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SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1921

Wasco Tribune

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1980

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Election drags on in Shafter, Wasco races

JAMIE STEWART
The Shafter Press

In a very tight Shafter City Council race, Mayor Gilbert Alvarado has once again passed Kris Lawrence and Chad Givens to have the second most votes in the election for the three open seats.

Last week, results said that Givens and Lawrence had overtaken Alvarado by un-

REGIONAL

der 50 votes. As of Nov. 20, Alvarado has 17.5% the vote, with 2,088 votes. Givens is third with 2,068 votes and Lawrence is on the outside looking in at the moment with 2,033 votes.

Council member Manuel Garcia is well off the pace with 15.77% and Rafael Zamu-

dio has 12.44%.

Alvarado was in the news this week as he commented to Jose Gaspar in a Bakersfield Californian article that he believes that he and Garcia were targeted by a group prior to the election, regarding videos that were posted online endorsing Pete Espinoza, the top vote getter, Givens and Lawrence. Alvarado, who didn't respond to numerous ef-

forts for comments for two months before the election, spoke out to Gaspar.

"Manuel Garcia and I were definitely targeted," Alvarado said to Gaspar. Gaspar wrote that community members considered Alvarado, Garcia and Mayor Pro-Tem Cesar Lopez as a "voting bloc" after they nominated Alvarado as mayor and Lopez

See CITY Page 5

Businesses adjust again to purple tier

TONI DEROSA
Wasco Tribune

After Kern County dropped back to the purple tier, businesses have become more stringent about the wearing of masks and social distancing.

Residents were warned

WASCO

a week in advance that the numbers were on the rise and the county was destined to drop from the red to the purple tier immediately. That is seven months to the day that the county went on its original quarantine, lockdown and school closure.

During the few weeks where it was raised to the red, people took full advantage to take care of business that had been prevented. This time, the governor is allowing hair

See VIRUS Page 6

Clinic offers free flu shots, virus testing

JAMIE STEWART
The Shafter Press

Over 200 residents took advantage of a free flu shot and covid-19 testing clinic recently, allowing them to get both tasks done.

The number of confirmed

SHAFTER

cases is on the rise, despite the Wear to Care campaign, urging residents to don masks whenever out in public.

The clinic, held by the Kern County Latino Covid-19 Task Force, was on Nov. 12 at the Shafter Aquatic Center. Dignity Health administered the flu shot clinic.

Dignity Health's Nora Garza, a health screening specialist, said that the clinics are very beneficial for those in the community who may not be able to afford a flu shot and

See CLINIC Page 5

Wasco High principal steps up to assistant superintendent

This is part of a series featuring new administration in the Wasco School District

TONI DEROSA
Wasco Tribune

Principal Kevin Tallon led the students and staff at Wasco High School by example when he displayed kindness and compassion. He has always had an open-door policy and visitors are welcome.

A 1995 Wasco High graduate, Tallon has been principal since 2014 and will culminate 18 years at the high school by being promoted into district administration Jan.1, when he is promoted to the position of as-

WASCO

sistant superintendent, director of programs.

Tallon said that some of the biggest changes he has seen in education since he began teaching are technology and discipline.

One of his goals was to establish a completely Wi-Fi-accessible campus, which the district has been able to do. That has been especially important with the transition to distance learning due to the pandemic.

Tallon's first position in the district was teaching and being the varsity boys' basketball coach during the 2002-03 school year.

He was interested in taking more of a leadership role on campus and became department chair and eventually a testing coordinator.

"I really enjoyed the different aspects of leadership," Tallon said.

Tallon lists some of his proudest accomplishments as principal focusing on the district's instructional program each year to ensure continuous improvement.

"Our data indicates a positive trend," he said. "There has been a strong focus on professional development in our district that work allows us to utilize the latest research and pedagogy (training) to support the

needs of our students and maintain a focus on student learning with high expectations."

Tallon is also proud of the collaboration with the Wonderful Ag Prep Academy, which he said has been very successful.

"Students completing the program receive an AA degree from Bakersfield College," he added.

Tallon also said that over the last five years, the district has redesigned the way it serves special education students.

