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THE SHAFTER PRESS

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1921

Wasco Tribune

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1980

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Thursday, June 18, 2020

Vol. 42 No. 51 • Wasco, California

City gets \$700k for Covid-19

Council plans for prison closure

JAMIE STEWART
The Shafter Press

The Shafter City Council approved a resolution that allows the city to receive almost \$700,000 in emergency funds for the Covid-19 pandemic. The council also extended its state of local emergency, which enables City Manager Gabriel Gonzales to act if an emergency calls for it.

SHAFTER

It also keeps the city open for additional reimbursement for costs as a result of the crisis.

The County of Kern recently received \$157 million in funds for the crisis. Shafter's share of the funds came to \$698,000.

The council also approved an agreement with Balance Public Relations, whose job will be to protect the City of Shafter's interests during the closing process of the MCCF, which is supposedly going to be closed by the end of 2021, if not sooner. The company is headed by Shafter High Graduate Dean Florez.

The closure of the facility will cost the city an estimated \$1.8 million in lost revenue annually.

The closure of the facility will cost the city an estimated \$1.8 million annual loss in revenue. It is not clear what will become of the facility once it is closed.

Also on the agenda was a proposal to raise residential rates by Varner Bros. and American Refuse for the residential areas that they cover, including the Gossamer Grove area. The raise for this coming year will be 2.9%. This does not affect the core city of Shafter -- serviced by the city of Shafter -- except for the commercial businesses.

In other council action, the property at 402 Central was declared as surplus land and not necessary for the city's use, putting the building and parking lot up for sale. Shafter/Wasco Publishing is in the space now, along empty space that housed the former Brookside Deli. Any plans for developing the land must be approved by the city beforehand, according to the council's resolution.

Testing site opens

Mayor Tilo Cortez announced this week that appointment-only Covid-19 testing is now available in Wasco at the Wasco Library, 1102 7th St., Tuesday-Saturday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

WASCO

Those interested in getting a test should be aware of:

- An appointment is necessary by calling 888-634-1123.
- Face coverings are required.
- No drive-thru service.
- Insurance is accepted.



Speaker Lucio Rivera



Speaker Pearla Hernandez

105 graduate WIHS

Struggling students get their reward

TONI DEROSA
Wasco Tribune

There are three types of students who attend Wasco Independence High School, Principal Martin Lonza said as the school prepared its commencement ceremony for 105 graduates: students who have fared poorly at larger schools, adults who are seeking their high school diploma, and students studying from home.

The first type of student, he said, are those who come to Independence High because they've fallen behind in their coursework, had spotty attendance "and need a smaller, more focused environment to succeed." Many of these students have experienced gaps in attendance, failed multiple courses, lost interest in school, are parents or had discipline issues. "Many simply perform better in a school that can focus more on them as individual," he said.

"There are as many reasons for placing a student at WIHS as there are students," Lonza said. The criteria are simple: "Is a student at risk of not completing high



Ryan Rodriguez, graduate speaker for Wasco Independence High School.

school, and are they better served in the WIHS environment?"

A second group of students are those in the adult education program.

"This program is primarily for any person over the age of 18 who has not yet received a high school diploma or needs to learn English," Lonza said. "The students who graduate from the program have now completed the requirements for a diploma."

The third most common type of student are those in

See GRADUATION Page 4

'Chilling' budget preview

JAMIE STEWART
The Shafter Press

The Shafter City Council got a sneak peek at the 2020-21 budget at a special meeting Monday night.

The budget is very different than what had been projected in earlier discussions, primarily the result of the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Consultant William Stadler, who was retained by the city to help them form the budget, presented the council with an overview that included a drastic reduction in capital improvement projects that the city had previously slated for the next fiscal year.

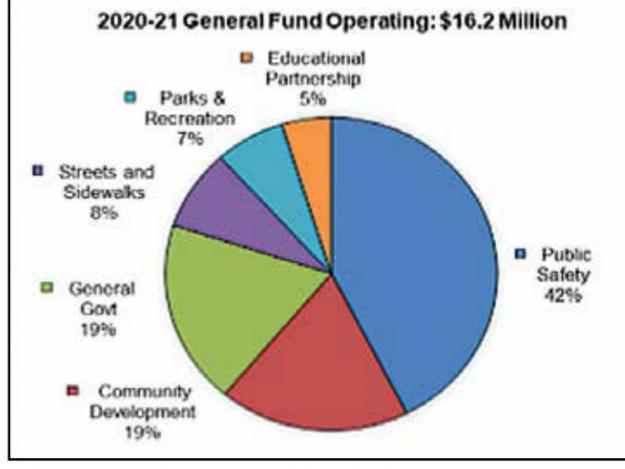
In a move that is being called a "chilling," the Council has been advised to pause improvement projects that

SHAFTER

had been budgeted the current fiscal year, but had not moved forward as yet. They decided to move forward to completion with the projects that have already been started, but to hold off on new projects. "They are still in the budget, but they will be chilled and will not be moved forward on until 2021-2022," said City Manager Gabriel Gonzales.

Another "chill" on the agenda is limiting hiring, including 11 open positions that have not been filled. The council was advised to fill four of those vacancies, including two of the four positions open for police offi-

See BUILDINGS Page 4



Sales tax continues to lead the city in revenue.

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710 E. Lerdo Hwy.
661-746-6075
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La Cocina Del Pablo
931 7th. St.

Blue Sushi & Teriyaki
915 7th St., Wasco
661-758-2236 Take out only.
Tues.-Sat.: 11 a.m.-p.m.
Sun., Mon.: Closed

Carol's Dari Freeze
1501 Highway 46
661-758-2606
Take out only.
Every day: 10 a.m.- 9:30 p.m.

Burger Factory
313 Central Ave.
661-746-9135
Take out only.

Frosty King
683 Central Valley Hwy.
661-746-6951 Take out only.
Every day: 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

McDonalds
101 W. Lerdo Hwy.
Every day: 6 a.m.-11 p.m.

Del Taco
135 S. Central Valley Hwy.
Every day: 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

WASCO
Barraza's Delicioso Tacos
601 F. St.
661-758-8944
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Fri.: 11 a.m.-2 a.m.
Sat.: 4 p.m.-2 a.m.
Sun.: 4 p.m.-12 a.m.
Take out only.

