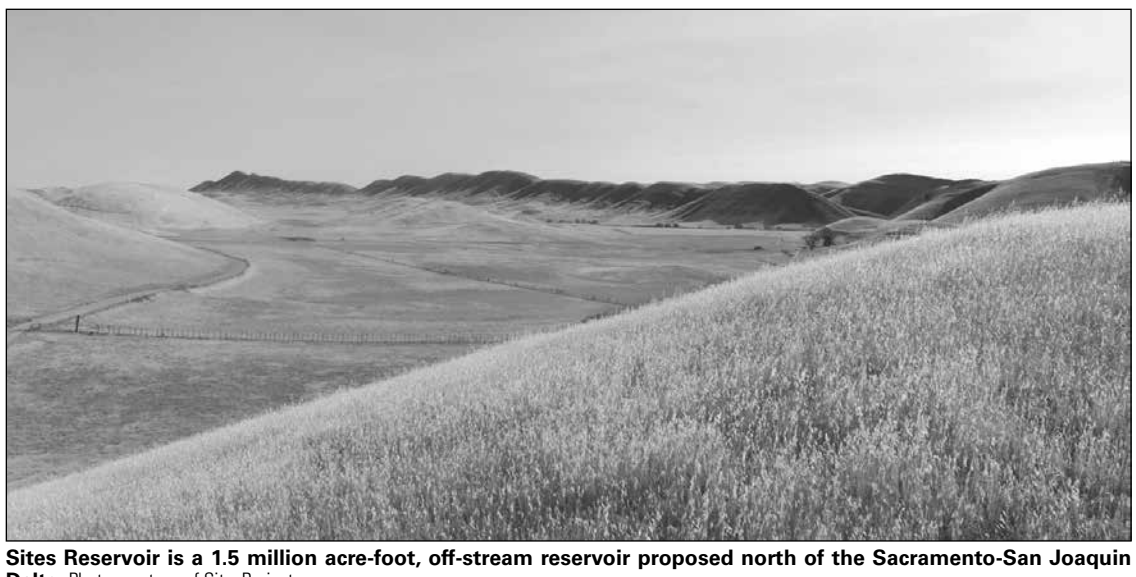
Galt Herald 11-20, 11-27-2026

Sites Reservoir Reaches Major Permitting Milestone with Clean Water Act Approvals

Sites Reservoir News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On Nov. 18, the Sites Project Authority (Authority) approved the execution of the Sites Reservoir Project's (Project) Section 404 authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, following receipt of its Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the State Water Resources Control Board on Sept. 10. This marks another major milestone, moving the Project from years of planning and permitting to construction.

"These permits reflect years of rigorous analysis, thoughtful collaboration, and a shared commitment to advancing a project that balances California's water supply needs with protecting the environment," said Fritz Durst, chair of the Sites Project Authority Board of Directors. "Sites Reservoir has been a shared vision for generations, and these approvals affirm that we can strengthen California's water future security while safeguarding the lands, waters and natural resources."



Sites Reservoir is a 1.5 million acre-foot, off-stream reservoir proposed north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Photo courtesy of SitesProject.org

The Clean Water Act approvals establish requirements to protect water quality, wetlands, streams and other aquatic resources during construction. They also allow the Authority to advance individual construction work packages as it completes permit conditions, mitigation measures, monitoring requirements and other pre-construction steps.

The approvals build on years of environmental and permitting progress. In 2023, the Authority certified the Final Environmental Impact Report, a comprehensive analysis of how the Project would affect the surrounding environment. Since then, the Project has secured state Incidental Take Permits and completed federal Endangered Species Act consultation, establishing protections for threatened and endangered species. It also reached a Master Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, which governs work in and around lakes and streams.

"We appreciate the tremendous work by the State Water Resources Control Board, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and our state and federal partners to reach this point," said Jerry Brown, executive director of the Sites Project Authority. "With these approvals in place, the Sites Project has the key permits and approvals necessary to initiate construction. Our focus now turns to completing final participation agreements and securing construction and operations funding commitments. With the approval of the water right, Sites Reservoir will become a reality – not because of any one agency or action, but because local, state and federal partners have come together to make it happen."

Sites Reservoir is a 1.5 million acre-foot, off-stream reservoir proposed north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that would improve California's water reliability and resiliency in drier years for farms, families, fish and fowl. The Project is backed by a broad coalition of cities, counties, water agencies and irrigation districts across California, as well as the State of California through the Water Storage Investment Program and the federal government under the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act. Additional information can be found at www.sitesproject.org or on Facebook, Instagram and X at @SitesProject. ★

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LEGAL ADVERTISING

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

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Carmichael, CA 95608

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO. FBNF2024-05824
The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME of: Axis Jet, 6133 Freeport Boulevard, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95822.
Axis Aviation Group, Inc, 6155 Freeport Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95822.
The Fictitious Business Name Statement was filed on July 29, 2024 in the County of Sacramento.
Filed with the clerk of Sacramento County: October 19, 2026.
Publish: Nov 13, 20, 27, Dec 4, 2026
AXIS 12-4-26

ORDER TO SHOW FOR AMENDED SUMMONS

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER:(NUMERO DEL CASO) 24CV026074
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:(AVISO AL DEMANDADO): Donald Scheel; The Unknown Heirs, Assigns and Devisees of Lori Scheel, deceased; The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Franchise Tax Board of the State of California; and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC.
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Website (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion.
Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de $10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.
The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es): County of Sacramento - Gordon D. Schaber Courthouse, 720 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Hung Nguyen, 3333 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 225, San Diego, CA 92108, 858-750-7600
Date: (Fecha) September 24, 2025
Clerk (Secretario) /s/ M. Pipe, Deputy (Adjunto)
Publish: November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026
CARRINGTON 11-27-26

COSUMNES COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION AMENDING COSUMNES COMMUNITY SERVICES RELATED FEES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, December 16, 2026, the Board of Directors for the Cosumnes Community Services District will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at the Board Chambers located at 8820 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove, California 95624. At the public hearing, the Board of Directors will consider the adoption of Resolution No. 2026-29, without limitation, to update the 2027 Cosumnes CSD Book of Fees with amended fees related to general fees Park Development and Construction, Fire and updates to staffing fees.

At the public hearing, the Board of Directors will receive oral and written testimony regarding the proposed modification to fees. Written comments may be filed at any time prior to the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments should be addressed to the attention of the Clerk to the Board at the following address: Cosumnes Community Services District, 8820 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove, California 95624.

To improve access to public information, residents may access meetings remotely. Visit the District's website at **https://www.cosumnescsd.gov/896/Live-Board-Meeting** or call the Board Clerk at (916) 405-7169 for instructions regarding how to access the meeting and how to submit a speaker card for any item on the agenda.

If you challenge any of the fees adopted or increased pursuant to the resolution in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Cosumnes Community Services District at, or prior to, the public hearing.

The proposed resolution and any related documentation, including the data required by Government Code Section 66016, are available for public review at 8820 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove, California 95624.

The proposed 2027 Cosumnes CSD Book of Fees will be available on the District's website at **https://www.cosumnescsd.gov/992/Financial-Documents** by December 2, 2026.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Nou Vang, Chief Financial Officer at **nouvang@cosumnescsd.gov** or (916) 405-7161.