"We have a model program that has served as an inspiration to several other high

See ASSISTANT Page 6

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Community Calendar

As activities restart and businesses reopen, we will try to update readers on the status of events and activities throughout the area. Please contact Erica Soriano with additions and changes at esoriano@TheShafterPress.com or call 661-292-5100 by Monday at 4 p.m. for that week's paper.

ONGOING

Warm clothing drive — District 4 Supervisor David Couch is collecting blankets, coats, gloves, hats, scarves and socks. Donations will benefit families in District 4. To schedule an in-person pickup, call 661- 868-3680.

Utility bills — The City of Wasco reminds residents that the city's official website is the only authorized avenue to pay your utility bill online.

Covid-19 testing — There will be free covid-19 testing at the Wasco Library, 1102 7th St., Wasco. If you have insurance, they will be billed. Appointments can be made at lhi.care/covidtesting or call 888-634-1123.

Donde? Biblioteca de Wasco 1102 7th St, Wasco. Si no tiene acceso de internet llame al (888)634-1123.

Reopened — Shafter City Hall has reopened to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hours for the finance department are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 661-746-5000.

Food2Door — The program delivers 70 pounds of food once a month to seniors 65 and older, sponsored by the City of Shafter CAPK and Kern County. Call 661- 498-7831 ext. 1310 to find out if you're eligible for the program.

CAPK y el Condado de Kern "Programa FOOD2DOOR" atienden a personas mayores de 65 años . Una caja de comida de 70 libra cada mes se entrega directamente en

la puerta. El programa no se basa en los ingresos, está diseñado para mantener a las personas en sus hogares y mantenerse saludables para que podamos vencer al COVID-19.

Llame al 661-498-7831 ext. 1310. Para averiguar si es elegible para el programa e inscribirse hoy mismo.

TUESDAY

Senior lunch program — The senior sack program gives out lunches to seniors every first and third Tuesday of the month at 11 a.m., sponsored by the Golden Gleaners. Griffith Avenue Baptist Church, 408 Griffith St., Wasco.

THURSDAY

Wasco Recreation & Park Board — Meetings are on every 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Hall at Barker Park, Wasco.

FRIDAY

Food giveaway — The Impact Program is a weekly food giveaway provided to anyone in need, Fridays beginning at 7 a.m., first come, first serve. Griffith Avenue Baptist Church, 408 Griffith St., Wasco.

SATURDAY

Museum — The Shafter Depot Museum is now reopened to the public on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Depot is located at 150 Central Valley Highway.

Visit with Santa — Enjoy milk and cookies with Santa on Dec. 5 at 5 p.m. at Lennar at Gossamer Grove New Shafter.

HEADLINES IN HISTORY



Compiled by Erica Soriano
10 years ago: Dec. 1, 2010

Sequoia Principal Jason Hutchinson and Assistant Principal Luis Rodriguez dressed up as Disney characters before the holiday vacation. They greeted students being dropped off for school.

20 years ago: Dec. 6, 2000

Trojan Drum Major Crystal Gonzalez won 1st Place overall at the Garces Festival and at the Stockdale Spectacular.

30 years ago: Nov. 21, 1990

Members of Shafter Cub Scouts Pack 913 Jeremy Oxford, George Cortez and Kinito Gonzalez were some of the scouts that collected over 1,800 pounds of canned goods for the needy.

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: Post Office Market 435 James St. built 1930.



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: The staff at Janzen's Drug Store in the 1940s located at 942 7th St.



ARREST REPORT

SHAFTER

As reported by the Shafter Police Department

NOV. 17

David Vernon Lee, 58, of Shafter, was arrested on the 30100 block of Tulare Ave. in Shafter on a felony bench warrant.

Raul Ojeda Orozco, 26, of Shafter, was arrested on the 200 block of Colvard St. in Shafter for theft/extortion of vehicle, possession of controlled substance, obstruction of a public officer and on a felony bench warrant.

Anthony Tyler Smith, 25, of Shafter, was arrested on the 600 block of Central Valley Hwy. in Shafter for possession of over 28.5

grams of marijuana and controlled substance.

NOV. 18

Maria Jaime Amparo, 39, of Shafter, was arrested on N. Shafter Ave. for DUI.

