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Earns Honor
As Eagle Scout

See Page 9



INSIDE: Our
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Farm To Main Street



Distinguished guests enjoy high-end cuisine made with fresh food sourced from local farms during the third annual Merced FEAST held in the middle of Main Street, near Bob Hart Square.

More than 300 guests enjoyed the sold-out Merced FEAST in downtown Merced. A festive table stretched across the middle of Main Street, from Canal to M Street. 'FEAST' stands for Festival Engaging Agriculture Sustainability to the Table. Local celebrity chefs used only foods grown in Merced County farms to prepare a culturally diverse spread of appetizers, main dishes, sides and desserts. See story and photos on Page 3. Also, a related Merced FEAST concert was held inside Bob Hart Square. See those photos in the Free Times section on Page B-1.



Alan Sano, at left, was presented with the 2018 Farm Family of the Year award for his family farming business and legacy in the Le Grand and Plainsburg area.

★ ELECTION PROFILE ★

Villa wants facilities for homeless, more housing

BY JONATHAN WHITTAKER

These days, Monica Villa is spending her time on the streets placing little stickers on anything she can find to share with fellow Merced residents.

On the stickers, there's a three-word, handwritten message: "Villa For Mayor."

It appears to be the humblest of campaigns for a candidate who says she's running to bring about awareness of city issues and community action.

"I hope my run encourages people to speak out," Villa says. "I hope it encourages people to attend the City Council meetings. ... You need to get up and speak out. This is your city. There are things that need to be done. These leaders we have are there to serve the people."

The 63-year-old Villa is challenging the reelection bid of Merced Mayor Mike Murphy in the citywide vote that will extend to Election Day on Nov. 6.

This campaign, however, is not her first rodeo in local politics.

Over the past several years, Villa has been on the ballot and campaigned multiple times for a spot on the Merced City Council.

She describes herself as a homeless advocate, but what really sets her apart from other candidates is the fact that she's actually homeless herself. She's been living off the streets, in some way or another — camps and hidden enclosures — for about nine years.

Meanwhile, Villa has been outspoken about issues affecting the homeless during public comment periods of the regular council meetings at City Hall. She says she regularly helps feed the downtrodden through local church efforts — mostly on Sundays in the early morning hours through an outreach program near Stephen Leonard Park in south Merced.

She encourages participation in the annual homeless census count, the annual Homeless Summit, and the annual Homeless Connect event — the latter to be held this Friday, Sept. 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Central Presbyterian Church.

Homeless Connect, by the way, is a FREE event that provides a variety of services and resources to local homeless residents by way of a collaboration between public agencies, faith based and nonprofit organizations and private businesses. There will be immunization shots,



Monica Villa

THE FINAL FOUR: CANNABIS RETAILERS ON WAY

BY JOHN MILLER
johnmiller@midvalleypub.com

Four cannabis retailers have received the green light to open their doors for business in the city of Merced — setting the stage for a new era of legalized marijuana use among adults across the county.

The approvals by the Planning Commission last Thursday came 10 months after a split Merced City Council approved an ordi-

nance to allow the weed businesses, followed by an application and review process of retail candidates, and a voter-approved tax measure on the industry.

One owner who received the go-ahead said his business could begin selling cannabis products over the counter within 90 days.

"We're now 100 percent committed to Merced," said Luke Bruner of Manzanita. "We've fallen in love with Merced, and we

believe it deserves the very best. ... We understand that selling adult use cannabis is not a right, and we have to live up to that."

To arrive at the approvals, a committee consisting of City Manager Steve Carrigan, Police Chief Chris Goodwin and Director of Development Services Scott McBride ranked the 22 businesses who applied. Ranking was based on criteria developed by the City Council.

The four cannabis retail-

ers who were approved by the Planning Commission, in ranked order, include Blue Fire at 1975 W. Olive Ave., Green Door at 811 W. Main St., Manzanita at 1594 W. 18th St. and Harvest of Merced at 863 W. 15th St.

Contentious Bid

During the voting to approve the four businesses, public comment was requested prior to each vote taking place.

See Cannabis, Page 4

See Villa, Page 4

Kiwanis Tasting Festival gains altitude at Castle Air Museum

BY GWEN HAGAMAN

The pairing of local wine and craft beer makers with classic aircraft was a winning combination for the Castle-Awater Kiwanis Club's Tasting Festival. It was held at Castle Air Museum last Saturday, Sept. 22. Proceeds were split between Castle-Awater Kiwanis for community projects and Castle Air Museum for the restoration and maintenance of their historic aircraft.

Guests followed a trail that led through 70 historic aircraft parked on the grounds, with stands nested among the planes where 20 or more wineries, brewers, T-shirt makers, performing bands and food trucks presented their wares. Many of the

products being tasted could be purchased at the Museum's Gift Shop. Many are available in local liquor stores and markets.

Exhibitors included CRU Winery, Quady Winery, Vista Cellars, San Joaquin Wine, Delicato Family Vineyards, Ramos Torres Winery, Tsybmal Winery, Tactical Ops Brewery, Dust Bowl Brewery, Blaker Brewing, St. Stans Brewing Co., Rene-gado Brewing Supplies, Blaker Brewery, Indiginy Reserve Ciders, Richwood Meats, The Cheezy Grill, The Tri Tipery, Two Angry Guys Burgers, Gallo Cheese, The Greatest Valley Apparel, and bands The Shakers and Two Hoots & A Holler.

SeeKiwanis, Page 4



Marcos Ramos is a tasting host and assistant winemaker at Ramos Torres Winery of Kingsburg. "I am really enjoying meeting all the people here and letting them see how good our wines are," he said.

ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) Governing Board has announced the appointment of Stacie Dabbs as the agency's new executive director.



Stacie Dabbs

In this position, Dabbs also serves as the executive director for the Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County, the Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority and the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System.

"The MCAG Governing Board unanimously selected Stacie to be the next MCAG Executive Director," said Alex McCabe, the chair of the MCAG Governing Board. "Stacie's proven leadership and strong management skills make her well suited for this role."