A public notice from:
Cosumnes Community Services District
www.cosumnescsd.gov

The Galt Herald 11-27-2026

MPG
Call to place your legal advertising
916-773-1111

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-08

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALT AUTHORIZING THE LEVY OF SPECIAL TAXES IN A COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT, INCLUDING CERTAIN ANNEXATION TERRITORY IDENTIFIED AS ANNEXATION NO. 12 (SHEFFIELD), INTO CITY OF GALT COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2020-1 (PUBLIC SERVICES)

WHEREAS, the City Council (the "City Council") of the City of Galt (the "City") has established the City of Galt Community Facilities District No. 2020-1 (Public Services), County of Sacramento, State of California (the "District") for the purpose of levying special taxes on parcels of taxable property therein for the purpose of providing certain services which are necessary to meet increased demands placed upon the City as a result of the development of said real property; and

WHEREAS, the rate and method of apportionment of special tax for the District is set forth in Exhibit "B" to the City Council Resolution No. 2026-83, which was adopted on September 15, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City has conducted proceedings to annex territory into the District and, with respect to the proceedings, following an election of the qualified electors in the territory proposed for annexation (the "Annexation Territory"), the City Council, on October 20, 2026, adopted a Resolution which declared the results of the special election and determined that the territory proposed to be annexed is added to and part of the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALT, CALIFORNIA, ACTING IN ITS CAPACITY AS THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE CITY OF GALT COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2020-1 (PUBLIC SERVICES), COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct.

Section 2. By the passage of this Ordinance, the City Council hereby authorizes and levies the special tax within the District, including the Annexation Territory, pursuant to the Community Facilities District Law, at the rate and in accordance with the rate and method of apportionment of special tax set forth in Resolution No. 2026-83, which rate and method is by this reference incorporated herein. The special tax has previously been levied in the original territory of the District beginning in Fiscal Year 2020-21 pursuant to Ordinance No. 2020-03 passed and adopted by the City Council on June 16, 2020, and the special tax is hereby levied commencing in Fiscal Year 2027-28 in the District, including the Annexation Territory identified as Annexation No. 12, and in each fiscal year thereafter to pay for the services for the District and the costs of administering the District.

Section 3. The City Manager of the City or designee or employee or consultant of the City is hereby authorized and directed each fiscal year to determine the specific special tax to be levied for the next ensuing fiscal year for each parcel of real property within the District, including the Annexation Territory, in the manner and as provided in Resolution No. 2026-83.

Section 4. Exemptions from the levy of the special tax shall be as provided in Resolution No. 2026-83 and the applicable provisions of the Community Facilities District Law. In no event shall the special tax be levied on any parcel within the District in excess of the maximum special tax specified in Resolution No. 2026- 83.

Section 5. All of the collections of the special tax shall be used as provided in the Community Facilities District Law and in Resolution No. 2026-83, including, but not limited to, the payment of the costs of the services, the payment of the costs of the City in administering the District, and the costs of collecting and administering the special tax.

Section 6. The special tax shall be collected in the same manner and at the same time as ordinary ad valorem taxes are collected and shall have the same lien priority, and be subject to the same penalties and the same procedure and sale in cases of delinquency as provided for ad valorem taxes; provided, however, that the District may collect Special Taxes at a different time or in a different manner if necessary to meet its financial obligations. The City Manager of the City, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to provide all necessary information to the auditor/tax collector of the County of Sacramento in order to effect proper billing and collection of the special tax, so that the special tax shall be included on the secured property tax roll of the County of Sacramento for Fiscal Year 2027-28 and for each fiscal year thereafter until no longer required to pay for the Services or until otherwise terminated by the City.

Section 7. If for any reason any portion of this Ordinance is found to be invalid, or if the special tax is found inapplicable to any particular parcel within the District, including the Annexation Territory, by a court of competent jurisdiction, the balance of this Ordinance and the application of the special tax to the remaining parcels within the District, including the Annexation Territory, shall not be affected.

Section 8. This Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after its adoption. Within fifteen (15) days after its adoption, the City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance, or a summary of it, to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Galt.

The foregoing ordinance was introduced and the title thereof read at the regular meeting of the City Council the 20th day of October, 2026 and by unanimous vote of the Council members present, further reading was waived.

On a motion by Council Member Reed, seconded by Council Member Pratton, the foregoing ordinance was duly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Galt at a regular meeting thereof, this 20th day of October 2026, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:	Council Members:	Reed, Pratton, Sandhu, Rodriguez
NOES:	Council Members:	
ABSTAIN:	Council Members:	
ABSENT:	Council Members:	Farmer

/s/ Bonnie Rodriguez
MAYOR, City of Galt

ATTEST:
/s/ Rose Rodacker
Assistant City Clerk, City of Galt

The Galt Herald 11-27-2026

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

IT'S A WIN

By V.G. Harris

How much does an NBA win mean to a fan base? If you ask the Sacramento Kings fan base, the answer is a lot!

The last two games have seen the Sacramento Kings become the team that competes, and it is a pleasure to watch.

Going into Los Angeles and facing the mighty Lakers was not where anyone wanted to be, especially on an extended losing streak. What happened next was more than just surprising, it was completely unexpected.

Holding Luka Doncic to 25 points and 2-for-9 shooting from 3-point range is no small feat, but that is exactly what the high-energy Sacramento Kings did. Although the Kings ultimately lost the game, the intensity and competitiveness made it riveting to watch.

106 to 104 was the final score, but something was brewing, and it was about to be unleashed on the vaunted Boston Celtics.

On their home floor the Sacramento Kings hosted the Boston Celtics the following night, and everyone in Boston had apparently already put this game in the win column, because the Celtics decided to rest their best player in Jason Tatum.

Ultimately, that decision would prove big for the Sacramento Kings, as they battled the Celtics from the opening jump to the final buzzer, in a game that neither team will soon forget.

For the Sacramento Kings fans, they are watching the maturation process of rookie Darius Acuff Jr., as he played team basketball from start to finish and gave the Kings 21 points and eight big assists to defeat the heavily favored Celtics by the score of 97-96.

For Sacramento fans to see fifth year man Keegan Murray contribute 15 points and 12 rebounds was a thrill to watch, but his ferocious defense in the final possession was what ultimately won the game. Yes, I said it was defense that won this game, as the Kings held the Celtics to only 96 points and made them wonder what they were thinking of when they gave all-star Jason Tatum the night off.

The Sacramento Kings could easily be celebrating a two-game winning streak, and many fans are scratching their heads and asking, what changed?

I am finally beginning to see a rationale as to the substitution patterns for the Kings, and that in large part is contributing to more fluid offense that fans have witnessed over the past two games.

Recognizing who can get the job done and then letting the best players play together is a critical start in trying to turn around the most abysmal start in Sacramento Kings history.

Monday night at Golden One Center will undoubtedly see a larger crowd, and many fans will want to see the return of DeArron Fox, and the offensive juggernaut Victor Wembanyama.

If David can defeat Goliath, the Sacramento Kings can face the Spurs with a game plan. Underestimate this team and pay the price!

Progress Kings fans, progress. Rome wasn't built in a day, and it will take a little time to see the Sacramento Kings espousal as they become the competitive team they want to be night in and night out.

Once again, big man Domantas Sabonis made his presence felt contributing 15 points and a huge 17 rebounds in the win over the Celtics and it was just what the doctor ordered.