NOV. 20

Jose Antonio Pineda, 37, of Shafter, was arrested on the 200 block of W. Tulare Ave., in Shafter for possession of controlled substance for sale, felon in possession of a firearm and obstruction of a public officer.

NOV. 21

Joshua Mark Hutchins, 27, of Shafter, was arrested on the 100 block of W. Orange St. for theft/extortion, controlled substance paraphernalia and under the in-

fluence of a controlled substance.

Christoffer Quintanilla, 21, of Shafter, was arrested on the 700 block of Golden Poppy St. for disorderly conduct: under the influence.

NOV. 22

Jose Reyes Soto, 38, of Shafter, was arrested for destroying/ evidence, obstruction of a public officer, possession of burglary tools, open container in public, disorderly conduct: under the influence and on a misdemeanor bench warrant.

WASCO

As reported by the Wasco Substation

NOV. 16

Alex Neri, 36, of Wasco, was arrested in the 600 block of Cedar Avenue for misdemeanor driving on a suspended license, possession of controlled substance paraphernalia, destroy or conceal evidence, felony possession of a controlled substance for sale and transporting controlled substance. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Vincenzo Osuna, 20, of Wasco, was arrested at the

intersection of 6th Place and Oak Avenue for misdemeanor possession of controlled substance paraphernalia. He was cited and released at the scene.

NOV. 17

Carlos Birrueta, 44, of Shafter, was arrested in the 800 block of Verde Street for felony embezzlement. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

NOV. 20

Hector Chavez Lara, 21, of Shafter, was arrested in the 1900 block of Highway 46 for misdemeanor driving on a suspended license. He

was cited and released at the scene.

NOV. 22

Simon Martinez, 18, of Wasco, was arrested in the 2700 block of Central Park Drive for misdemeanor under the influence of drugs. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Michael Munoz, 37, of Wasco, was arrested in the 1800 block of Ventura Court for misdemeanor under the influence of alcohol and on an active misdemeanor bench warrant. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Wasco Tribune

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Creations and Coffee stresses shopping local

JAMIE STEWART
The Shafter Press

Over 200 people flocked to the Tin Cup last Saturday for dozens of vendors set up selling their wares.

Tin Cup manager Shakira Willis organized the Creations and Coffee event so the community could shop for a wide variety of

SHAFTER

items in one place including jewelry, food, clothing and more.

Willis organized the event because of the challenge during the pandemic to find shops that are open and have the items they need.

The attendees were also treated to music by the Charlie Zanne Band as they perused the booths.

Margaret Munega, who was attending the event with her two children, said that this was a great event and was also chance for her to actually have something to do with her kids in this time of the pandemic.

"I have tried to find things for us to do as a family and it's been really hard with so many place being closed down, or with restrictions on where we can go because of the virus thing," said Munega. "This has been fun,



Local vendors were selling their wares at the event.



LOU + LOLA had a variety of clothing on display.

looking at all the different businesses. I didn't realize how many people we have in Shafter and around here that offer such a variety of things to buy. I bought some awesome food and a couple of handmade belts that my kids love. We also bought a couple of purses. All in one event, this is great!"

Events such as this have become a way for the community to enjoy a time of fel-

lowship and fun. It has also been a boon for local vendors who need an outlet to put their creations on display.

According to Willis, the event exceeded her expectations and she is hopeful that there will be more events to come.

"Thank you to the great vendors we had and to all of the people who attended this event," she said.

Select groups of students return to campus

TONI DEROSA
Wasco Tribune

After Kern County plunged back into the purple tier, schools that had reopened under the red tier were allowed to continue educating select students in person such as special education, ESL, at-risk students, students with no internet reception and other special needs students.

Assistant Superintendent Rob Cobb provided information regarding the Special Education and other groups that have returned to campus.

Wasco High School

Special Education I returned to school on Oct. 26 with a total enrollment of 12 students. Four students are attending class four times a week and eight students are continuing with distance learning.

WASCO

Special Education 2 began class on Nov. 16 for one day a week with an enrollment of one student on campus and a total enrollment of 11 students, which means 9 students are continuing with distance learning.

Special Education 2A began class on Nov. 12 with two students attending for one day a week of in-person class. There is a total enrollment of 11 students and nine students continuing with distance learning.