Dabbs joined MCAG in 2014 as the agency's Public Information Officer, a title she held until accepting the position of deputy executive director in 2016.

She also spent 6 months as interim executive director in 2017. Prior to joining the team

at MCAG, Dabbs served as the associate director at the Office of Community and Economic Development at Fresno State where she managed several valley wide initiatives such as the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, Smart Valley Places and the San Joaquin Valley Housing Collaborative.

Dabbs first came to Merced in 2004 to serve as policy advisor to former Congressman Dennis Cardoza.

Dabbs earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Fresno State and a Masters in Public Administration from CSU Stanislaus. She is from the small farming community of Firebaugh with family roots in Dos Palos and Mendota. Dabbs re-

'Stacie's proven leadership and strong management skills make her well suited for this role.'

Alex McCabe, the chair of the MCAG Governing Board

sides in Merced with her fiancée Danny, and their two young children Hazel and Crosby.

MCAG is the local transportation authority for Merced County, as well as, the regional transportation planning agency and metropolitan planning organization. In addition to regional transportation planning, MCAG also manages Measure V, The Bus, YARTS and the Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority.

MCAG GOVERNING BOARD ADOPTS MEASURE V PLAN

The Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) Governing Board has adopted the Measure V 2018 Implementation Plan.

Measure V, Merced County's 30-year 1/2 cent transportation sales tax, was passed by Merced County voters on Nov. 8, 2016, and went into effect April 1, 2017. The Measure V Expenditure Plan, as passed by voters, specifies how the \$15 million in projected revenue must be spent across four funding categories: Local Projects, Regional Projects, Transit and Administration. The Expenditure Plan did not specify projects or specific expenditures within any of the funding categories, but instead identifies general eligible uses and the decision-making authorities and processes for project selection. The decision of the Governing Board was to develop a two-year Implementation Plan for fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Measure V is estimated to generate \$15 million annually with 44 percent allocated to Regional Projects. 27 percent of the annual total is directed to regional projects located to the east of the San Joaquin River, and 17 percent of the annual total is directed to regional projects located to the west of the San Joaquin River. Therefore, the East Side Regional Projects account should generate \$4.05 million annually, while the West Side Regional Projects account should generate \$2.55 million annually. With these estimates, the East and West Side Regional Projects Committees recommended a set of regional project expenditures and a 20 percent set aside for future leveraging opportunities based on a pay-as-you-go strategy for fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Listed below are the Regional Projects that received funding allocations in the 2018 Implementation Plan.

East Side Projects

- ATWATER - Winton Way Phase 1
- LIVINGSTON - Winton Parkway On-Ramp
- MERCED - Hwy. 59 Black Rascal Bridge
- MERCED - Hwy. 59, Phase 1
- COUNTY - Bradbury Road project
- COUNTY - Sandy Mush Road Phase 1

West Side Projects

- DOS PALOS - Center Avenue North
- DOS PALOS - Blossom Street East
- GUSTINE - Hwys. 33/140 Roundabout
- GUSTINE - Airport Security project
- LOS BANOS - Pacheco Blvd./SR 152
- COUNTY - Henry Miller Ave. project

In the role of program administrator, MCAG is required to develop this bi-annual Measure V Implementation Plan. The primary purpose of this Implementation Plan is to program Measure V funding to regional projects in Merced County. It is the primary financial document that provides an analysis of Measure revenue and programs project expenditures over a specific period of time as authorized by the MCAG Governing Board.

It is the intention of MCAG and the Governing Board to adopt a longer-term Implementation Plan by June 2019 which will align the Implementation Plan schedule with next the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) cycle.

For a list of projects expenditures please visit the Measure V website at: measurev-mcag.com or the Merced County Association of Governments website at: mcag.org.

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Merced FEAST serves 300 with 'Farm to Table' heritage

BY GWEN HAGAMAN

It was a proud moment when the Third Annual Merced FEAST began last Thursday, Sept. 20.

There was magic in the air that moderate Fall evening, and the sounds of people gathered from all over the region and every corner of Merced to celebrate our "farm to table" agricultural heritage added harmony to the live music of a local band.

A festive table filled Main Street from Canal to M Street. It was decorated with fall flowers, colorful ribbons and a generous amount of decorative lights. This event sold out early and more seats were added. More than 300 guests were served.

It seems like everyone in town is involved as you watch Mayor Mike Murphy bringing trays of elaborate hors d'oeuvres through Bob Hart Square, where pre-dinner guests were gathered. Nearly every local elected official was wearing a black FEAST apron and serving food and wine to guests.

"FEAST" stands for Festival Engaging Agriculture Sustainability to the Table. Local celebrity chefs, led by Rob Matsuo of Five Ten Bistro, used only foods grown in Merced County farms to prepare a culturally diverse spread of appetizers, main dishes, sides and desserts.

Once guests were called to dinner, an invocation was led by Pastor Anthony Jeneff thanking God for the land and our ability to till and care for it.

Local FFA, 4H and vocational food service students began serving, along with volunteers from the Merced County Laotian Community. Each server desired to represent their affiliations, making for a colorful group.

Merced FEAST a joint effort of The Merced Certified Farmer's Market, California Women for Ag, Merced Col-

lege, Downtown Neighborhood Association and Merced Main Street Association (MMSA) to raise funds for scholarships for Ag Students. This year's recipients were Juliana Davey of Golden Valley High School and Jaryn Giampaoli of Le Grand High School.

The organizers also honored "an individual who possesses a true passion for agriculture, community, youth and the future of farming."

Alan Sano, the son of Rinks and Helen Sano, received the 2018 Farm Family of the Year award.

The family legacy began in the late 1950s on a small parcel of land in the Le Grand/Plainsburg area, with the partnership of two brothers farming bell peppers, tomatoes and almonds. Expansion grew in the early 1960s to the Dos Palos region with processing tomatoes, and eventually more farming in the Merced area.