Although Zach Lavine scored only 13 points, he was 2-3 from the 3-point line and has shown flashes that his shooting stroke is once again a valued commodity.

Likewise, Keegan Murray fans are raising eyebrows and asking if this valued forward is turning his game around. Although still not the 3-point sharpshooter Kings fans got to know in his rookie season, Keegan is beginning to do two very important things and it's making a difference.

Number one is attacking the basket, and good things happen when Murray drives to the hole. He is an accomplished finisher, and it opens the floor for potential 3's when he's more active.

Number two and even more important has been his combination of stringent defense and aggressive rebounding. Helping Sabonis on the boards leads to all good things, and if Keegan's recent successes are a glimpse into the future, more wins are coming.

It's heating up Kings fans. Still early and auspicious things are beginning to happen!

All the best! ★

With California's Insurance Crisis at an Impasse, It Might Be Time for a Different Approach



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Nobody really likes writing those premium checks to insurance companies that always seem to be increasing — until they need their insurance to cover losses from auto crashes, fires or other calamities.

The conflict between those two priorities has been particularly acute in California in recent years as a series of horrendous wildfires swept through the state, taking lives, destroying billions of dollars in property and disrupting lives — even of those who escape direct losses.

Californians spend more than $100 billion a year on what the industry calls "property and casualty" policies, according to the state Department of Insurance.

Bills for fire and homeowners coverage topped $19 billion in 2025, but thanks largely to the destructive fires that hit Los Angeles and its suburbs 22 months ago, insurers incurred more than $31 billion in losses on those policies — more than four times the losses in 2024.

As payouts mounted over several years of wildfires, insurers began either pulling out of the California market or imposing tighter restrictions and higher premiums, forcing millions of property owners to scramble for coverage mortgage lenders require.

The state's last ditch "FAIR plan" was deluged with applications for coverage that was both costly and minimal, putting its finances in jeopardy.

It was — and is — a genuine crisis, needing a solution that provides consumers with adequate coverage at affordable prices and makes insurance profitable enough to keep insurers in the market.

After the Legislature failed to come up with a solution, Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara weighed in three years ago with a plan he said could advance both priorities, allowing insurers to base rates on estimates of future losses, rather than past experience, while requiring them to meet coverage quotas.

Lara has taken heat from consumer groups, such as Consumer Watchdog, accusing him of caving in to insurers.

Oddly, however, the industry and consumer groups forged a strange bedfellows alliance this year to oppose a scheme Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed, limiting the liability of electric utilities such as Pacific Gas & Electric when their transmission lines fail and spark fires.

Without such limits, utilities argued, their financial stability would be undermined, making it difficult for them to borrow money and attract investors. The plan would, in effect, shift more of fire losses to insurers or property owners.

However, adding utilities' liability to an already dicey insurance coverage crisis was too much to swallow, and as the legislative session ended that plan remained on the table.

Lara could not run for another term, and the election of his successor this month adds still another factor to a situation already fraught with political complexity.

Two Democrats, former San Francisco Supervisor Jane Kim and state Sen. Ben Allen, finished in the top two in the June primary, putting both on the Nov. 3 ballot. Their duel took on an ideological aura. On the left, Kim proposed that the state set up its own fire insurance system, while Allen, a moderate, said Kim's proposal would cost too much and the state should build on Lara's plan.

Kim won decisively, one of many political races that progressives claimed this year. Her victory sets the stage for another legislative struggle.

Kim's notion of having the state directly provide at least some coverage is not particularly novel. The state already has an insurance program for workers' compensation, and it offers earthquake insurance.

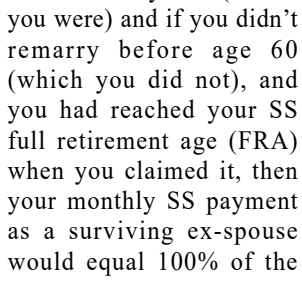
Nor is it fatally unworkable, as Allen and the industry contended. Having base coverage provided by the state through taxes or mandatory fees tied to property value — and backed by reinsurance — could, if designed adroitly, protect insurers, utilities and consumers from the economic jolts of catastrophic wildfires.

At the very least, it warrants an independent and authoritative examination.

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

Have My Social Security Survivor Benefits Increased Since I Claimed Them?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: My ex-husband died in 2013. We were married for 24 years and I have never remarried. I am now over 70 years old. I don't remember when I started collecting my Social Security. When he died, I applied and received 50% survivor benefits. Have there been any changes in the survivor benefits that would increase my Social Security payments? I know I may need to contact Social Security for further help, but I would like to know if there have been changes and what to ask. Thank you. ***Signed: Widowed Ex-Spouse***

Dear Widowed Ex: FYI, the rules about ex-spouse survivor benefits haven't changed - how much you get as a surviving ex-spouse depends upon your age at the time you claimed your ex-spouse survivor benefit. If you were married for at least 10 years (which you were) and if you didn't remarry before age 60 (which you did not), and you had reached your SS full retirement age (FRA) when you claimed it, then your monthly SS payment as a surviving ex-spouse would equal 100% of the amount your ex-husband was receiving when he died. However, if you applied for your surviving ex-spouse benefit before you reached your Social Security full retirement age – somewhere between age 66 and 67 depending on the year you were born – it would have been reduced. So, depending on your age when you claimed the ex-spouse benefit, the survivor benefit amount you are entitled to could be less than 100% of the amount your ex-husband was receiving when he died.

The SS rules for surviving ex-spouse benefits have not changed since your ex-husband died in 2013, but it's also important to understand how your ex-spouse survivor benefit is paid. If you have your own SS retirement benefit and claimed that benefit first, and you were awarded more as your ex-husband's surviving spouse when he died, you would continue to receive your own SS retirement amount, supplemented by an additional amount to make your payment equal to the amount you're entitled to as a surviving ex-spouse. You get only one SS payment, but it is comprised of two elements – your own SS retirement benefit and a supplement to make your payment equal your benefit entitlement as a surviving ex-spouse.

If you are uncertain about any of this and wish to confirm that you are receiving the correct amount as your deceased ex-husband's surviving spouse, then I encourage you to contact Social Security to make an appointment to review your current survivor benefit amount. You can make that appointment at your local SS field office (go to www.ssa.gov/locator), or you can call the national SS number 1.800.772.1213 to make an appointment. Social Security will almost certainly conduct this appointment over the phone, so you will likely not need to make a personal visit to your local SS office to confirm your monthly SS benefit amount. You simply need to tell them that you and your ex were married 24 years and that you didn't remarry. Also tell them when he died and when you previously claimed your surviving ex-spouse benefit. Social Security will then do the necessary research to confirm your current benefit amount (it will facilitate the discussion if you have your ex-husband's Social Security Number available).

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Thank you, Specialist Thomas Iglesias

The Secretary of Defense visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Veterans Day, and yet the true voice of military authority on this occasion was an Army specialist.

When the group with Pete Hegseth laughed and began to chatter after taking a photo, the voice of Specialist Thomas Iglesias rang out, "All visitors will maintain an atmosphere of silence and respect at all times!"

It was a stunning moment. We aren't used to high-level officials getting so publicly and starkly upbraided by their underlings, but Iglesias, as part of the Old Guard, or 3rd Infantry Regiment, is a different breed.

The Old Guard stands vigil over the Tomb of the Unknown, 24 hours a day, rain or shine, in heat and cold, and protects it from any indignities, whether from thoughtless tourists or the briefly voluble entourage of the secretary of defense.