In addition, Special Education 3 will begin on Dec. 1 with two days on campus. The total enrollment is to be determined at a later date.

Special Education 3A will begin Dec. 3 and on campus two days a week. The numbers of distance learners and in-class learners will be determined at a later date.

English learners began Nov. 10 with a total of 10 students. Nine of those 10 students are on campus for four days a week and 1 is continuing distance learning. In addition, at risk, homeless/foster, youth with no internet students began Nov. 3 with four students attending four days a week with a total enrollment of seven students which leaves three continuing with distance learning.

Wasco Independent High School

Group A students began class on Nov. 3 with a total enrollment of 116 students. Of those 116, 42 of them are on campus one day a week and 74 students continue with distance learning.

Group B students began class on Nov. 4 with a total enrollment of 116 students. Of those 116 students, 46 students are on campus two days a week while 70 students

continue with distance learning.

"There are some students who don't come to school regularly," Cobb said. "The district has tabs on every student enrolled in the district."

Wasco Union Elementary School District

"About 60 Special Education students are in class now," Superintendent Kelly Richers said. "Others may start later, depending on the virus. About 60 Special Ed students continue distance learning. These are all Mild Moderate or Moderate Severe, as those are the ones the federal government wants in-site classes." Richers added that the classes all started Oct. 14 and are going five days a week. He emphasized that the only school with no one attending is Clemens at the present time.

Churches spread holiday joy with meals

TONI DEROSA
Wasco Tribune

Almost 1,000 Thanksgiving meals were given out by area churches this past weekend to those in need.

Pastor Frank Sanchez, of New Generation Church, and Pastor Dave Bocker, of Grace Community Church, collaborated on Saturday, Nov. 21 to provide a free Thanksgiving meal to the community.

"We had anticipated about 800 meals, and we were able to give them all away," Sanchez said. "I think we actually gave away about 950 meals with the extra we had leftover."

The Saturday event was held at New Generation Church, 1017 Central Ave.

This particular Thanksgiving meal was different than previous years because it was a drive-thru and pickup only. There would be no visiting with friends and neighbors

WASCO

this year due to the covid-19 guidelines.

"Each vehicle that drove up was asked how many meals they needed per car," Evangelism Leader Jenna Ballard said.

The City of Wasco also donated free adult and child's masks for everyone made it through the line.

"The members of the church waited until everyone from the community drove through before they got their meal," Sanchez said. "I am grateful and wish we had more to give to the community."

They started serving meals earlier than anticipated due to the number of interested attendees.

New Generation offers services on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1:30.

"The service is in both Spanish and English," Sanchez said. "We have many members who don't speak English as well as many who don't speak Spanish."

Grace Community Church has its Sunday service at 10 a.m.



Volunteers that put the plates together.



Noemi Ojeda and Yesely Elizondo handed out the meals.

IMMEDIATE JOB OPENINGS

The Boys & Girls Club is looking for talented individuals that have an interest in being part of our youth development team.

Semitropic Elementary
25300 Ca-46
Wasco, CA 93280

If you are interested in working with children in our Semitropic Elementary virtual after school program please contact Amber Juarez at 661-325-3730 ext 230 or ajuarez@bgclubsofkerncounty.org

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Nominations open for annual chamber awards

JAMIE STEWART
The Shafter Press

The Chamber of Commerce has opened the nominations for its annual City of Shafter Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet and State of the City.

Every year, select businesses and people are recognized for their contributions to the city. Chamber members are inviting anyone who has a business or person in mind that they feel need to be recognized for their achievements throughout the year to nominate that person.

Past recipients include last year's winner of the Commercial Remodel award, Basham and Lara Funeral Care, who renovated

SHAFTER

the old Budget Food Store and the Graddy's into a funeral home, equipped with a reception area, as well as a full-service chapel and viewing rooms.

Another winner in last year's banquet was the Young Person of the Year award recipient Jackson Sanchez, who shined on the football field and in the classroom.

The chamber is welcoming nominations until Dec. 11.

There are several categories for nominees. For the Business award, it will be given to a business that has shown the community spirit and cooperation that makes

Shafter special. The Youth award is presented to an individual or group, under the age of 21, who, through personal involvement and endeavors, has answered the challenge of good citizenship.