For information about sponsoring or attending next year's Merced FEAST contact Merced Main Street Association at 384-7093 or email mercedmainstreetassociation@gmail.com.



TIMES PHOTO BY JOHN MILLER

Downtown Merced filled with 300 hungry residents ready for a night of food, fun, and music.



TIMES PHOTO BY GWEN HAGAMAN
Guests were treated to small Farmers Market booths filled with local food products.



TIMES PHOTO BY JOHN MILLER

Merced Mayor Mike Murphy makes his way around Bob Hart Square with appetizers in hand.

MARCH 31, 1932 - SEPT. 21, 2018

RAYMOND SILVIO GIAMPAOLI

Raymond was born the first American to his Italian immigrant parents, Marino & Daniole Giampaoli, on March 31, 1932 in Merced, CA. Speaking only Italian, he attended Le Grand area schools where he mastered English and graduated from Le Grand High School in 1951. In 1960, he married Maria Bianchi and they together raised three children. And it was then that his lifetime of stewardship began.

Raymond's childhood revolved around his family's Le Grand based farming operation: then Giampaoli & Marchini; now Live Oak Farms. Raymond developed a passion for farming and "all things mechanical". While the family's tomato and bell pepper farming operation grew fruitfully under Ray's direction, it was his dedication to Live Oak's packing and shipping operations from 1963 until retirement that became his trademark. He loved designing, building, repairing and retooling produce packing equipment and successfully erected four produce packing operations which remain fully operative today. However, as the steadfast steward, Raymond always knew that the company's ongoing growth and success was rooted in his employees and constantly expressed his appreciation for their diligent toil.



Beyond the borders of home and Live Oak Farms, Ray's nurturing disposition lead him to a lifespan of community service as well. He served as a member and President of the Le Grand High School Board, President of the Merced County Chamber of Commerce, Member of the ItaloAmerican Lodge, the Italian Catholic Federation, Merced Farm Bureau, the Le Grand Volunteer Fire Department, Western Growers Association Board and founding member/director of the California Tomato Commission. And, amid all these, he remained an active and devoted parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Le Grand.

He is preceded in death by his fa-

ther, mother and his brother, Elmo. He is survived by his wife, Maria; children, Bob (Jeanne), Donna Vaughan (Scott) and Sandy Del Real (Steve); six grandchildren, Dominic, Briana, Carlo, Natalie, Ethan and Aidan; his brother Dario (Josephine), as well as several nieces and nephews and other treasured family members and friends.

There will be a visitation on Thursday, September 27, 2018 from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church located at 13145 Le Grand Rd., Le Grand, CA 95333. Recitation of the Holy Rosary will start at 6:30. A Burial Mass will be held at 10:00 am on Friday, September 28, 2018 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church located at 671 E. Yosemite Ave., Merced, CA 95340. He will be laid to rest privately at Evergreen Memorial Park, Merced, CA.

Donations may be made in Raymond's memory to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church Building Fund, 12731 E. Le Grand Rd., Le Grand, CA 95333, Hinds Hospice of Merced, 4101 W. Main St. St. #A, Merced, CA 95340-4822 or to your own desired charity.

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TIMES PHOTO BY JOHN MILLER

Livingston City Councilman Alex McCabe keeps glasses full during the FEAST dinner.

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De Anda: 'South Merced' deserves a choice

Ronnie De Anda made a last-minute attempt to get on the ballot for the District 2 seat on the Merced City Council, but he just didn't have time to fulfill all the requirements for the election that culminates on Nov. 6.

However, due to the overwhelming support he has received from the community groups he participates in, the 77-year-old De Anda went ahead and registered as a certified write-in candidate in the race.

That means his name won't appear on the ballot, but voters can fill in an oval and write his name in a space available in the District 2 category on the ballot. Fernando Echevarria, 55, is the lone candidate listed on the ballot for the District 2 race.

Nevertheless, since it's a district vote (Only registered voters in the South Merced area that's south of

13th St. and Lopes Ave., west of MLK Way, and east of Thornton Rd. will decide the outcome.) a write-in attempt in this case should not be written off as a long shot.

De Anda and his wife Blasa have lived in South Merced for more than 75 years, and De Anda served as a postal carrier in the same neighborhoods for more than three decades.

De Anda has been a strong advocate for bringing a grocery store to South Merced, improving parks, and create a welcoming atmosphere to the city's southern entryways.

Ronnie De Anda, (at center holding a child) stands with supporters at Drew Park in South Merced.



Villa

Continued from front page

haircuts, shower availability, clothing giveaways, food stamp applications, veteran services, and free backpacks filled with survival gear, among many other support services.

Villa says she will be there with bells on, and promoting her mayoral campaign platform. She is calling for the city and county government to step up and help provide portable bathrooms and showers for the homeless in the region.

She points to the latest Civil Grand Jury report that also recommends the same kind of investment in portable facilities. She also highlights how the same idea has worked in Los Banos through the efforts of Rev. Stephen Hammond of Bethel Community Church.

The candidate is also standing up for more affordable housing. She points out the current shortage of apartments, and she says many Mercedians are worried about, or already struggling with, a sharp rise in monthly rents.

As a homeless woman and a senior citizen, Villa says she's been waiting for housing assistance since four years ago when she first started an application process.

This year, the candidate says she and her best friend — a man who goes by the name "Pyreht" — and her dog, "Dory-Fish," were offered a housing package from a grant-funded program run through a local nonprofit. Villa says she is eligible to receive \$790 a month for housing. A nice two-bedroom apartment she has found so far goes for about \$850 a month. It would be tough considering utilities, etc., according to Villa, but doable with the \$288 she gets from Social Security, along with possible community food supplements, etc.

The problem, she says, is that she is not at the top of the list for that particular apartment, or any others like it.

Villa says the tight market is also affecting seniors on a fixed income, and other homeless residents who may not be familiar with — namely college students and foster kids who

are in a constant stage of "couch surfing."