There was much tsk-tsking about the episode in the media, which relishes any opportunity to make Hegseth look bad. The secretary, though, cleverly and appropriately embraced the moment. He invited Iglesias and his colleagues to the Pentagon the next day and pinned a Joint Service Commendation Medal on him.

It's been a rocky tenure for Hegseth at the department, but there's no doubting his bond with the troops and his positive influence on recruiting. His handling of this matter showed why. "We love soldiers. We love standards. Well done, Specialist," Hegseth wrote in a social-media post.

Beyond the media commentary and jostling over Hegseth -- who narrowly escaped impeachment the day before -- the episode tells us something about America's egalitarian spirit, and about the sacred status of the Tomb of the Unknown and the amazing fidelity of the Old Guard.

Despite all the talk of inequality in America, we are still a culture that appreciates challenges to status and hierarchy -- think Hank Morgan in "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court," disdaining all aristocratic trappings.

An analogue to the Hegseth episode is the famous story of Abraham Lincoln going to witness a battle outside of Washington, D.C., at Fort Stevens in 1864. He supposedly exposed himself to enemy fire and a soldier yelled, "Get down, you damn fool!" The president indeed took cover.

Of course, Specialist Thomas Iglesias wasn't seeking to defy authority, but rather to uphold his duty to see that the Tomb is afforded respect at all times. Established after World War I and containing the remains of war dead from World War I, World War II and the Korean War, the Tomb symbolizes the bond of the nation to its citizen-warriors who have made the ultimate sacrifice. "HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD," reads the inscription.

The Tomb has been continuously guarded since 1937, and since 1948 by the Old Guard. Its standard for carrying out its mission is nothing less than perfection. Every movement is precise and fraught with meaning. For instance, the sentinel's 21 steps walking in front of the tomb and then the 21-second pause before turning and walking back again is a reference to the high honor of the 21-gun salute. The inspection of the rifle during the changing of the guard is a strange and wondrous thing to behold, as elaborate and punctilious as a well-choreographed ballet.

It all betokens the nation's profound gratitude to its fallen, known and unknown, of whatever rank and from whichever walk of life. In his book about the Old Guard, Arkansas Senator Tom Cotton, who served with the Guard, includes an anecdote about a foreign military dignitary visiting Arlington Cemetery and commenting, "Now I know why your soldiers fight so hard. You take better care of your dead than we do our living."

Specialist Thomas Iglesias had so imbibed this ethic that he didn't hesitate to shout his admonition to a group of high-falutin visitors, a sterling example of duty and honor worthy of the 3rd Infantry Regiment he serves.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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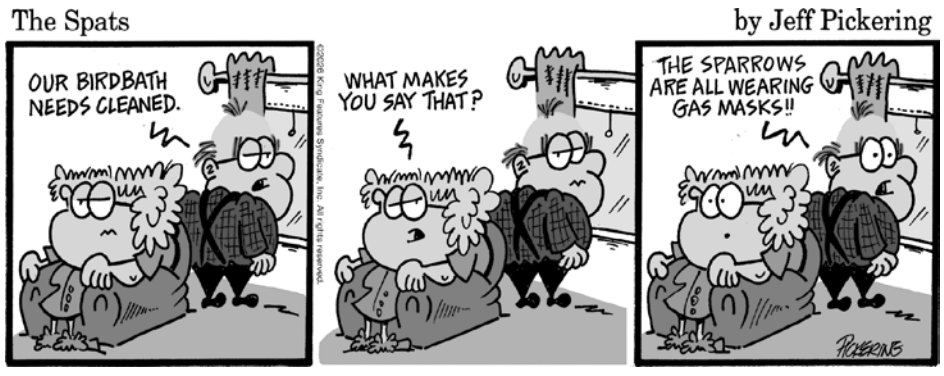
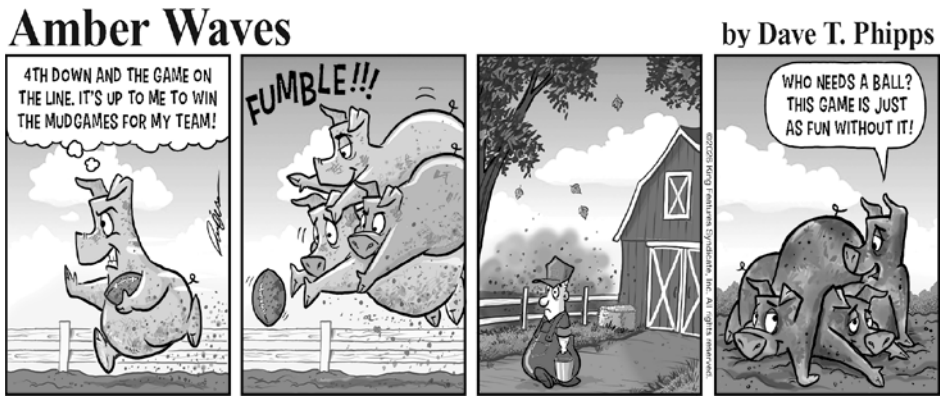
COMICS & PUZZLES