The Community Service award is presented to an individual, group, or organization that has made a significant contribution to the community. There are also awards given to an Educator, either a teacher or administrator, and an award for Education Support Staff, which goes to an individual that works in the support staff of the local schools.

There are also awards for Agriculture, Community Service/Volunteer/Humanitar-

ian, Youth Development award, and Health Award, which goes to an individual, group or organization that has made a significant contribution toward healthy living in Shafter through education, prevention or medical services.

If you would like to nominate anyone for any of these awards, go to the Shafter Chamber of Commerce website. You can then submit the nomination form to shafter-chamber@shafter.com or you can mail it to Shafter Chamber of Commerce, ATTN: Vanessa Valdiva, 336 Pacific Avenue, Shafter, CA 93263.

The annual awards banquet will be held at a date and time to be determined.

Workshop helps provide blueprint for new park

JAMIE STEWART
The Shafter Press

The community recently told the city what it would like as part of a new park off Klassen Avenue.

Made possible by a Proposition 68 grant that has been applied for, the city will be building a park, just a couple of years after

SHAFTER

opening Veterans Park, off of Los Angeles Avenue.

Residents in North Shafter have been speaking out on different projects that can be beneficial to their quality of life, as well as the safety of its residents, especially its children

Among the projects is a street improvement on Highway 43, which includes shoulder work and a study determining if a stop light or stop sign is necessary on Highway 43 and Fresno Avenue.

The proposed park would be the first park available for Northern Shafter, giving residents a place to play, relax, and hold gatherings while staying in their neighbor-



Public Works Director Michael James takes his turn at a designing station.



New Generation Church members, from left, Deacon Javier Cisneros, Pastor Frank Sanchez, member Carlos Figuera, Evangelism Leader Jenna Ballard, Media Coordinator and Sunday School Coordinator Coco Quintero and member Nathan Lopez remained after to clean up.

hood.

On Nov. 12, members of the community, as well as officials from the city, and the organizers of Listen to Shafter, a nonprofit organization that has been a key component in several projects, met to provide input on the design.

There were several stations at the site, giving residents a chance to voice their opinion. Several of the attendees said that fitness equipment is essential for the park, while others expressed the need for a sports

field or court.

All of the data that was collected at the event will be studied and a rough blueprint of the new park will be created. This draft will be presented at a City Council meeting.

This workshop was one in a series of workshops, some of them virtual, and a couple of them in-person events.

Residents can also go to Listen to Shafter and participate in a survey that is titled, "Design Your Park."

Meals help families celebrate holiday

From Page 1

cult year, as the community is dealing with the covid-19 pandemic, along with economic challenges that the virus has caused, we wanted to do something positive," said Ramirez.

With families already facing possible job insecurity, health issues, as well as the challenges that face parents right now as their child is either distance learning, or at-

tending in-person sessions, the Thanksgiving Dinner Giveaway helped bring the community together, at least in spirit.

Ramirez thanked all of the volunteers and local businesses who donated and made this event a success.

"We are excited for the opportunity to help the Shafter community and hope that this was a blessing to our Shafter families," concluded Ramirez.



Cathy Prout, Garry and Jan Nelson, of the Shafter Rotary Club, handed out canned vegetables.

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www.thelavendergarden.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHAFTER PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 8, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., the Shafter Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to consider the following:

Zone Code Amendment No. 20-14: A request to add firearm sales and repair, and ammunition sales, as a permitted use in the Commercial Zone Districts (Downtown Commercial, General Commercial, and Neighborhood Commercial) under Title 17 (Zoning Ordinance) of the City of Shafter Municipal Code. The proposal is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 15061(b)(3).