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912 7th St.
661-758-3338
Tues.-Sun.: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Teresa's Tacos Villa
441 F St.
661-758-2027
7 a.m.-2 p.m.

La Imperial Taqueria
922 7th St.
661-758-2955
Open every day: 9 a.m-9 p.m.

La Cabanita
169 Highway 46
661-758-4915

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Tin Cup Coffee
1101 E. Lerdo Hwy.
661-630-4061
Mon.-Fri.: 7 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sat.: 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sun.: Closed

Rocy's Mexican Food
749 S. Shafter Ave.
661-746-2619
Every day: 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

Tony's Firehouse Restaurant
300 E. Lerdo Hwy.
661-746-9244
Every day: 7 a.m.-9 p.m.

El Michoacano
237 Central Ave.
661-746-4872
Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sat.-Sun.: 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

La Fonda Taqueria and Mariscos
358 Central Ave.
661-746-0034
Every day: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

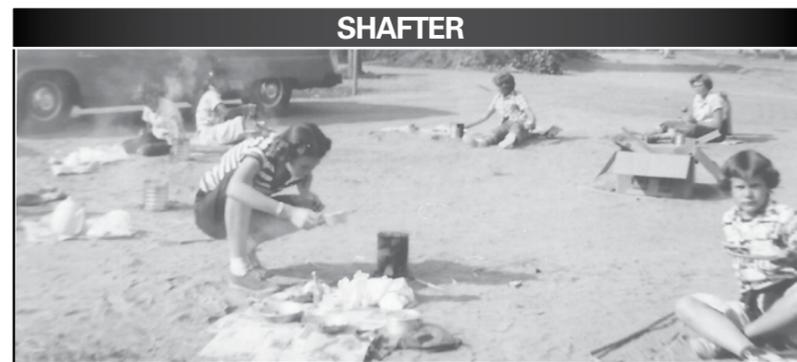
Don Pepe's Bar & Grill
301 E. Lerdo Hwy.
661-746-6183
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

China Cuisine
563 James St.
661-746-3266

Giovanni's Italian Eatery
130 Walker St.
661-746-2000

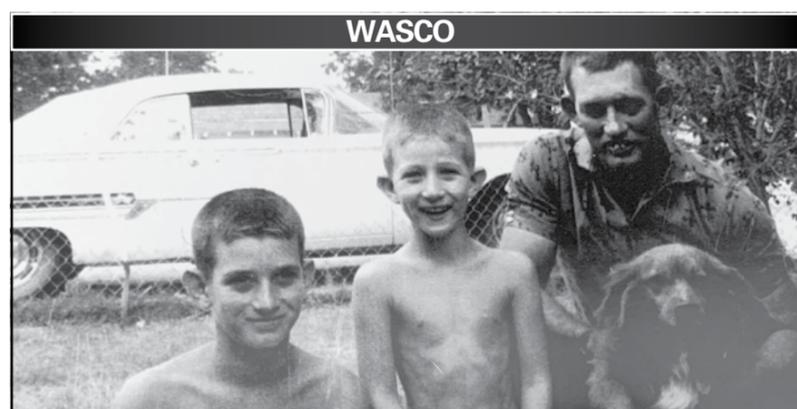
La Imperial Taqueria
327 State Ave.
661-746-1717

Mystery history



SHAFTER

Here's this week's challenge, courtesy of the Shafter Historical Society. If you know the location, circumstances, exact or rough date and/or people in the photo, send your educated (or semieducated) guess to *The Press*, 406 Central Ave., Shafter 93263, or e-mail it to mysteryphoto@TheShafterPress.com. Winners will be revealed here next week. **LAST WEEK:** Barbara Mettler and Jeannie Anderson look at carpet samples at Shafter Floor Covering, from the Shafter High School yearbook.



WASCO

Here's this week's challenge, courtesy of the Wasco Historical Society. If you know the location, circumstances, exact or rough date and/or people in the photo, send your educated (or semieducated) guess to the *Tribune*, 406 Central Ave., Shafter 93263, or e-mail it to mysteryphoto@WascoTrib.com. Winners will be revealed here next week. **LAST WEEK:** Mayor Tilo Cortez at age 5.



ARREST REPORT

SHAFTER

As reported by the Shafter Police Department

June 14
Joseph Sandyray Capps, 20, of Shafter, was arrested for disorderly conduct: alcohol.

Jose Manuel Argueta, 28, of Shafter, was arrested for DUI, Probation for DUI and no proof of financial responsibility.

June 9
Dirk Barton Underwood, 50, of Shafter, was arrested on a misdemeanor bench warrant and an outside agency warrant.

June 7
Jose Reyes Soto, 37, of Shafter, was arrested for disorderly conduct: alcohol and possessing an open container in public.

June 7
Luis Desiderio, 42, of Shafter, was arrested for robbery in the second degree, battery on person, possession of controlled substance and trespassing refusing to leave.

June 6
Esteban Barba, 25, of Shafter, was arrested for inflicted corporal injury on spouse.

June 5
Jaaziel Alexander

Garibay, 23, of Shafter, was arrested for grand theft auto or livestock, grand theft in a state of emergency, and hit and run property damage.

Marlene Vargas, 34, of Shafter, was arrested for force with deadly weapon not a firearm, great bodily injury and inflicting corporal injury on spouse.

Juan Madrigal Lomeli, 33, of Shafter, was arrested for disorderly conduct: alcohol, on a misdemeanor bench warrant and on an outside agency warrant.

June 4
Richard Garcia Jr., of Shafter, was arrested for get credit/etc. other's ID, on an outside felony warrant, possession of controlled substance, driving without a driver license and showing false ID to specific public officer.

June 3
Ryan Demetris Shaw, 32, of Shafter, was arrested for outside felony warrant and recovered stolen vehicle.

Antonio Cruz Araujo, 24, of Shafter was arrested for domestic violence and disorderly conduct: under the influence of drugs.

June 2
Andres Gonzalez Her-

nandez, 31, of Shafter, was arrested for false imprisonment with violence and battery.