One solution, she says, might be to get multiple renters "who are compatible" into larger apartments or homes that might be more available.

Earlier this year, Villa, Pyreht and Dory-Fish were living in a wooden structure Villa built herself inside a gated area of an unused section of an industrial business. Today, they don't have the same type of shelter, so an apartment would be nice.

"I better see something in two months," she says. "I don't want to be out here when it's raining, and catching cold or pneumonia, and my dog would be sick too. ... But I don't foresee anything coming open in two months. ..."

"I also need a place to live so I can get a job ... That's what don't understand. That's what chaps my hide. ... I want to be employed too."

Something else happens when it rains in town, Villa says.

All the recently filed potholes open up again, causing frustration for drivers.

And that's the third part of her campaign platform. She

says the city could be doing a better job keeping up with roads and sidewalk maintenance, and making repairs last for long periods of time.

Local Girl

Villa was born in Merced and grew up in Atwater. She was the middle child of three. Her parents were field workers at first, then her father became a janitor, and her mother went on to work for 30 years at Kentucky Fried Chicken in Atwater.

Villa attended Mitchell Elementary and Atwater High School, where she was active in gymnastics, volleyball and track. One of her coaches was Joan Fall, who later in life became mayor of Atwater. After graduation in 1973, she went to Merced College for a time.

The candidate has been married twice, and has four children. She went on to work in the food industry at diners and fast food outlets such as Burger King.

Later, Villa faced a tragedy in her own family. Her son, Johnathan, lived with depression and other challenges as an adult, and committed suicide. This caused Villa's own life to spiral in a downward direction

until she found the strength to start an effort to bring about awareness for suicide prevention. She has helped organize local events and vigils for the cause.

Several years later, she says, she decided to live homeless in Merced, and at the same time help advocate for others in the same situation.

"Through it all, I have tried to have an upbeat attitude," she says. "People see that and I think some get inspired."

In recent years, Villa has had "more than numerous" run-ins with law enforcement officers. She has been jailed a few times — the longest was for 13 days after a scuffle involving another woman. All the cases have been considered "infractions."

The candidate admits it would be quite a long shot for her to actually become the mayor of Merced.

When asked what she would do if a miracle were to happen and she won, Villa laughs and says, "I think I would (expletive) my pants." But Villa gets serious and says: "I would find a way to do it. ... I think I would have plenty of support from peo-

ple out here who would help me attend all the events, functions and meetings. I'm not worried about that part. We are not at that bridge yet. ... I've survived on the streets for eight years. With that in mind, I think being the mayor would be a hop, skip and a jump. The challenges for me are not something that I won't be able to overcome."

Then Villa tears up, and starts to cry at her own thoughts.

"Hopefully I will be housed before that happens. ... I have a lot of people praying for me. There's a lot of people who so believe in me, and they know where I'm at. ... Thank you Jesus. ... And with all the people praying for housing right now, and want to see good things coming into this city, it doesn't matter if I'm the mayor or not. It's the point that I'm just trying to make a difference. ..."

"And when people don't understand this ... It's just like, 'Dude I'm not a fuckin' joke.' ... This is not just my life. It's a lot of peoples' lives. And these lives are my passion. I care about homeless people."

Cannabis

Continued from front page

As Harvest of Merced's public comment period was announced, attorney Zach Drivon, who represented fifth place applicant Medallion, made his way to the podium. As he spoke to the commission, he noted that measurements taken from Google Maps showed that Harvest of Merced's location fell inside of a "sensitive use area," as it was less than 1,000 feet from the Wolfe Center, an educational facility.

Measurements taken by city staff were done with the help of Geographic Information System mapping software, which Drivon asserted had issues that resulted in incorrect measurements.

Following Drivon's comment period, Harvest of Merced Public Relations Manager Ben Kimbro made his way to the podium. Kimbro said Drivon's remarks were inappropriate, and came from a "sour grapes" attitude, and were part of a tactic to ambush the business' fourth place spot at the 11th hour to bias the commissioner's voting on another new issue.

A few community members stepped up to the podium to express their thoughts that commissioner's should hold off on the final approval until the distance between the dispensary and the Wolfe Center can be re-measured.

City of Merced Principal Planner Michael Hren explained that city staff had looked into Harvest of

Merced's location specifically because it does cut so close to the 1,000 foot radius of the sensitive use area around the Wolfe Center. Ultimately, he said, the location cited in Harvest of Merced's application is outside of that sensitive use area according to the GIS mapping software used by city staff.

When asked by Commissioner Sam Rashe about potential measurement issues that Attorney Drivon brought up during his comments, Hren explained that the software is accurate, however, when the tool was brought up online for applicants to use, sensitive use areas were being updated or corrected.

City of Merced Planning Manager Kim Espinosa informed the commission that

each time new sensitive use areas were identified or removed, applicants and those who had been working with the city, were informed and kept up to date. Additionally, she emphasized that all applicants had access to the same tool for two months prior to the day of their current meeting.

In the end, Harvest of Merced received the OK from the Planning Commission following a motion by Commissioner Peter Padilla. The vote was 6-1, Commissioner Jeremy Martinez abstaining.

Also, City Attorney Kim Flores outlined the process to appeal the decision to the Merced City Council.

Big Green Machine

Other developments surrounding the burgeoning

cannabis industry in Merced include recent reports that Organic Trichome Inc., a cannabis cultivation, manufacturing, and distribution business was approved to set up shop at 115 Herson Way.

There is no established limit to the number of businesses in Merced that can manufacture or distribute cannabis products, but do not directly sell to consumers. Currently, there are four non-retail cannabis businesses readying themselves to operate within the city limits.

One of them is caught up in a headline-making debate. A longtime indoor soccer complex is located at the approved site for Organic Trichome Inc. James Moulton, the property owner, made the decision to not

renew the lease for the Merced Indoor Sports Center, and instead looked to the cannabis industry for a new tenant.