Said hearing is open to the public and all persons interested are invited to attend and be heard. Copies of the above documents are on file in the office of the Planning Department at City Hall, 336 Pacific Avenue, Shafter, California, and are available for public review. Any person wishing to be heard, or wishing to present evidence either for or against the approval of said project, is hereby notified and directed to either appear at the time and place aforesaid or send written comments to Wayne Clausen, Planning Director ((661) 746-5002) at City Hall, 336 Pacific Avenue, Shafter, California 93263 or by e-mail at wclausen@shafter.com. Anyone challenging any proposed development entitlement listed in this notice in court may be limited to raising those issues addressed at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Consistent with Executive Order N-29-20, in person participation by the public will not be permitted and no physical location from which the public may observe the meeting will be available. You are strongly encouraged to observe the Planning Commission meetings live via YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/user/CityofShafter/>. If you wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item or public comment, please submit your comment via email by 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 to the City Clerk at CityClerk@shafter.com. If you wish to submit written comments, mail to City Clerk, 336 Pacific Avenue, Shafter, CA 93263. If you wish to make a comment during the live meeting, callers must first register with the City Clerk at 661-746-5012 before the meeting begins to receive instructions and the call-in number and code. Please call by 5:00 pm on the Monday prior to the Planning Commission meeting to allow ample time for sign up. You will need to provide your name, phone number and the item number you wish to address. All public comments are provided to the Planning Commission and applicable Staff, for review and consideration by the Commission prior to taking action on any matters listed on the agenda and are incorporated into the official record of the Planning Commission meeting.

Dated: November 23, 2020

Yazmina Pallares

City Clerk
Publish *Shafter Press* November 26, 2020

Residents utilize free virus testing

TONI DEROSA
Wasco Tribune

The Latino Coalition sponsored free COVID-19 testing at Fiesta Supermarket on Sunday, Nov. 22.

"There have been a lot more people getting tested already today than last week at the apartment building," City Manager Daniel Ortiz-Hernandez said. "It's been a great turnout."

Ortiz-Hernandez was being tested for the third time because someone could test negative one day and retest positive the next day.

City staff was ready with a handful of

WASCO

masks in both adult and children sizes to hand out to anyone who requested one.

Former council member Alex Garcia reminisced about his time in the hospital last Thanksgiving with difficulty breathing issues and after being admitted to the hospital, he was diagnosed with pneumonia.

"I think I took the test too late to show any remainder of the virus in my system," he said.

Garcia remembered receiving visitors at the hospital and no one was



City Manager Daniel Ortiz-Hernandez took his third covid-19 test.

wearing a mask for protection. "This was before we all knew about the virus," he said.

Adventist Health staff was split up into three separate stations with nurses performing the swab test.

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City Council races still to be decided

From Page 1

as Mayor Pro-Tem. Alvarado questioned the motives for the stance, insinuating that culture might have played a part.

"Is it because of our culture that they considered us a voting bloc?" Alvarado was quoted as saying.

The results of the election are up-

dated regularly. The Kern County Elections Office said that the next update should be coming on Wednesday afternoon, past the Shafter Press deadline.

In other races, the race for City Council in Wasco also saw a change in the vote. Vincent Martinez, who trailed William David Ward after elec-

tion night and the week after, has overtaken Ward and leads by 21 votes. In the District 4 race, council member Tilo Cortez has seen his lead over Eddie Saldana shrink to four votes, 426-422.

Check the Shafter Press and Wasco Tribune websites during the week for more updated results.

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Clinic provides shots, testing

From Page 1

also for those who cannot make it into Bakersfield.

They had over 200 residents drive through to get their flu shots. According to Garza, the vaccine they had on hand was good for all ages.

Garza said that with the increase in covid-19 cases, it is more important than ever to get your flu shot.

"Gov. [Gavin] Newsom is calling it a 'twindemic,' in which a person could contract the influenza virus as well as the coronavirus," she said. "Both of those viruses can kill you, so you know how important it is to not catch both of them at the same time."

Garza said that they were fortunate to receive extra vaccines this year and decided to go out to the rural areas of Kern County with the inventory.

"A lot of times, places such as Shafter, Taft, Delano, can get forgotten when it comes to money-saving opportunities," she said. "We thought that it was important to allow these areas to get some attention."

In conjunction with the flu shot clinic, the Kern County Latino CO-



Garza stressed that it is important to get your flu shot, especially with the threat of the coronavirus also lurking out there.

VID-19 Task Force held a free clinic in which residents could get tested for the coronavirus. Community members stayed in their car, and were tested by medical professionals. The turnout was great, according to Jay Tamsi, co-founder of the task force.