WASCO

As reported by the Kern County Sheriff's Department, Wasco substation:

June 11
Anthony Flores, 27, of Wasco, was arrested in the 700 block of H Street in Wasco for trespassing. He was cited and released at the scene.

Antonio Lopez, 22, of Wasco, was arrested in the 1800 block of Pepper Tree Close in Wasco for felony vandalism and disobeying a court order. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Jeremy Wilson, 43, of Wasco, was arrested at the intersection of Highway 43 and Merced Avenue for threatening a crime with intent to terrorize, civil rights violence with violent injury, battery on a person and spousal battery. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

June 12
Wendy Gracian, 42, of Wasco, was arrested in the 2000 block of 5th Street for willful cruelty to a child. She was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Jacob James Salinas, 39, of Bakersfield, was arrested in the 1700 block of 4th Street for disobeying a court order. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Alex Tillson, 20, of Wasco, was arrested in the 700 block of F Street in Wasco on an active misdemeanor warrant. He was cited and released at the scene.

June 13
Karl Edwards Lopez, 21, of Wasco, was arrested in the 800 block of Broadway on an active felony warrant. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Jerell Ticer Ringold, 34, of Wasco, was arrested in the 700 block of H Street on an active misdemeanor warrant and trespassing. He was cited and released at the scene.

Arturo Saldivar, 29, of Wasco, was arrested at the intersection of 8th Street and G Street on an active felony warrant. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Angel Soto, 30, of Wasco, was arrested at the intersection of 8th Street and G Street for driving on a suspended license, an expired vehicle registration and driving a vehicle without

insurance. He was cited and released at the scene.

June 14
Andrew Darwin No-guez, 23, of Bakersfield, was arrested in the 700 block of H Street on two active misdemeanor warrants, trespassing and possession of unlawful paraphernalia. He was cited and released at the scene.

Christopher Rene Rodriguez, 24, of Wasco, was arrested in the 700 block of H Street for trespassing. He was cited and released at the scene.

Fernando Torres, 37, of Wasco, was arrested in the 700 block of Birch Avenue for felony vandalism, second degree burglary and burglary during a state of emergency. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Mark Ybarra, 34, of Wasco, was arrested at the intersection of 7th Street and Palm Avenue for possession of a controlled substance and possession of an open container of alcohol. He was cited and released at the scene.

BUTTONWILLOW
As reported by the Kern County Sheriff's Department, Buttonwillow substation:

June 10
Darren Mortimore, 41, of Shafter, was arrested at the intersection of Highway 58 and Tracy Avenue in Buttonwillow for a felon being in possession of a firearm, concealed weapon in vehicle, carrying a loaded gun, driving on a suspended license, no registration, being under the influence of a controlled substance, being in possession of a firearm and being in possession of a controlled substance while armed. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Juan Humberto Loza, 23, of Shafter, was arrested in the 20600 block of Tracy Avenue in Buttonwillow for on a felony warrant for the charges of being in possession of a stolen vehicle, grand theft auto, conspiracy, resisting arrest and looting by grand theft. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

June 14
Jose Perez, 32, of Lost Hills, was arrested in the 14800 block of Aloma Street in Lost Hills for disorderly conduct and on a misdemeanor warrant. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

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Wasco Tribune

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Council hears frustration with fireworks

TONI DEROSA
Wasco Tribune

Comments from City Council members and the public were discussed in detail regarding the use of illegal fireworks being lit, especially in the evening and at nighttime. At the meeting Tuesday, June 16, the council was joined by Public Information Officer Andrew Freeborn of the Kern County Fire Department, who assured the city that the KCFD was stepping up its efforts to catch those using illegal fireworks. Kern County Fire Department Deputy Chief Aaron Duncan was present at a council meeting during the early part of June, when fireworks complaints were beginning to come into the city. "We are creating an educational program for citizens advising them they are breaking the law when they let off fireworks," Freeborn said. "We are printing doorknob signs to go on everyone's front door." A listener called into the meeting and suggested that while an educational program could help, he felt that citing the lawbreakers would be more of an incentive to stop setting off fireworks. Battalion Chief Joe Appleton and Freeborn called into the meeting and suggested

WASCO

that while an educational program could help, they felt that citing the lawbreakers would be more of an incentive to stop setting off fireworks. City Manager Daniel Ortiz-Hernandez told the council members that historically, the Kern County Fire Department enforces the use of fireworks by regular patrolling; however, fireworks have been going off since the middle of May and the residents are letting City Hall hear about it. He said that because the city and the KCFD are still abiding by Covid-19 protocols, to many, it appeared that the Fire Department was not doing its job by monitoring the use of fireworks; however, with the relaxation of the quarantine, regular inspections will begin. The city has provided a method by which residents can make complaints about fireworks by going online to the city website to file a formal complaint or calling the Wasco substation's nonemergency line, 661-758-7266. Freeborn also updated the council on the fire at the former farm labor camp on Monday that began at 7 a.m. Building #105 was

on fire with a lot of black smoke pouring out of the ceiling. "There was no one in the building and one fireman was injured," he said. "We believe it was a transient who set the fire." Firemen on the scene used axes to break apart the wood-covered windows and break the glass to let smoke out for better ventilation. He also mentioned that the building is soon to be demolished. Power will be cut from the camp when the 60-day extension period for relocation has expired. "There is power to 220 units, and it will all be turned off," Ortiz-Hernandez said. "This means that streetlights will also be off." Mayor Tilo Cortez mentioned there are still seven people living at the camp and waiting to be placed elsewhere. "Two of them will be relocating," Cortez said. "They will be picking up their keys this week." As Ortiz-Hernandez gave a virus update, he asked the council members how they felt about re-opening transportation services. "I don't think it's a good idea to open Dial-A-Ride," Mayor Pro Temp Danny Espitia said. Councilmember Alex Garcia said that since it is still the first wave of the virus, he feels uncomfortable about opening the service.