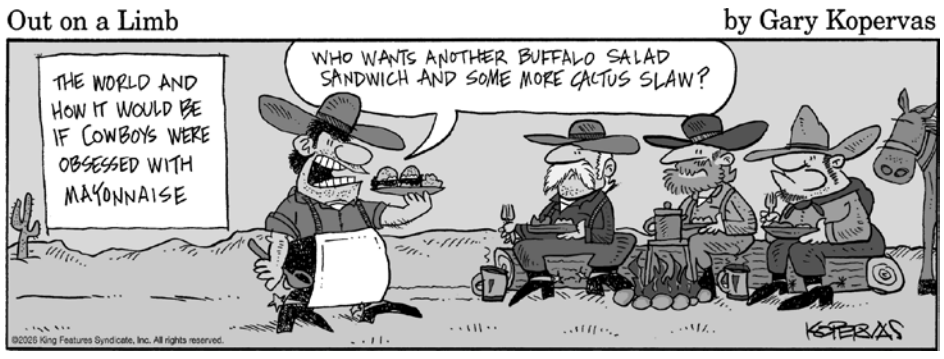
The Spats by Jeff Pickering

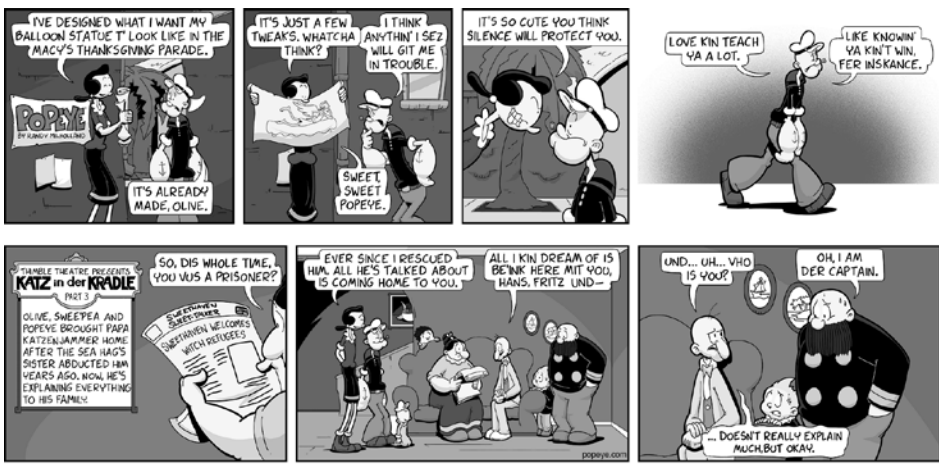


Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas





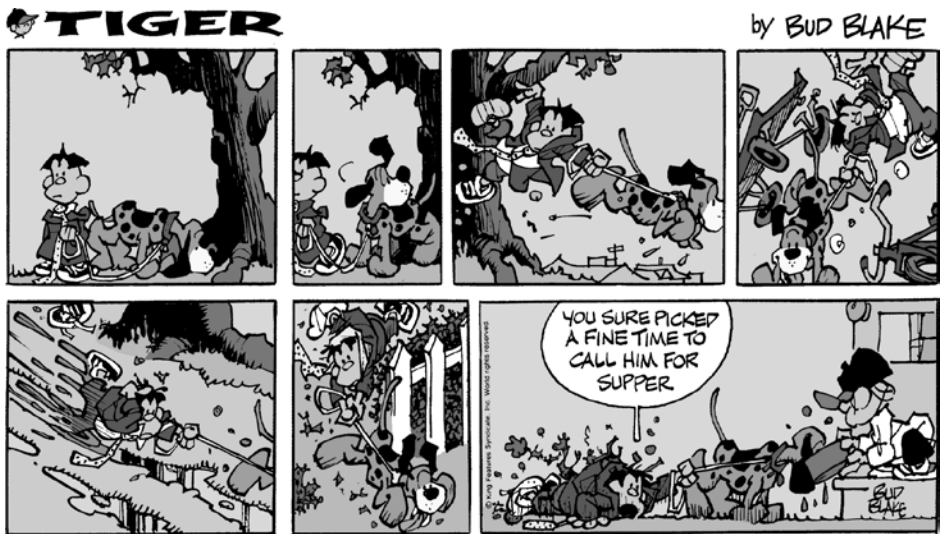
HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Stripe on sleeve is moved. 3. Sleeve is longer. 4. Lampshade is different. 5. Windowpanes are different. 6. Ear is smaller.

TIGER by BUD BLAKE



GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



"OK, I need to pick one of you for my vice president."

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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CLUES

ACROSS
1. a.k.a. Manila hemp
6. Unit of electric current
9. Army dining hall
13. Channing of "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"
14. Spy org.
15. A in AV
16. Are not
17. ____-been
18. Beech tree pulp fabric
19. *I in CGI
21. *2004 Indian Ocean disaster
23. Am is to I a ____ is to we
24. Chutzpah
25. *Ann Patchett's "____ Canto"
28. Zohran Mamdani's branch of Islam
30. Like some breads
35. Sun beams
37. Cathedral recess
39. Fungal skin infection
40. *Shrek or Fiona
41. *Sasha Baron Cohen's role
43. *Mr. Incredible's son
44. What scribes do
46. Awful
47. Silage holder
48. Bee's favorite drink
50. ALCS counterpart
52. ____ Tsu
53. Hoodlum
55. Not hers
57. *Peter ____ of "The Lord of the Rings" fame
61. *Social network
65. Saudi neighbor
66. Not a sweet wine
68. Sign of cancer
69. Subway coin
70. Long time
71. Mideast V.I.P.
72. Place at angle
73. Genetic info carrier, acr.
74. Pulls apart

DOWN
1. Antioxidants-rich smoothie berry
2. Yeasty foam
3. ____ 51
4. "Come on, shake your body, baby, do the ____"
5. Modifies
6. Hurting
7. *Jukebox musical "Mamma ____!"
8. Fusilli, e.g.
9. Unstable particle
10. Tropical tuberous root
11. Thailand, once
12. Solo, pl.
15. Protective necklace
20. Substance abuse treatment inst.
22. *"Rocky Balboa" writer and director
24. Stove burner (2 words)
25. *"The Da Vinci Code" author
26. High wave
27. Chicago opera house
29. *Revolutionary music-playing device
31. Helps
32. Type of mail
33. *All-electric Roadster manufacturer
34. *Popular search engine, with !
36. Badger's den
38. *"My Name Is ____"
42. Related to technology
45. Dines at home
49. Greek R
51. *Train's "Hey, Soul ____"
54. Six feet where?
56. Sea foam
57. Scribbles down
58. In a frenzy
59. *"Short Skirt/Long Jacket" band
60. "I ____ it!"
61. Mimicking bird
62. End of prayer
63. College girl, old-fashioned
64. Mistakes
67. *Anchorman a.k.a. ____ Burgundy

CROSSWORD

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Hawks Power Past Ripon Christian

Story and photos by Paige Lampson

GALT, CA (MPG) - Andrew Quinn ran for 216 yards and four touchdowns, and Liberty Ranch piled up 633 yards on the ground to beat Ripon Christian 51-20 in the semifinals Friday night. The sends the top-seeded Hawks into the section championship game for just the second time in school history.

Liberty Ranch (12-0) will play Ripon High School at 12:30 p.m. on Black Friday at Hughes Stadium at Sacramento City College. The Hawks are chasing the program's first section title; the only other time they reached a final, 11 years ago under coach Warren Schroeder, they finished second.

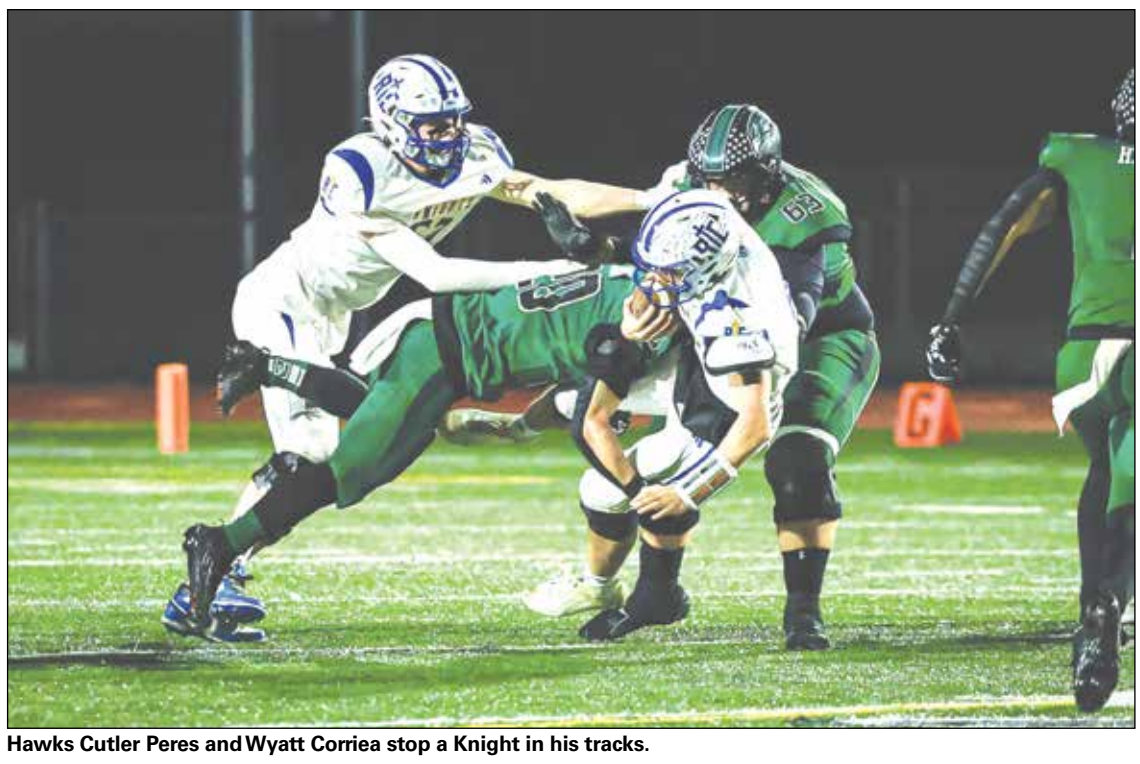
"I mean, again, these guys have been working for this since they were little, and they've been working for it all year," Schroeder said. "I'm very proud of the effort that they showed, and I'm very excited to see what happens next week."