"We are seeing an alarming rise in local cases," said Tamsi. "I can't stress enough the seriousness of this pandemic and the importance of our com-

munities to get tested," added Tamsi.

Tamsi also said that residents should continue to follow the CDC guidelines to ensure the community's wellbeing. "It's very important to slow the transmission rate by identifying positive cases, tracing and having people self-isolate properly."

Shafter is not the only site the clinics are being held. Clinics are also planned in Taft, Delano, Arvin and Lamont.

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OBITUARY

Maria Rosario Vera
May 31, 1963 –
Nov. 20, 2020

Maria Rosario Vera, mother of four, grandmother of five, passed on Nov. 20, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on May 31, 1963 to Eliborio Mendez Vera and Juana Albarran Vera in Rio Grande, Texas. Shortly after she was born the family moved to Wasco, and made it their home ever since. She was the youngest of 11 children, five that died in infancy.

Chayo, as she is known to family and friends, attended Wasco schools including St. John Catholic



School and Wasco High School. After graduation she worked as a CNA at a local retirement home. She always spoke about her love for the patients. She also worked in sales for a few

years. Her charismatic and friendliness always won customers over.

Those who knew her would be drawn in by her infectious personality. She knew no strangers only friends. Everywhere she went she was the life of the party. She had a way of seeing the humor in everything and her friends and family will always remember her laugh, a trait she inherited from her own mother. She was generous, kind and always quick to lend a helping hand. Even though she did not have a lot she always gave away to those in need.

She is preceded in death

by her parents and Eliborio and Juana Vera. She survived by her siblings Maria Beltran, Lupe Vera, Miguel Vera, Sally Vera, Jose Vera, brother-in-law Frank Beltran, her children Chastity Orozco, Matthew Madrigal, Roxy Madrigal, Vincent Madrigal, her son-in-law Martin Orozco, and her grandchildren Briana Orozco, Mia Orozco, Michael Llewellyn, Wyatt Llewellyn, Alessandra Madrigal, and nephew James Vera. She is also survived by other nephews, nieces, extended family members, and countless friends who she loved like family.

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A Message To The Families We Have Served

Peters Funeral Home regrets to announce that we will not be able to hold our annual holiday remembrance ceremony this year. We will be sending each family that we served a holiday ornament with the name of your loved one, including the dates they were born and died. If you would like to order additional ornaments just call the numbers listed below or email our team at: **info@petersfuneralhomes.com**

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Cordially,
*Rick and Amy Woody,
and the staff of Peters Funeral Home*

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KERN COUNTY

UPDATE

Construction is booming in Construction Package 4! As work continues across the Central Valley, we're proud to provide the community with an update of work happening across Kern County.