"I don't think we are ready to open Dial-A-Ride," Cortez said. Councilmember Gilberto Reyna agreed with Espitia, and the council decided to err on the side of caution by not re-opening the service when the city re-opens its offices in July. Ortiz-Hernandez then gave an update on the city's troubled water wells. "Well #14 is open and online since June 16," he said. "We are beginning repairs on the other two wells." Sergeant Peter Martinez told the council that the sheriff's substation opened its office June 8, with 8 a.m.-5 p.m. hours. The substation is closed on the weekend. Martinez also alerted members to a scam targeting elderly Hispanics by calling them and telling them a family member has been kidnapped and that they need to send money to a special place. Martinez said that he was able to prevent one resident from falling for the scam. He is also campaigning for residents to register their home cameras so the department can get help in solving crimes. "We only have 13 registered cameras, and I want to triple that this summer," he said. The number to sign up is 661-758-7266.

Violent crime topic of discussion

TONI DEROSA
Wasco Tribune

Last week Kern County leaders met for an online roundtable discussion on the increased crime in Wasco. City Manager Daniel Ortiz-Hernandez, Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer and Undersheriff Doug Jauch. Vincent Martinez of the North Kern News moderated the discussion on Facebook. "There have been seven violent crimes within the past 10 months, with four this year with one person in critical condition as of last week," Martinez said. "We've had 53 homicides in the last 10 months in the county," Youngblood said. "Wasco is comparable to the rest of the county." Youngblood continued that when oil was \$100 a barrel, the city was flush; when it dropped to \$60 a barrel, the city panicked; and when it went to zero dollars a barrel, and then Covid-19 hit, the city fell apart. "With the dissolution of the gang unit, violent crime is not down in our county," Youngblood said. "This is the perfect storm for the criminal, and the perfect storm for trouble." Cortez mentioned that the city of Wasco voted on Measure X, which was a \$.01 sales tax increase to be used for safety when needed. Youngblood added that the officers have not stopped responding to calls, and if the officers can handle cases on the phone, they will do so. "Officers do not know who has Covid-19, and they need to protect them-

WASCO

selves." "We have had one officer who tested positive for Covid-19 and has been out of work for the past two months," Youngblood said. "We want to keep Covid-19 out of the jails." "The stats from Wasco show that they have made a large amount of arrests," Youngblood said. "That's what the deputies are doing in Wasco." Martinez brought up that the city of Shafter has not had a shooting since 2015, and he believes that is why the Wasco community is commenting on the cities with comparable socioeconomic populations. Because Shafter has its own police department, Youngblood could not comment on the comparison of Shafter and Wasco violent crimes. "We had a great plan when we had a gang task force," Youngblood said. "Wasco is closer to the gang activity in Delano. We can't get the number of deputies that are necessary." "The gang task force was eliminated during the downturn due to budget constraints." Youngblood sees one of the major problems with the increase in crime is the use of masks. "You can now wear a mask, and nobody thinks anything about it," Youngblood said. "Robbery is so much easier today than it was six months ago." Youngblood also commented on the increase in crimes, such as vehicle theft and burglary. "When oil was at \$100 a barrel, the city was flush, when it dropped to \$60 a barrel, the city panicked and when



Undersheriff Doug Jauch.



Vincent Martinez of the North Kern News.

it dropped to zero dollars a barrel, the city collapsed," Youngblood said. A discussion on an oversight committee was brought up. Youngblood said that the sheriff has oversight by the district attorney and the grand jury and lastly, the federal Department of Justice. "It is my job to oversee whether an officer uses unusual force," Youngblood said. I would be remiss to subject my officers to a community oversight committee and that kind of scrutiny." District Attorney Zimmer then addressed violent crimes. "Most gun crimes are gang-related," Zimmer said. "In six homicides in Kern County, one of those has been solved." In answering a question from Cortez, Zimmer said that victims of crime who are not legally in the country will not be asked whether they are citizens. "We do not want to report victims of crime," Zimmer said. "We don't care if you are an immigrant or not. If you are a good citizen and a victim of a crime, then you are fine; however, if you are a criminal who commits a crime, then a follow-up visit from Immigration and Naturalization may follow." "It's of concern to us when we book someone into jail," Youngblood said. "We don't ask whether you are legal or illegal."

Kindness to highlight Woman's Club year

SHAFTER

After a hiatus due to the coronavirus, the Shafter Woman's Club met on June 10 to install new officers. President Angie Nelson's theme, "Fostering Kindness," will guide the club for two years. Social distancing and masks were a part of the event. The club received several awards in the past year for several different projects. In Cans d'Arte, the event that is held during the Colours Festival, the club received an State Art Award. They also received a State Award in Domestic Violence Awareness for their White Ribbon Campaign. Chair Judy Knox gave special thanks to the Depot Museum and Colours for help with the Cans d'Arte event. Chaired by Barbara Gladden and Colleen Diltz, the White Ribbon Campaign is a program that aims to prevent domestic violence. A presentation was made in front of the city council, as well as throughout town. The club also thanked Shafter High Principal Russell Shipley

and Shafter High School for their support and the success of the program. SWC's community programs have included scholarships, the Shafter Symphony, Shafter Clean-up, Stuff the Bus, Filled Purses for Victims of Abuse, the Christmas Store, little libraries, elementary art contests, the Heifer Project parade of costumes and Beautiful Shafter. They also send a



From left, Auditor Diane Waterhouse, Parliamentarian Sandee Senior, Treasurer Doris Duquette, Recording Secretary Mary Crowe, 2nd Vice President Missy Espe-ricueta and President Angie Nelson.



Barbara Gladden installing President Angie Nelson.

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 Walk-in welcome

TONI DEROSA
 Wasco Tribune

The drive-thru line has been packed from the moment Panda Express opened this past week.

Panda Express held its official ribbon cutting Saturday, with Mayor Tilo Cortez, Councilmember Gilberto Reyna, City Manager Daniel Ortiz-Hernandez and other city staff, as well as Panda Express managers Esther Vivero and Andrea Mora.

Wasco Rose Queen Elisa Flores cut the ribbon. "I am glad that Panda is now open. It has been a long wait, and I'm sure everyone is so excited and appreciative for the opening," Flores told the crowd. "It's important for our city to continue to thrive with new businesses so that our

WASCO

community can grow."

Manager and cook Esther Vivero has worked for Panda Express for 15 years. Prior to Wasco, she worked at the Panama Lane location in Bakersfield and prior to that she was near the coast in Camarillo.