The win came against the same program that ended Liberty Ranch's season a year ago. Ripon Christian knocked the Hawks out of the playoffs in 2024, and the Knights were still within striking distance at halftime Friday before Liberty Ranch's defense slammed the door.

Quinn, a 6-foot, 195-pound senior running back and linebacker, was the engine on both sides of the ball. He carried 13 times for 216 yards — an average of 16.6 yards per attempt — scored four rushing touchdowns and made a game-high 13 tackles, including nine solo stops. He also caught a 16-yard pass, returned a kickoff 7 yards, ran in two two-point conversions and finished with 28 points, accounting for more than half of the Hawks' scoring.

Joe Lara was nearly as productive. The senior ran 18 times for 269 yards and a touchdown, caught a 33-yard scoring pass from Ryan Ogas, returned two kickoffs for 37 yards and finished with 339 all-purpose yards. Wyatt Corriea needed only seven carries to gain 134 yards and a score, and he added six tackles, five of them solo.


Joe Lara runs the ball with Cutler Perez and Daniel Swearingen clearing the path.


Hawks Cutler Peres and Wyatt Corriea stop a Knight in his tracks.

Liberty Ranch finished with 682 total yards, 25 pancake blocks and 14 quarterback hurries. Ogas completed 2 of 3 passes for 49 yards with one touchdown and one interception for a passer rating of 109.7. Hunter Owen kicked three extra points and averaged 38 yards on eight kickoffs, with a long of 45.

Liberty Ranch never trailed after the first quarter, but the game was a track meet early.

The Hawks took the opening kickoff, with Lara returning it out to the 31-yard line and drove to Quinn's short scoring run with 9:01 left in the first quarter. Ripon Christian answered with a touchdown pass and a run into the end zone to tie it at 7 with 5:40 remaining.

On the first play after the ensuing kickoff, Quinn broke free, shed a series of would-be tacklers and ran 80 yards for a score and a 14-7 lead with 5:21 left in the quarter.

Ripon Christian tied it again on Jeremiah Lambdin's touchdown catch with 2:16 remaining, but Corriea answered on the Hawks' next snap, running it all the way in with 1:58 left. The two-point conversion was good, and Liberty Ranch led 22-14 after one quarter.

The Knights cut the deficit to 22-20 on a touchdown run with 9:03 left in the half, but the two-point try failed. Liberty Ranch responded with a 33-yard scoring pass from Ogas to Lara, and Lara ran in the conversion for a 30-20 lead with 6:41 to play in the half.

Ripon Christian was forced to punt late in the second quarter, but the Hawks gave the ball right back when Ogas was intercepted with 54 seconds left. Enzo Diaz answered 36 seconds later, picking off a Knights pass with 18 seconds remaining to send Liberty Ranch into halftime with a 10-point cushion.

Diaz, a senior free safety, finished with six tackles, two pass breakups and a fumble recovery to go with the interception. Jack Rowe also picked off a pass and broke up four more, and Liam Trosko had four pass breakups as the Hawks deflected 15 passes.

The Hawks' defense pitched a second-half shutout, holding Ripon Christian scoreless over the final 24 minutes while the offense pulled away. Soni Takafua, a 6-foot-3, 265-pound senior, generated six quarterback hurries and made two tackles while adding three pancake blocks on offense. Daniel Swearingen had five tackles and a hurry, Cutler Perez made four stops and Conrad Dixon had three tackles and two hurries.

Quinn scored again with 6:16 left in the third quarter, and the two-point conversion failed, making it 36-20. Liberty Ranch added two more touchdowns in the fourth quarter — one each by Lara and Quinn — to close out the scoring.

Ripon Christian punted with 2:55 remaining. The Hawks took over at their 40 with two minutes to play and lost a fumble, but the outcome was long decided.

The offensive line, which Schroeder has leaned on all season, turned in one of its most dominant performances. Jayden Sedlacek graded out with eight pancake blocks, Perez had six, Swearingen three and Takafua three. Deshaun Jackson, Ryan Guthrie and Caleb Martinez each added one, and the Hawks' 633 rushing yards came on just 41 carries.

Corriea, a senior running back and linebacker, made sure to credit that group first.

"I would like to give a shoutout to my linemen. Everything our team does would not be possible without them," he said. "I want to shout out Deshaun Jackson, Ryan Guthrie, Jayden Sedlacek, Daniel Swearingen and Cutler Perez. Also, our tight end, Soni Takafua. This means everything, because we've worked so hard since we were little for this one moment, and it's finally here. So, we're going to give it our all. We'll die for this game."

The second-half numbers told the story of the turnaround. After surrendering 20 points and three scoring drives before the break, Liberty Ranch held the Knights off the scoreboard entirely over the final two quarters, forced a turnover on downs and a punt, and kept Ripon Christian from stringing together the plays that had kept it close early. The Hawks finished with 54 tackles, two interceptions, two fumble recoveries and 15 pass breakups.

Liberty Ranch's ground game, meanwhile, only got stronger. The Hawks averaged better than 15 yards per carry for the game, produced three runs of 60 yards or more and had three different backs top 100 yards — Lara with 269, Quinn with 216 and Corriea with 134. It was the kind of balance that has defined the season for a team that is now 12-0.

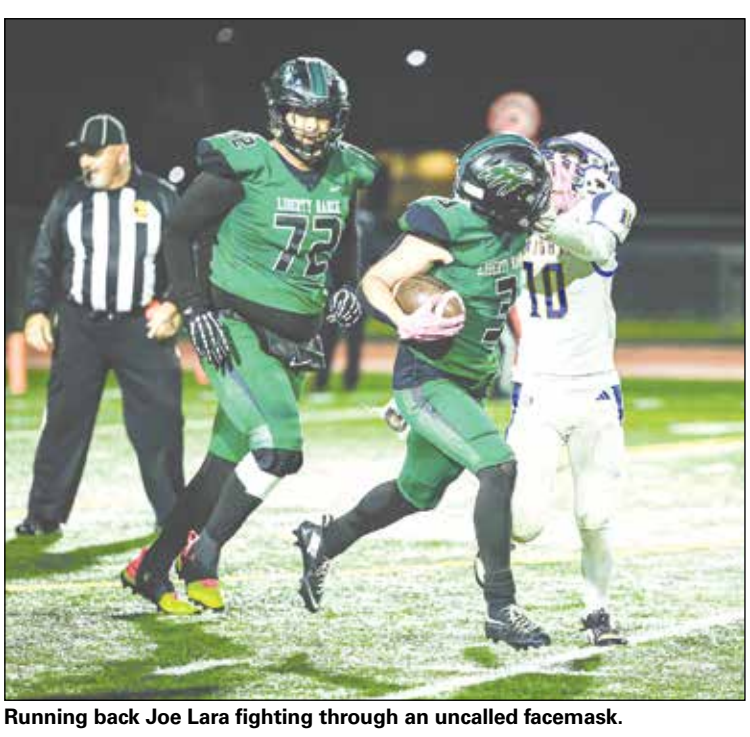
The next test is a familiar name and a neutral field. Ripon High School awaits on Black Friday with a section championship on the line.