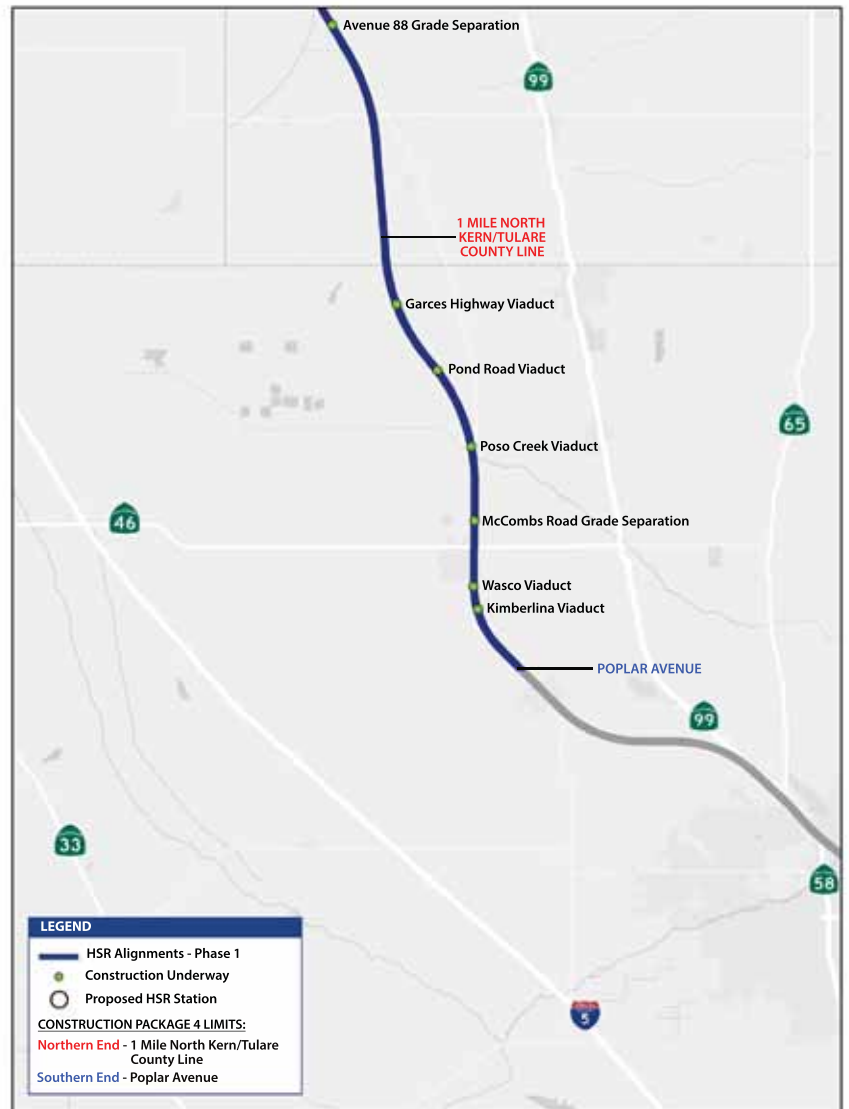
The Project

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is committed to bringing electrified high-speed rail to California. The project creates good jobs, provides greater public transportation opportunities, reduces traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, expands housing options, and furthers the environmental goals of the State.

Progress in Kern County

High-speed rail is happening! In cooperation with design-build contractor California Rail Builders, tremendous progress has been made across the high-speed rail project spanning Kern County. Two structures including the Garces Highway Viaduct and Poso Creek Viaduct are completed and construction is ongoing at all construction sites.

This work is part of Construction Package 4, the 22-mile stretch of high-speed rail between one-mile north of the Tulare-Kern County line and Poplar Avenue in Kern County.



Poso Creek Viaduct



Garces Highway Viaduct



Pond Road Viaduct



Wasco Viaduct

Completed Construction

Poso Creek Viaduct

The Poso Creek Viaduct was completed in October and is the first completed structure in Construction Package 4. Crews followed strict guidelines and preventive measures to protect the Poso Creek bed and local wildlife. In July, crews placed more than 1,000 cubic-yards of concrete to form the deck of the structure, and placed another 535 cubic-yards to form the stemwalls in August. The structure is nearly 240 feet long and 56 feet wide.

Garces Highway Viaduct

Garces Highway Viaduct is located near State Route 43 and Scofield Avenue and will take high-speed trains over Garces Highway. Crews are placing the final touches on the structure including hauling in dirt to finish the slopes of the structure. The structure is expected to be complete November 2020 and will be more than 100 feet long and 50 feet wide when complete.

Ongoing Construction

Pond Road Viaduct

Crews continue to work at the Pond Road Viaduct. Which will span 121 feet in length, 52 feet wide and will allow high-speed trains to cross over Pond Avenue. Magnolia Avenue has been realigned and is parallel to the high-speed rail alignment. This structure is expected to be complete in 2021.

Wasco Viaduct

The most visible and largest structure in Construction Package 4, the Wasco Viaduct continues to take shape. More than 70 large beams were placed to form the top deck of the structure. Another 44 beams will be placed early next year. The Wasco Viaduct will be nearly 2,000 feet in length.

In the Community

The California High-Speed Rail Authority and California Rail Builders take pride in investing in local communities across the Central Valley, including Kern County and the city of Wasco. Together, we have created approximately 600 construction jobs for Kern County residents; donated time, labor and equipment for local community events; and have made several monetary contributions to Wasco Parks and Recreation, Wasco Little League, Toys for Tigers, and Community Action Partnership of Kern.

Stay up-to-date with high-speed rail by visiting buildhsr.com.