Vivero said she likes working for the chain. "Panda Express takes care of their employees," she said. "They paid us while we were closed when the quarantine started."



Official ribbon cutting at Panda Express.

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From left, Mayor Tilo Cortez, Deputy Director Public Works Chuck Sobolewski and City Manager Daniel Ortiz-Hernandez.



2019-20 Rose Queen Elisa Flores addressed the attendees with a personal message.

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VBS planned for June 26-27

In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, the community of Shafter will still uphold an annual tradition that is a big event for the kids and adults alike during the summer.

A Vacation Bible School for the entire community will take place Monday-Friday, June 22-26. With sponsor churches Valley Bible Church, De La Saron Church, Shafter Christian Fellowship, Home Fellowship Church and New Hope Church, and individual volunteers from other churches, kids will

SHAFTER

experience Mystery Island. The VBS will be a week full of Bible stories, fun activities, snacks, games and music.

Registration this year is online only, and there is a limit of 20 children per class. The email address is shafter vbc2020.myanswers.com/mystery-island/register/.

According to director Jennifer Russell, "The event is a great one that will show the solidarity and the pride

that the Shafter community has. It also says a lot about the faith we have in the community."

The event will operate under safety guidelines from the Kern County Health Department. Facemasks will be optional, with a signed waiver of liability required.

"There are over 45 volunteers for the event, and we are lucky to be serving such a loving and caring community," Russell said.

—Jamie Stewart

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'Chilling' budget preview

From Page 1

sers, and a position for administrative services director. Not hiring the other eight budgeted positions will save approximately \$850,000 next fiscal year.

Going forward, the council was advised to use a "lean" strategy when it comes to upcoming improvement projects.

With 14 projects budgeted in 2020-21, it appears they will be going forward with the new Corporation Yard project. The other projects that are budgeted for will be put on hold until 2021-22. These include the Shafter pool project, a police substation off of Seventh Standard Road to cover the Gossamer Grove area, and a citywide camera system, among others.

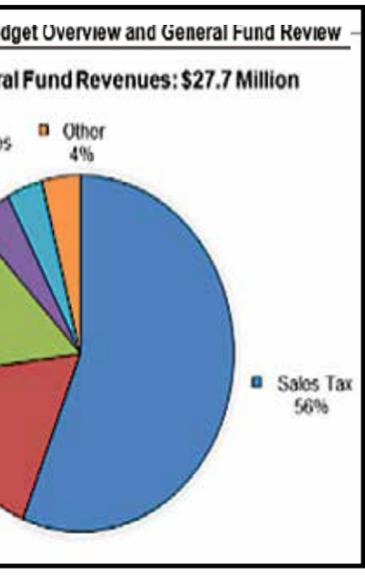
Williams Sonoma's call center near Minter Field.

This issue is apparently nothing new – the contingency was in the 2019-20 budget, too.

City officials were reticent to talk more about the issue, noting that parts of the city's agreement with the retailer are confidential.

According to City Manager Gonzales, the chance of an adverse ruling on the taxes "is very slim," but the funds are set aside in case of that worst-case scenario.

In addition to the \$15.7 million in sales tax revenue, the city is also projecting about \$4.7 million in property tax revenue. The total projected revenue for 2020-21 is approximately \$27.7 million, which is a decrease of \$4 million from 2018-2019. The majority of the difference is in the sales tax, which was \$18.6 million in that year, compared to \$15.5 million for 2020-2021.



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Despite the pandemic, the city is in a stronger position than most cities in California because of its strategic planning for the future and its unique position with sales tax revenue. While still facing a decrease of about 7.5% in sales tax revenue, most cities are facing 25% to 30% declines. This primarily is due to the revenue coming from online retailer Williams Sonoma, with its call center at Minter Field.

Sales tax revenue is projected to be around \$15.5 million, which is approximately 56% of the city's revenue.

There is a \$16 million loss contingency in the budget's operating budget due to possible legal action to eliminate the city's sales tax revenue from

Police Protection gets about 42% of the operations budget

In department operating expenditures, the majority of the funds are earmarked for the Police Department. The operating budget for 2020-21 is \$6.4 million, about 42% of the operating budget.

The operating budget is conforming to Stadler's "lean and mean" strategy, with the overall operating budget reduced by 11% from the 2019-20 budget. Several of these numbers are up for review at the midyear review, in some cases being adjusted up or down depending on the circumstances.

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Graduation at WIHS

From Page 1

the independent study program.

"These students are working from home and receiving their instruction and assignments on a weekly basis from a designated instructor at WIHS or WHS," Lonza said. "Students enter the ISP primarily for medical reasons, a special education placement, an undeniable need to work or are parenting minors. These students

are technically Wasco High students who are receiving services managed through Independence High."

There are also two students who transitioned from continuation or independent study to the adult education program at the end of their senior year, he said. "They are graduating through the adult education program."

Lonza added that all three programs were to participate in

the WIHS ceremony on Wednesday night at the WHS football field. Each graduate could only bring two guests and families had to maintain the required social distancing.

The graduates were to be presented in the following order: Wasco Independence High (continuing education), Wasco Adult School (adult education) and Wasco Independent Study.

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A distinguished group

Shelby Ramos was crowned as the winner of the 2021 Distinguished Young Woman of Shafter in a program that was done primarily online. All of the performing was done by video, and the only personal contact with judges was during the interviews. Judging was done remotely by viewing the contestants' performances. At right, Ramos receives her medal from Distinguished Young Woman of Shafter 2020 Kristen McGuire. Above, she is flanked by First Alternate Alicia Pompa, Second Alternate Santana Delarosa, and the rest of her court. Below, Santana and Alicia pose with Ramos. Even though the program was done mostly online, "It was still an honor and a blessing to be named the first alternate," Pompa said. "I was nervous during the time we were performing, so I had some jitters, especially having to perform in front of a camera. Everything worked out in the end. It was a great experience, even if we didn't get the full experience."

SHAFTER

--Photos courtesy Shafter Distinguished Young Woman



Mostly questions for WUESD's next school year

TONI DEROSA
Wasco Tribune

It's clear that the next school year is still up in the air – both physically and fiscally – as the WUESD board discussed the status of the district post-pandemic Tuesday night

In an email after the meeting, Wasco Union Elementary School District Superintendent Kelly Richers said that the district is unsure where it stands for the next school year financially.