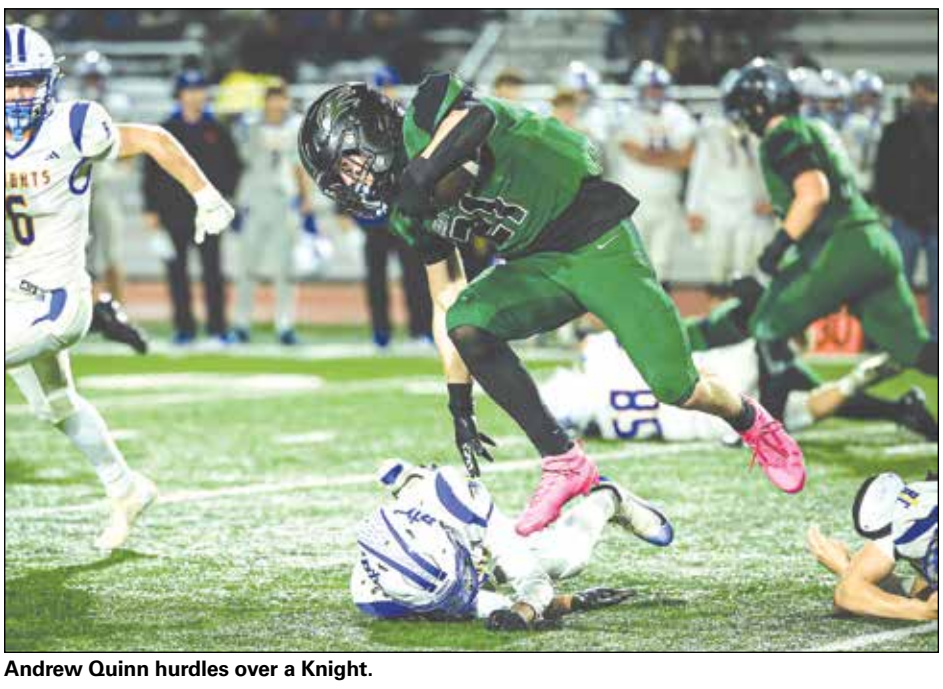
On the field afterward, Schroeder reminded his team what the win bought them: a Thanksgiving morning practice and one more game.

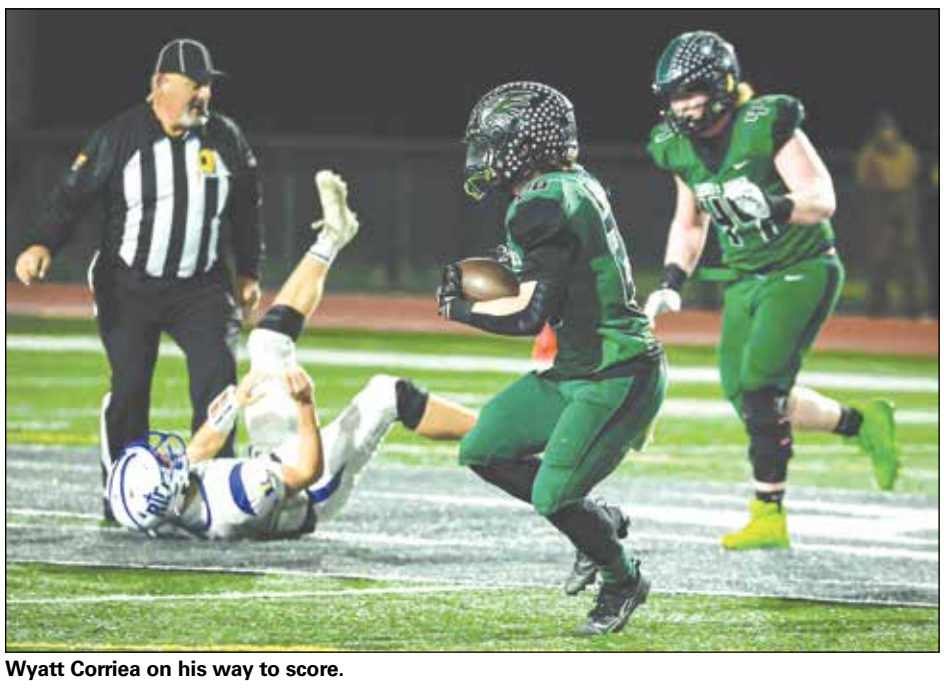
"You guys came out and did what you needed to do in the second half. That's the way a championship team performs," Schroeder told his players. "I'm really proud of you guys. That's all we're talking about right now is one more — at least one more game. I want all our focus on that one more game."

Schroeder was the varsity football coach at Liberty Ranch High School when the team last went to the playoffs. The team then practiced on Thanksgiving Day, too.

"And we will too," he said. "I will make sure you guys enjoy the Thanksgiving evening. We will practice in the morning. I need you guys to be locked in. Are we good? Good. Lock in." ★


Running back Joe Lara fighting through an uncalled facemask.


Andrew Quinn hurdles over a Knight.


Wyatt Corriea on his way to score.



Galt Basketball Gets New Coach

Story and photos by Paige Lampson

GALT, CA (MPG) - Galt High School has hired John Bashore as its girls varsity basketball coach, turning to a 20-year coaching veteran to stabilize a Lady Warriors program that has had four head coaches in four years.

Bashore, who has never led a varsity program, inherits a roster built on youth — one freshman and four sophomores — and a community still absorbing the departure of last season's coach. He said the job is less about a season than about rebuilding a foundation.

"Following the departure of last year's head coach, our priority is building trust, program stability and a lasting foundation of consistency for our players, families and the community," Bashore said. "I am committed to setting clear, unwavering expectations across every level of our Lady Warriors basketball program."

Galt competes in the Sierra Valley Conference and the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section. The Lady Warriors' recent coaching churn has left players with four different voices in four years, a turnover rate that typically complicates recruiting within a school, disrupts relationships with families and scatters the youth pipeline that feeds a varsity roster.

Bashore's answer to that is structure. He has installed four program pillars — faith, excellence, service and leadership — and a daily set of commitments he calls G.R.I.T.: grind, read, ignite and trust. The acronym, which he describes as a mental-performance curriculum, is posted in the gym and referenced in practice.

The four letters carry specific meaning in his practices. Grind is relentless physical effort — hustling for loose balls, sprinting in transition, embracing hard work. Read is high-IQ decision-making, processing the game with poise and discipline. Ignite is infectious energy, the positive spark that celebrates teammates and lifts everyone on the floor. Trust is unselfish accountability, sharing the ball, communicating constantly and holding one another to a high standard.