The site is estimated to have been used by thousands of children and adults looking for a local field to play soccer. The location has been used as a home field for 15 years, with children as young as 3 entering the programs.

Moulton is reportedly working with real estate agents in the area to find a new suitable location for an indoor soccer field. He has also noted that he has already received contributions to help relocate the longtime soccer field, as well as making arrangements to help pay expenses for the move.

Kiwanis

Continued from front page

Kiwanian Tom Frazier planned the event. "The Kiwanis Club held this

event in 2007 and in 2014 and it was popular. We felt it was time to bring it back. People coming to the air museum to enjoy tasting local products is a way to

celebrate what this area has to offer," he said.

The tasting event was popular this year too. A line of people formed, waiting to come inside. The Kiwanis volunteers

kept it moving along for only a short wait.

Guest Kathy Dunbar of Atwater said it was a nice event. "We need to do more things like this because it's good for our

community for people to see how important the air museum is for us," she said. "An enjoyable tasting locally made products that I can buy in stores."

"We enjoy having people come out and see the planes. It's surprising how many people living in our communities have never been here and may not even know the Museum exists," said Joe Pruzzo, CEO of the Castle Air Museum. "Schools are not teaching much about our history. These planes remind people of the sacrifices made during World War II."

Pruzzo says the budget to keep the museum open is \$25,000 a month. "We are self-funded through donations since opening in 1981," Pruzzo said.

"Restoration and maintenance is constant. We do historically accurate restorations of these planes. The money for plane projects is outside of the general fund."

The Castle-Atwater Kiwanis Club meets every Thursday at Noon at the Castle Air Museum Restaurant at the entrance to the Castle Airport of Santa Fe Drive. For information about joining or supporting the club through donations contact Bob Maurer at 358-8030, by e-mail at bobdoe@att.net or visit online at: kiwanis-dv46.org.

Visit the Castle Air Museum at 5050 Santa Fe Drive in Atwater, or call 723-2178 or go to their website at castleairmuseum.org.

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The Merced County Times, Atwater-Winton Times are divisions of Mid Valley Publications, a group of five community newspapers in Merced and Stanislaus Counties.

Merced, UCM, Bay Area Council considering potential megaregion

UC Merced Chancellor Dorothy Leland and Merced Mayor Mike Murphy welcomed the Bay Area Council to Merced last week for a robust discussion on potential future connections between Merced and the Bay Area.

"Today we are focusing on the economic potential of building greater interconnectedness, which would have major benefits to both regions," Leland said. "It's not just about creating a bedroom community here. We will be attracting businesses and industries that will help lift Merced, the

Valley and the state."

The event began at UC Merced's Downtown Campus Center, where Bay Area Council President Jim Wunderman and nearly 50 business, nonprofit, government and education leaders from the two regions were provided with a brief history of UC Merced and the impact its success has had in expanding its reach on campus and downtown. Attendees included Assemblymember Adam Gray, Merced College Superintendent and President Chris Vitelli and representatives from the of-

ice of Senator Diane Feinstein and Merced County were among the attendees.

Murphy pointed to the renaissance of historic venues like Tioga Hotel, El Capitain Hotel and the Mainzer Theater as a representation of the effect UC Merced's growth and the recent addition of the Downtown Campus Center have had in the area.

"This has been a fantastic thing for us," Murphy said. "We've had a real public interest with UC Merced, and there has been an increase in private interest because of it."

Wunderman discussed Merced's role in the proposed Northern California "Megaregion," which would connect the Central Valley to the Bay Area and Silicon Valley.

With all 21 counties would be grouped into four regions: Bay Area, Sacramento Area, Northern San Joaquin Valley and Monterey Bay Area. The megaregion would possess one of the fastest-growing economies in the nation and allow for more interconnectivity and innovation.

Wife goes overboard in S.F. Bay

BY JOHN M. DERBY
Times Publisher
capjohn32@gmail.com

There are times when we wonder what we are going to write about for next week's column — and then something always happens.

This was the case last weekend as Kathy and I decided to spend the weekend in Alameda and celebrate my 82nd birthday on our sailboat.

It was an absolutely gorgeous day, and we had scheduled an appointment to have our sailboat — the Day Dreamer — pointed at The Boat Yard which is located on the estuary north of the Aoelin Yacht Club, where we dock our boat.

The sail should have been easy, under three draw bridges, and less than an hour of sailing to get to The Boat Yard.

We had plenty time, and we had a crew member who had never sailed on a big boat. The breeze was brisk and with the mainsail up, the Daydreamer heeled over and made way slowly against the tide.

The Boat Yard is located near Jack London Square where there is also one of the few gas docks. Since we were running low on gas, we decided to take a half hour detour and fill up our gas tank. By that time it was 3 p.m. shutting off the wind now was up to 20 knots.

Normally this would not have been a problem, however, the gas dock was very crowded and for some reason they had allowed a large cruiser to dock at one end making this a little more difficult.

Kathy was ready on the bow of the boat to tie off the line on one of the dock cleats while our other helper, Michael, was going to tie off the stern.

That was when the wind or current pushed the boat up against a jetty which had been placed right before the gas dock.

Suddenly, the Day Dreamer ramed the jetty, and at the same time, the lifeline that runs around the sides of the dock (the one that provides a safety perimeter), broke free.

Kathy was hanging onto the lifeline when it gave way, and before she realized it, she was dropping into the icy water.

Down she went, sinking under the bow of the boat, and fortunately coming up on the other side.

As the captain steering the boat, I was concerned with shutting off the motor. I saw nothing that happened to Kathy, but Michael was upfront immediately and over the bow of the boat. He saw Kathy swimming to the gas dock, and he got there to lift her out of the water.

She was soaked from head to toe, and had a nasty scrape on her forearm, however, she was little worse for wear, and her comment — "that was one hell of a landing" — was well taken.

Fortunately I had put a whole set of dry sweats on the boat before leaving, and she climbed into them.