"If the cost of living adjustment is met (Legislature proposal), we cannot release any certificated employees," Richers said. "If the cost of living adjustment is not reached (the governor's proposed budget), then we can release teachers to save money."

Richers added that not having an

WASCO

agreement on which way the state is going freezes any personnel decisions the district might want to make.

"We still anticipate school will start in some fashion August 10," Richers said. "Everything else must wait for this."

Richers is proposing that students attend one day a week and distance learn the other four.

"But no real decision has been made on that yet, pending the budget and health officials' decisions on attendance," Richers said.

While the school district continues to hold its monthly board meetings and the board members and administration are practicing safe distancing, it's a difficult situation to deal

with in limited space. "The district keeps minutes of each meeting and the agendas are posted," Richers said. "Due to social distancing, there is only room for 10 people inside the boardroom. Five board members, union representative, Richers and [teachers association union representative David] Vaughn for recording notes leaves spots for two people in the room. If the CFO has budget to give, that leaves room for only one spot in the room."

Richers said that anyone is welcome to come and sit wherever there is socially distancing space.

He also said that Zoom is not a practical option due to the ability and access constraints with the board.

"The district does record every meeting," Richers said. "We do not and never have tape recorded."

Vacation Bible School

June 29 – July 3rd
9:00 am - 11:30 am

Children entering K - 6th Grade
Shafter Mennonite Brethren Church
400 Kern St., Shafter

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Info: 746-4969

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OBITUARY

Margaret LaRue 1931 – 2020

In loving memory of our mother and grandmother, Margaret LaRue.

Margaret was born in Arizona, Jan. 9, 1931, to Jesse and Conception Navarro. She met her beloved husband, Steve LaRue, while he was serving in the U.S. Navy, in the Korean War. They made their home in Wasco.

Margaret was preceded in death by her loving husband, Steve, sons Donnie and Raymond LaRue, and grandchildren Richard Paul LaRue and Kelly Marie Nunez. She leaves behind her children, Ronald LaRue, Rick and Kay LaRue, Anthony LaRue, Alex LaRue,



Michael and Gabriela LaRue, Linda Maldonado, Cynthia LaRue, Connie LaRue, Norma LaRue, Renee LaRue, Clifford Davis, and many, many grandchildren that she loved dearly.

Our mother and grandmother was truly unforgettable. She was the most strong, and loving woman who took care of everyone.

There wasn't anyone who was a stranger to her. You never left her home hungry or not feeling loved, and she was always there for anyone in any time of need.

She had a way of making you feel loved even if it was tough love. She was a mother to so many more than just her own children. You could always feel the fierceness of her strength, especially when it came to her family. That's what she taught us, *family first, always*.

She will never be forgotten, and is now resting in Jesus' arms. Give all of our angels hugs, until we all join together again. We love you, Mom/Grandma, and will miss you forever.

DEATH NOTICES

Denton L. Carender Sr., 69, of Wasco, passed away June 8. Peters Funeral Home, Wasco.

Shirley Joanne Odell, 78, of Wasco, passed away June 13. Peters Funeral Home, Wasco.

Anthony "Tony" Pacheco, 62, of Buttonwillow, passed away June 13 in Shafter. Peters Funeral Home, Shafter.

Gavino Pelayo, 22, of Bakersfield, passed away June 13 in Bakersfield. Basham & Lara Funeral Care, Shafter.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Petition to Administer Estate of Dixie Lee Crane, aka Dixie L. Crane, aka Dixie Crane, Decedent
Case Number: BPB-20-002400
1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Dixie Lee Crane, aka Dixie L. Crane, aka Dixie Crane
2. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Mattie Lemmons in the Superior Court of California, County of Kern
3. The Petition for Probate requests that: Mattie Lemmons be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
5. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the

Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
6. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
a. Date: JUL 16, 2020 Time: 8:30a.m. Dept.: P
b. Address of court: Superior Court of California, County of Kern, 1215 Trux-

tun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301, Metro Justice Building.
7. If you object to the granting of the petition you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
8. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
9. You may examine the file kept

by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
10. Attorney for petitioner: Joshua G. Wilson, Esq.
Darling & Wilson PC
1626 19th Street, Suite 23/
PO Box 2411
Bakersfield, CA 93303
661-325-5075
Publish *Shafter Press* June 11, 18, 25, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE
Fictitious Business Name Statement
Shafter Pediatrics
2020-B2408
501 Munzer St, Suite C
Shafter, CA 93263
County: Kern
Mailing address of business:
P.O. Box 22694
Bakersfield, CA 93390
Shafter Pediatrics
501 Munzer St, Suite C
Shafter, CA 93263
State of Incorporation or Organization: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
Date the business commenced: 09/19/2016
A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see Section 14411 et seq., business and professions code.)
/s/Ayodeji Ayeni, President
Date Statement Filed: 05/27/2020
Date Statement Expires: 05/27/2025
Mary B. Bedard, CPA,
Auditor-Controller-County Clerk
By: /s/N Franco
Publish *Shafter Press* June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE
Fictitious Business Name Statement
Healing Vine Counseling Services
2020-B2464
The Healing Vine
2020-B2465
Guadalupe Maria
2020-B2466
455 Kern Street Suite D
Shafter, CA 93263
County: Kern
Mailing address of business:
455 Kern Street Suite D
Shafter, CA 93263
Guadalupe Reyes-Garcia
560 Butte Ct
Shafter, CA 93263
State of Incorporation or Organization: CA
The business is conducted by: Indi-

vidual
Date the business commenced: N/A
A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see Section 14411 et seq., business and professions code.)
/s/Guadalupe Reyes-Garcia
Date Statement Filed: 06/03/2020
Date Statement Expires: 06/03/2025
Mary B. Bedard, CPA,
Auditor-Controller-County Clerk
By: /s/N Franco
Publish *Shafter Press* June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SELL REAL PROPERTY
The Buttonwillow Union School District Board of Trustees gives notice that on June 8, 2020 it adopted a Resolution declaring its intention to sell property located at 168 Dunford Street, Buttonwillow, California. The minimum bid which will be considered is \$168,000.00 No commission will be paid to a real estate broker. Sealed bids will be received at the Buttonwillow Union School District Office until the hour of 3:00 p.m. on July 13, 2020, and will be opened and considered at the hour of 6:00 p.m. at its Regular Board meeting on the date of July 13, 2020, at the following address: 42600 Highway 58, Buttonwillow, California. A copy of the complete resolution and required documents, including a complete legal description of the property, is on file at the District office.
Dated: June 8, 2020