"Excellence is a standard we live out every single day, both on and off the court," Bashore said. "A program isn't built on Xs and Os alone. It is built on daily standards, mutual trust and empowering young women to grow both on and off the court."

A path through every level of the game

Bashore's resume runs the length of the basketball ladder. He spent a decade as a youth sports coordinator for the YMCA, then moved into club basketball with the Sacramento Lady Rebels and middle school coaching with the Saint Mary Mustangs. He logged eight seasons in the St. Francis High School program, including junior varsity work, alongside what he called elite student-athletes and high-level staffs.

Each stop, he said, supplied a different piece of the same puzzle. The YMCA taught him community outreach and patience. Club ball sharpened skill development under competitive pressure. And St. Francis showed him what a championship culture looks like from the inside.

"The YMCA taught me community outreach, club ball taught me skill acquisition, and high school varsity and JV coaching taught me accountability, mental toughness and culture-building," he said.

He also brings formal training in the mental side of the sport: a bachelor's degree and a certificate in sports psychology from Cal State Dominguez Hills. Bashore said he leans on that background to build what he calls psychological resilience, treating practice as a series of purposeful steps toward postseason goals rather than a winter-long grind.



John Bashore is the head coach of the Galt High School girls varsity basketball team. Galt competes in the Sierra Valley Conference and the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section.



Coach John Bashore works with players of Galt's girls varsity basketball team.

The varsity job is his first. Bashore acknowledged the difference between running a junior varsity or club team and running a full program, describing the latter as orchestrating a complete system with year-round demands: opponent scouting, game-management poise in tight fourth quarters and modeling the standard for everyone from the youth pipeline through junior varsity.

"Varsity head coaching is about orchestrating a complete, program-wide system with a persistent growth mindset," he said. "I do not see Galt basketball as just a winter season. It is a year-round endeavor."

A staff built to cover the whole floor

Bashore will do it with help. Raina Peterson joins as a varsity assistant, and Stephen Gunter serves as junior varsity head coach and varsity assistant.

Bashore, a former wing and frontcourt player, said he is strongest teaching transition spacing, cutting angles, wing slashing, defensive positioning and full-court pressure. He said he leans on assistants for guard development, ball-handling and shooting mechanics.

"Coach Gunter brings outstanding leadership, tactical knowledge and foundational skill development to our lower-level pipeline, ensuring seamless alignment with our varsity standards," Bashore said. "Coach Peterson provides invaluable guidance, high-level game management and mentorship for our players."

That alignment matters at a school where underclassmen will carry real minutes. Bashore's philosophy on promoting young players is blunt: talent has no grade level, but readiness does.

"Bringing a freshman or sophomore up to varsity isn't just about athletic upside," he said. "It's about whether the player can handle the physical speed, emotional demands and accountability of varsity competition without stunting their long-term confidence."

He asks three things of a young player: competitiveness and defensive pride, meaning a willingness to guard, dive for loose balls and absorb contact; basketball IQ and coachability, meaning absorbing instruction and executing team concepts over individual stats; and resilience, meaning how she responds to a mistake or a bad possession.

Two non-negotiables in a two-hour practice

Bashore's practice priorities are defensive communication and rotations, and pace-driven decision-making on offense. He expects both to surface in the box score by February.

Clean box-outs and active help-side rotations, he said, cut second-chance points and lower opponents' shooting percentages. Playing fast without rushing should produce high assist totals against a low turnover count. And an offense built on aggressive drives should generate a heavy volume of free throws late in games.

For a sophomore who has never been taught help-side defense or boxing out, Bashore uses what he calls a small-to-big progression. It starts with stance, foot positioning, defensive slides and the see-ball, see-man principle. Then it moves to closeout and recovery footwork, then to shell drills covering deny, closeouts, help side and the rest of the rotation package. Rebounding is broken down the same way: initial contact and pivot sealing before live rebounding.

"Positive reinforcement is key," he said. "We celebrate the effort of correct footwork and positioning immediately, turning mistakes into quick teaching moments so the athlete builds muscle memory without fear of failure."

His own playing career informs the style. Bashore grew up in a small town he compares to Galt, where a work-first culture meant college pathways were rare. He played soccer and basketball in high school and had junior college opportunities, but went to work in landscape construction instead, continuing to compete in high-level adult leagues. A self-described gym rat, he played on the wing and in the frontcourt.

"That background instilled in me a deep appreciation for hard work, physical toughness, transition spacing and team-first unselfishness," he said.

A family of athletes, and one yellow Labrador

Bashore and his wife have three daughters: one college graduate, one a sophomore collegiate athlete and one a high school senior. None plays at Galt. The family's lone boy, he said, is Hank, a yellow Labrador.

Coaching his daughters from elementary school through high school, he said, taught him to separate the coach hat from the dad hat — keeping home a safe haven while holding them to a high standard in the gym. He argues that experience gives him a read on the emotional and competitive pressures teenage girls face in high school athletics.

Now he applies it to a program that needs continuity more than a quick fix. Bashore said the work extends past the gym: engaging families, local supporters and youth programs to build collective pride behind the Lady Warriors.

"Creating a lasting legacy at Galt High School requires active partnership and buy-in from the entire community," he said. "A program cannot succeed in isolation. It flourishes when the school and community unite around a shared vision for our athletes' growth and success." ★



Coach John Bashore works with a Galt basketball player.

LOCAL SPORTS COVERAGE



PRESENTED BY THE GALT HERALD

Sanchez Gets All-League Selection

Story and photo by Paige Lampson

GALT, CA (MPG) - Galt High School's Zoey Sanchez was the program's only all-league selection, headlining the team's season awards after a standout junior campaign.

Sanchez, a junior outside hitter, setter and defensive specialist, earned varsity Most Valuable Player honors and led the Warriors in several statistical categories. She averaged 2.8 kills per set and posted a .121 hitting percentage, both team highs. She also led Galt with 176 kills, 188 digs, 311 receptions and 35 serving aces, and her 3.0 digs per set and 0.6 aces per set also topped the team.

Morgan Jones, a senior middle hitter, was named Offensive Player of the Year. Jones ranked second on the team with 74 kills and a 1.3 kills-per-set average, and she added 19 aces and six total blocks. Maliah Phulmati Mangal, a senior libero and setter, was named Defensive Player of the Year after recording 151 digs, 214 assists and 35 aces. Courtney Brouwer, a senior outside hitter, received the Warrior Award and finished with 129 digs and 184 receptions.

Hattie Shillam, a freshman, led Galt with nine total blocks and ranked third with 61 kills and a 1.2 kills-per-set average. Lily Cathey added five blocks. Whitney Ehlers recorded 212 receptions, while Emma McDonald and Jane Humphreys contributed 74 and 64 assists, respectively.

At the junior varsity level, Riecka Miranda was named MVP. Mariah Carter-Scherr earned the Warrior Award, Mialani Ojascastro was named Offensive Player of the Year and Timperance Scherrer and Hailey Morris shared Co-Defensive Player of the Year honors.

On the freshman team, Aryiannah Caroro was named MVP, Riley Forney received the Warrior Award, Michelle Schenone was named Offensive Player of the Year and Rikki Egger was named Defensive Player of the Year.

Sanchez's all-league recognition capped a season in which she led the Warriors in kills, hitting percentage, digs, digs per set, aces, aces per set, kills per set and receptions. ★



Zoey Sanchez of the Galt High School girls varsity volleyball team.

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