There was nothing funny about this near miss. She actually was lucky to have gone underneath the bow of the boat because otherwise she might have been crushed against the gas dock.

As I said in the lead paragraph, things always seem to happen, but this is one story where the captain should have been up for a court marshal.

We are happy to say Kathy is fine.

FOOTNOTE: After securing our boat to the gas dock, we were notified the gas dock was closed for repairs! ... Now why couldn't they have had a sign saying "Closed For Business" that we could have seen from the water?

Soccer center becomes area to grow marijuana?

BY JOHN M. DERBY, Publisher
capjohn32@gmail.com

Can we be the only members of the community who read in disbelief that Merced's Indoor Sports Center — which has served as a training center for thousands of local soccer players — will now be turned into a marijuana cultivation site?

The building located at 115 Heron Way was approved by the Merced Planning Commission on Aug. 8 as a site to grow, manufacture and distribute cannabis, according to city records.

Did our lawmakers and voters envision that when they allowed marijuana for recreational use?

Did they think that it would actually end up replacing a facility which was already being used for recreational use, and the kind which was having a positive effect on the minds and bodies of our youth?

The Merced Indoor Sports Center reportedly was serving nearly 3,000 youth from the surrounding area each month.

What have we allowed this state, and our community, to become?

Letters To The Editor

Measure E guarantees funding for new school

Dear Editor,

It's an exciting time in Atwater Elementary School District, one of 22 Exemplary School Districts in California — and Measure E, an important ballot measure coming to voters Nov. 6, is needed to provide space for our surging enrollment. Our students' achievement is on the rise and competitive with, as well as exceeding at many grade levels, the state average in reading/language arts and math. Rather than dilute the effectiveness of our AEDS instructional model by crowding our classrooms and campuses, it is time to build a new

school.

Now is time to support AEDS with much-needed funding to build a new school. Measure E is a \$20 million school improvement bond which, when passed, will qualify the District to apply for State funding for the project as a local match is required. These funds, together with the contribution of funds saved and set aside by the District each year will give our students room to grow and maintain our "Tradition of Excellence."

Measure E guarantees local funding needed to construct a new school. Every penny supports the new

school construction and none of the funds can be taken by the State. We will have independent citizens' oversight and annual audits, as required by law. The funds cannot be used for teacher or administrator salaries.

Our Atwater community has been very supportive in past years with bond measures. We are grateful for the support, and proud of all that we've accomplished together. Many of our schools have undergone major renovations and/or the construction of new facilities such as the gymnasiums at Bellevue and Mitchell Senior

and improved athletic fields. Our Board Members have worked together to make courageous fiscal decisions while planning for the improvements to facilities for safety and to house our growing student population. We have had years of top notch audits. We have worked hard to be transparent and to build an amazing trust with our community.

AEDS students, are counting on your YES vote for Measure E on November 6, 2018.

Respectfully,
Sandra Schiber,
AEDS Superintendent

City's water rate change is 'bait and switch'

Editor's Note: Information from the following letter was read at the Merced City Council meeting on Sept. 17. New water rates in the city of Merced are set to go into effect on Jan. 1. City staff and a consultant are saying residential customers will likely see a decrease in their water bill due to the proposed rate structure. They say the new rates will also reward those who conserve water. A public hearing on the subject will continue at City Hall at the Merced City Council meeting that starts at 6 p.m. on Oct. 15. Customers can call the Public Works with questions at 385-6800.

Dear Editor,

I am concerned with the water rate that has been announced, and the basis that was used on determining the increase.

My initial reaction was that this was a Bait and Switch.

The Bait is that the January 2019 rate shows a decrease from \$34.24 to \$31.10 (by July 2021 it will be \$33). The difference is \$3.10, which is a 9 percent difference in two years.

The Switch is that the new base water allocation is 20 HCF (hundred cubic feet) instead of 30 HCF. This is a 33.33 percent decrease to what households are allowed as base.

The Net is a 26.33 percent increase for houses that require 30 HCF. A family of four that acts responsibly and does not have a big yard currently uses 30 HCF. That means that their water rate will be \$38.40. That will be a 12 percent increase.

A report from Stantec recommends only a 2 percent rate increase annually. The city's report is

showing an increase of 4 percent for the year 2019.

Then in 2020 it goes up another 2 percent, and the volumetric change also goes up by 1 cent. The report also indicated that the volumetric change was to add in increasing revenue.

The report is also looking at drought years when 'green' became brown and trees and plants died.

I question the report that was used because it has not been based on a full year of meter usage for Merced, and also not in a non-drought year.

**Belinda Burnett,
Merced**

Manufacturing hub at Castle is gaining momentum — NOT

Dear Editor,

This plan requires a flow of material and finished goods between the Port of Los Angeles and Castle and a foreign investor with \$2 billion.

Recent news broadcasts show President Kim Jong-un smiling and waving. He might be the perfect investor for \$2 billion and he could invest the \$2 billion and he could send us ship loads of lumber for our popstick stick factory.

People will not make fun of the Castle Commerce Center when they see our brilliantly crafted popstick sticks!

GLD Partners is ramping up our 300 acre autonomous vehicle test track. This project may require all of our improved roads and streets at Castle and will seal them off with

black fences.

People doing business at Castle can park on the shoulder of Santa Fe, or they can charter helicopters and fly in.

The plan to shorten Castle's runway will provide trans-modal connectivity to our infrastructure. It will connect the Atwater-Merced Expressway to large dairy surplus lagoons and a Federal Prison.

We are fortunate to have a razor sharp Commerce Department and County Board of Supervisors!

**Robert Burgess,
Merced**

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Gospel Music

Discipled Cities Ministries presents " Jubilee Celebration" - A gospel music concert, 2018!