J. Stuart Packard
District Superintendent
Publish *Shafter Press* June 18, 25, July 2, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE
Fictitious Business Name Statement
Ramona Herrera State Farm Insurance Agency
2020-B2474
551 Central Avenue
Shafter, CA 93263
County: Kern
Mailing address of business:
551 Central Avenue
Shafter, CA 93263
Ramona Herrera
1912 Classen Street
Bakersfield, CA 93312
The business is conducted by: Individual
Date the business commenced: 07/01/2001
A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this state-

ment does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see Section 14411 et seq., business and professions code.)
/s/Ramona Herrera
Date Statement Filed: 06/03/2020
Date Statement Expires: 06/03/2025
Mary B. Bedard, CPA,
Auditor-Controller-County Clerk
By: /s/M Hernandez
Publish *Shafter Press* June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE
Fictitious Business Name Statement
Fresh Journey
2020-B2480
340 Mannel Ave
Shafter, CA 93263
County: Kern
Mailing address of business:
340 Mannel Ave
Shafter, CA 93263
Jennifer Neufeld
340 Mannel Ave
Shafter, CA 93263
The business is conducted by: Individual
Date the business commenced: N/A
A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see Section 14411 et seq., business and professions code.)
/s/Jennifer Neufeld
Date Statement Filed: 06/4/2020
Date Statement Expires: 06/04/2025
Mary B. Bedard, CPA,
Auditor-Controller-County Clerk
By: /s/N Franco
Publish *Shafter Press* June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE
SHAFTER RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
NOTICE TO ADOPTION
2020-2021 OPERATING BUDGET
(Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 5788.1)
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: PLEASE BE ADVISED that the Board of Directors of Shafter Recreation and Park District adopted a preliminary budget at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on July 13th, 2020. The preliminary budget is available for inspection at the District office located at 700 E. Tulare Avenue, Shafter California during normal business hours. Please be further advised that the Board will meet to adopt the final budget at 6:00 p.m. on July 13th, 2020, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the District Board, at 505 Sunset Avenue, Shafter California. Any person may appear at that time and be heard regarding any item in the budget or regarding the addition of other items.
Publish *Shafter Press* June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE
CAWELO WATER DISTRICT
Notice of Delinquent Assessments
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the assessments and penalties due to CAWELO WATER DISTRICT on the following described parcels of land located in the County of Kern, State of California, are delinquent and unpaid in the amount respectively set forth each parcel:

Legal Description of Delinquent Property APN / Section, Township, Range	Acres	Name	Delinquent Assessments & Penalties Due
APN 073-290-2600/Section 33, Township 27, Range 26	19.53	S32 Valley Investments, LLC	\$1,681.53
APN 482-090-3100/Parcel Map 6201, Parcel Lot 7	2.56	Bragg Investment Co., Inc.	\$220.42
APN 482-090-3200/Parcel Map 6201, Parcel Lot 3	3.28	Bragg Investment Co., Inc.	\$282.41
APN 481-100-2600/Section 20, Township 28, Range 27	10.0	Davis, Tim and Gina	\$52.37
APN 481-100-2800/Section 20, Township 28, Range 27	5.0	Davis, Tim and Gina	\$430.50
APN 481-100-2900/Section 20, Township 28, Range 27	5.04	Davis, Tim and Gina	\$433.94
APN 074-042-4000/Parcel Map 6055, Parcel Lot 16	19.33	Fawns, William & Shooley, Sharon Tr	\$100.63
APN 074-042-3100/Parcel Map 6055, Parcel Lot 7	20.01	FKB Capital, Inc.	\$1,722.86
APN 482-090-1300/Parcel Map 2254, Parcel Lot	15.46	Jones, Arthur & Marilyn Family Trust	\$81.17
APN 060-350-0800/Parcel Map 1147, Block Lot 5	2.51	Kasparian, Lucy Living Trust	\$13.18
APN 060-350-2800/Parcel Map 1147, Block Lot 22	3.76	Kessler, Keith J.	\$19.74
APN 060-350-0600/Parcel Map 1147, Block Lot 3	1.26	Lew, Gene Ming & Chan, Josephine	\$6.62
APN 074-020-6800/Section 8, Township 27, Range 27	149.36	McCourry, Phyllis	\$784.14
APN 060-350-3800/Parcel Map 1147, Block Lot 29	2.51	Nastase, Radu	\$13.18
APN 482-080-1900/Parcel Map 10678, Parcel Lot P34	2.0	Perez Revocable Living Trust	\$172.20
APN 060-350-1100/Parcel Map 1147, Tract Lot PTN7	1.26	Perezchica, Giovanni and Gonzales, Ruby M.	\$6.62
APN 060-350-1900/Parcel Map 1147, Tract Lot 14	2.51	Perezchica, Giovanni and Gonzales, Ruby M.	\$13.18
APN 060-350-0100/Parcel Map 1147, Block Lot 32	2.51	Rodriguez, Giovanni Luciano Perezchica	\$13.18
APN 060-350-0200/Parcel Map 1147, Block Lot 17	2.51	Rodriguez, Giovanni Luciano Perezchica	\$13.18
APN 060-350-3300/Parcel Map 1147, Block Lot PN25	1.26	Valencia, Gregorio	\$6.62
APN 482-020-1300/Section 28, Township 28, Range 27	5.0	Venable Family Trust	\$430.50

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that unless the delinquent assessments and penalties are paid at the district office by 12 noon on June 29, 2020, the delinquent property will, on that date, be sold to the district for nonpayment of the delinquent assessments and penalties.

The name, address, and telephone number of the official who will furnish all information concerning redemption is as follows:
Celynn Lyman, 17207 Industrial Farm Road, Bakersfield, CA 93308, (661) 393-6072.

After three years from the date of sale of the delinquent property to the district, the right of redemption may be terminated upon execution and delivery to the district of a collector's deed pursuant to Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 37150).

Dated May 29, 2020

David Ansolabehere
Tax Collector, Cawelo Water District

Publish *Shafter Press* June 4, 11, 18, 2020

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COUCH'S CORNER

We want the same thing

Recent events have demonstrated that we are still a divided nation. It does not have to be this way in Kern County. In my years of political experience, I have seen and talked to folks from all over the county. I have heard from them what matters, and I have listened. My findings will not surprise you, nor should my recommendations on what we should do. But sometimes, in the face of fear and hatred, we need to be reminded of who we are. In the end, as I have said here in this column, as I have said on the campaign trail, and as I have said to anyone who will listen, we all basically want the same thing.

When I represented the Haggin Oaks community and talked to folks, I always heard the same demands from local government. Fix our potholes! Keep the neighborhoods safe! Give children a chance to thrive, at home, in school and in the open spaces provided for them.

Make sure the community is clean. Help families succeed. Foster an economic environment that creates good paying jobs to folks in our community. Make a playing field for success for all that is not impeded by unnecessary regulations and bureaucracy. Make sure we are all treated fairly and justly.

Redistricting happened, and my district changed. Delano, Lamont, Shafter, McFarland, Arvin and more were added, and some communities were lost. My district and others dramatically changed. I represent different people and communities now, but what the people want did not change. I was re-elected (thank you for that), and it is my desire and goal for the next four years to help these communities get what they want – the same things all of us have always wanted.

The outrage over the killing of George Floyd is shared by all. The communities' right to protest this killing is shared by all. And I believe the disappointment and frustration over looting and destruction in the wake of the protests is also shared by all. Except for those few – there are always

those few – who believe hate and violence accomplishes their goals. What sad goals they must be!

We must not fight each other because of the actions of the few. They cannot divide us. If they do, hate wins. Rather, we must stand together, work together, and build a stronger union in response to these outrages. That is how we take the negative events of the past weeks and turn them into a positive.

At the county level, we can do this symbolically by standing in solidarity, but I was thinking perhaps another way is to build a District 4 dialogue – community groups that can meet regularly and discuss how to build trust and dialogue and genuine understanding of each other. We have made efforts like this in the past, through town hall meetings and other gatherings. Most recently, we met in Lamont after the gang-related shootings of the three young people this past January. Now that Covid-19 restrictions are lifting, we could resurrect these groups. In times like this, people need to be heard. Let us hear them. Let us hear all of you.

That meeting in Lamont was a start. Folks were crying and happy at the same time. They were thankful they had a place and the opportunity to express their grief and fears and mourn. We were starting the process of building trust. Now we must take this goal district wide to build trust and respect for each other.

We should continue what we have already started: Working together to create economic opportunity for all, improving the quality of life for all, creating an environment where we all have a voice, building a County where we all feel safe.

If you are interested in being part of the solution, or if you have any questions of me, contact the District 4 office at 661-868-3680 or email us at district4@kerncounty.com. Have a safe week. Be positive.

David Couch is county supervisor for District 4, covering the Shafter and Wasco areas.

PASTOR'S CORNER

The Prince of Peace is in control

PASTOR JIM GLASCO

How true the Bible is when it said *in the last days perilous times shall come*. This is a time of uncertainty in many lives. People are battling stress and pressure as they try to support their families and businesses. The news is filled with fear and worry and sometimes misinformation. I heard one athlete say "I'm afraid to even wake upon the morning." Even though these are challenging times, there is hope. And that hope is to trust the Lord Jesus. He is the hope of glory, and He is the only one who can bring peace to this troubled world.

The Lord offers peace for the troubled soul. Colossians 1:20 says *...and hav-*

ing made peace through the blood of his cross... As we face these perilous times, hold on to His strong hand. We have peace through what He did for us upon the cross. While we were yet sinners, Christ took our place and willingly went to the cross for us. He shed His blood that we could be reconciled unto God. 1st Peter 18 calls it *the just for the unjust*. Christ died to save us and to

lead us in times like these.

The Lord offers peace for everyday living. We can wake up every morning and face it with confidence because of the peace of God. The Bible tells us to cast all our care upon Christ because He cares for us. Philippians 4:7 says *...the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Je-*

The peace of God is like a group of soldiers on guard duty in your life.

sus. The peace of God is like a group of soldiers on guard duty in your life. Apostle Paul said Christ is our peace.

Yes, these are most challenging times, but the Bible says in Isaiah 26:3 *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

Trust the Lord and walk in His peace. Know that Christ is still in control and realize that one day He will come back and scripture says *...the government of this world shall be upon His shoulder.* He truly is the Prince of Peace.

Jim Glasco is pastor of 7th Standard Pentecostal Church of God in Shafter.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Cecilia's Impressions Beauty Salon
2020-B2349
830 E Street
Wasco, CA 93280
County: Kern
Mailing address of business:
1947 Broadway Ave.
Wasco, CA 93280
Victoria Diaz

1947 Broadway Street
Wasco, CA 93280
The business is conducted by: Individual
Date the business commenced:
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rights of another under federal, state or common law (see Section 14411 et seq., business and professions code.)
/s/Victoria Diaz
Date Statement Filed: 05/14/2020
Date Statement Expires: 05/14/2025
Mary B. Bedard, CPA,
Auditor-Controller-County Clerk
By: /s/R Edmiaston
Publish *Wasco Tribune* June 4, 11, 18, 25, 2020

Fictitious Business Name Statement
MMR FLC
2020-B2409
1174 Port Ct.
McFarland, CA 93250
County: Kern
Mailing address of business:
1174 Port Ct.
McFarland, CA 93250
Manuel De Jesus Romero Jr.
1174 Port Court

McFarland, CA 93250
The business is conducted by: Individual
Date the business commenced: N/A
A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see Section 14411

et seq., business and professions code.)
/s/Manuel De Jesus Romero Jr.
Date Statement Filed: 05/27/2020
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Auditor-Controller-County Clerk
By: /s/N Franco
Publish *Wasco Tribune* June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2020

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SCHEDULING

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