The concert will be held from 3 - 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 29, on the parade grounds of the former Castle Air Force Base in Atwater. The parade grounds are located near the Buhach Road entrance at Santa Fe Drive. The talent for this event includes Citizens Of Glory, a full-time family band from Oakhurst; Roger Trip & Christian Country of Chowchilla; the Gilly Girls, a family band from Prather; and Bridge Of Grace of Merced. This is an outdoor concert with lawn seating. Bring your own chairs or blankets. No pets please. Food vendors will be on site. It is a free admission event, but donations will be accepted. Contact John Yong at 205-0200.

ALSO — Julie Eichleberger presents her Julie-N-Friends gospel concert series on Sunday, Sept. 30 at 6 p.m. The concert is held at the Christian Life Center, 650 E. Olive Ave. in Merced. Featured artists are The Lighthouse Boys (Bakersfield), The Roberts (Bakersfield), Jerry Pearson (Bakersfield), the Gilly Girls (Prather) and Bridge Of Grace (Merced). This is a free admission event, a love offering will be received. Contact Julie at (559) 304-1102.

Square Dancing

Beginner Classes every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Join us at the Stratford Evans Community Hall, 1490 B Street for an evening of fun, friendship and great exercise. First class FREE! Go online to SquareDanceMerced.com. Questions? Call Geri at 773-0177 or Dave at 773-1274.

Peace March

The local Valley Crisis Center will be joining the Purple Purse Challenge starting on Oct. 2.

Purple Purse is a fundraising challenge where domestic violence agencies compete with one another to raise the most funds for victims and survivors of financial

abuse. Donations to Valley Crisis Center's campaign are given to the agency to provide assistance for the entire region. For more on the local effort, email: info@alliance4you.org. Or more on Purple Purse, go online to: purplepurse.com.

ALSO — the annual Peace for Families March will take place on Oct. 4 to mark National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Supporters will be marching at 5:30 p.m. from the Laura Fountain at Applegate Park to a gathering at the Merced Civic Center on 18th Street. Special guests will include Mayor Mike Murphy, survivors and local artists. There will also be free refreshments, kids activities and music. For more, email: robertg@alliance4you.org, or call 725-7900

Talent Search

UC Merced's Homecoming is right around the corner and there are two exciting ways to celebrate Bobcat pride! The university is looking for performers to be a part of the Campus and Community Showcase from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20. The Showcase will take place in the Carol Tomlinson-Keasey Quad. If you or someone you know has a 3-4 minute performance and want to be a part of UC Merced's homecoming weekend, they can sign up online by Oct. 1 at: homecomingucmerced.edu. UC Merced also invites organizations interested in having a table at the showcase to sign up as well. Just provide a name, brief description of your organization and how many tables you will need.

AARP

The Merced Chapter of AARP will be meeting on Sept. 26, 10 a.m., in the Senior Center, located at 755 W. 15th St. This month the speaker will be the Merced County Sheriff. Snacks will be provided for everyone.

Pedrozo Dinner

John Pedrozo is bringing back his annual Portuguese Beans and Linguica Dinner on Tuesday, Oct. 2, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Merced Fruit Barn, 4526 E. Hwy 140, Merced. The dinner is all you can eat linguica,

beans, salad, rolls and drink for \$25; takeout is available. John Pedrozo is currently a candidate for Merced College Board Area 7. Call 761-0970.

Animal Blessing

All creatures great and small are invited to a Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, Oct. 6, at 11 a.m., at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 1455 E. Yosemite Ave. in Merced. The public is invited and all animals are welcome to attend free of charge. Animals must be leashed or in crates. There will be refreshments for people and for animals. Each animal will receive an individual blessing from Pastor Dorothy Lindstrom.

Women's Club

The Merced Women's Club will be having their monthly meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 2, at 11:30 a.m. at the Clubhouse, 707 W. 22nd Street, Merced. There will be lunch of lasagna, salad, bread and dessert; the cost is \$8. Merced County Sheriff Vern Wamke will be our speaker. Call 383-2234.

Seniors Wanted

The Writers Group at the Merced Senior Center wants people 50 and over to participate in their activities on Wednesdays, from 9 a.m. to noon., at the Merced Senior Center, 755 W. 15th St., in Merced.

Skate Fest

The Beachwood Franklin Committee for Improvement invites the public to their 6th annual Skate For The Youth Fundraiser and Harvest Festival, on Oct. 13, at the Park, located at 2038 Lobo Ave. corner with Drake Avenue. There will be games for kids, live music, and tri-tip sandwiches. For info or tickets, call 205-8717 or mrodr1797@att.net.

Club Mercedes

Club Mercedes located at 569 W. 9th Street in Merced has begun its regular Sunday Mercurio every Sunday. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. and serving till noon. Come early because they are known to sell out. Coffee, Pastry, Tortillas and Condiments are included in the price. Large Bowl is \$10. Small Bowl is \$5. Quesadillas are \$2. Bloody Mary Specials are \$5. Take Outs are OK but phone orders are NOT accepted. Club Mercedes is a Non Profit Social Club. Call the Club after 4 p.m.: 383-9906.

Homeless Connect

The 2018 Merced Homeless Connect is set for Friday, Sept. 28, from 9:30 a.m. to past noon at the gym of Central Presbyterian Church, 1920 Canal St. in downtown Merced. The goal is to help "people experiencing homelessness receive the services that will give them a hand up."

Among the free services available will be: • Health insurance enrollment; medical, dental, wellness exams; vaccines, vision resources. • Coordinated Entry System 4 Housing, career building services. • Community resources, haircuts, veterans services, benefit enrollment. • Lunch, refreshments, giveaways, and much more! For more, call Phil Schmauss at 658-9558; or email: philippschmauss@gmail.com; or Candice Medefind at 724-D102; or email: candice@healthyhousemerced.org.

Riley Walk

The 10th annual Riley Brothers Victims' Remembrance Walk will be held on Saturday, Oct. 13, starting at noon, at the FoodMaxx Parking Lot, 1300 W. Olive Avenue in Merced. Please join family and friends as they honor the lives lost in the Merced community near the Loughborough area. Participants will walk from the FoodMaxx parking lot, cross Olive Avenue and continue down Meadows Avenue. There will be stops along the way for prayer. Those who are unable to walk may drive alongside the walkers.

Shed Raffle

A tool shed is being raffled for Habitat for Humanity of Merced County to benefit upcoming building projects. Tickets, at \$10 each, can be purchased from any Habitat board member or at the ReStore, 1230 Broadway in Atwater. The drawing will be held Oct. 27 during Habitat's annual meeting. The Habitat ReStore offers new and gently used home improvement items at low prices. ReStore hours are Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. To view the shed or if you have items you would like to donate, please check the Habitat website (informed.org) to see what items may be donated or to arrange for pick-up. All profits from the ReStore are used to fund construction of homes or provide home rehabilitations in Merced County.

Book Sale

The Friends of the Merced County Library are offering a sale on three authors in September. They include Jonathan Kellerman, Faye Kellerman or Iris Johansen. Buy one hardback for a dollar and get one free. You may fill a bag of paperback for \$3. Same authors. Come by the Main Branch in Merced and support your local library.

Support Animals

New Beginnings for Merced County Animals is hosting "Grillin' For-A-Cause," a Bar-B-Q fundraiser dinner on Saturday, Sept. 29, from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., at The Red Barn in Winton. On the menu will be barbequed Tri-tip and chicken, broccoli salad, 3 sides and bread pie. Entertainment will include fiddlers, auctions and raffles. Tickets are \$50 each and can be obtained at Christina's Fine Clothing in the Bear Creek Galleria, Valley Animal Hospital at 58 W. 16th Street, Santa Fe Pet Hospital at 3113 N. Beachwood or online through Facebook. All proceeds will be used for medical expenses and the transportation of animals to rescues. Call 769-8953.

ACE Overcomers

ACE Overcomers will hold a "Champions For Change" benefit dinner and auction on Friday, Oct. 12, at the First Baptist Church, 500 Buena Vista Drive, in Merced. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets available online at: aceovercomers.org. \$25 per person.

Rummage Sale

The annual Love INC's Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, Oct. 6, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at United Methodist Church of Merced, at 899 Yosemite Parkway. Volunteers needed and donations accepted. Contact Kelly at 383-7034, cell 140.

Faith On Move

Eccumenical Campus Ministries of Merced is hosting Dr. David Vasquez-Leyva, president of the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley and a nationally recognized immigration leader. The event is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 30, at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 1455 E. Yosemite Avenue in Merced. An optional light dinner will be offered at 5:15 p.m. followed by the presentation and Q&A at 6 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Child-care and Spanish-English interpretation will be available. Call 383-0632.

Literacy Volunteers

Do you have 3 hours per week to help low literacy readers in your own community? The Read and Succeed Literacy Program at the Merced County Library is seeking volunteers to work with learners one-on-one to improve their reading, English, or math skills. Tutors need to be 18 years or older, English speaking, and be either a high school or GED graduate. Training and all materials are provided. We work with learners at any of the Merced County Libraries. For information please call Read and Succeed, 385-7391, or come and see our facility at the Merced County Library, 2100 O Street, Merced.

Mercy Volunteers

Would you like to help your community? Your local hospital? Well you can, come volunteer for us at Mercy Medical Center. We are looking for anyone with a few hours to spare per week. Stop by the main lobby desk in the hospital and get on an application. Or you can give our membership person a call, 613-4483.

Seniors Wanted

"Seniors Wanted": 50 an hour to play pinocchle on weekdays at the Merced Senior Community Center located at 755 W. 15th Street. Contact Jackie Mohr for more info at 385-8803.

Free Chess

Play chess and learn new game skills for free, every Friday, 6:30 p.m., at the Merced Mail Food Center. Contact class coordinator Golbad, president of the Merced Chess Club, at 658-9927.

Exchange Students

International Education Student Exchange Program (Inter-Ed), a non-profit high school exchange organization, is currently looking for volunteer Host Families to host international high school students participating in our high school cultural exchange program. Inter-Ed is the leading not-for-profit sponsor of J-1 exchange students and has been working with volunteer host families for international students for over 20 years. Inter-Ed places students from many countries for semester-long and year long academic programs. Students who participate in Inter-Ed program have their own spending money, are fully insured and attend your local high school in order to learn more about the American culture, make friends, participate in sports, student activities, and become a part of the community, and most of all - become a lasting member of your family and community. Anyone interested in hosting or for more information, please contact us. Contact International Education Student Exchange Program (Inter-Ed) by calling 358-4480 or website: www.inter-ed.org for more information.

YARTS Fares

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) has announced that it will offer reduced round-trip fares to Yosemite National Park for all Merced County residents. Passengers will be able to purchase their tickets at The Bus/YARTS Administration Office, 1810 K Street, Merced. Reduced Fares: Adults \$5, ages 13-17 \$2.50, 12 and under FREE. This reduced fare program is made possible through the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP). LCTOP is provided to transit agencies to improve mobility and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The grant will fund reduced fares through June 30, 2019. YARTS is a regional public transit agency that provides a year-round alternative to driving to Yosemite from Merced and Mariposa along Highway 140, and from Highways 209, 395 and 41 during summer months. Visit online at: yarts.com or call (877) 989-2787.

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Next Honor Flight coming up fast

The 17th Central Valley Honor Flight (CVHF) is set to take-off Oct. 1 with 68 deserving veterans on board.

The Honor Flight gives Central Valley veterans the opportunity to visit their war's memorial in Washington D.C. and to receive a warm 'welcome home' that most never received upon their return home from war.



Hilmar.

They focus on prioritizing World War II veterans as well as Korean and Vietnam veterans. After many heart-warming surprises, visits from dignitaries, and recognition from local communities, the veterans often come home with peace and closure that they did not have before the flight. It's truly a once in a lifetime opportunity for these veterans.

Each flight and all accommodations cost around \$1,500 per veteran and the costs continue to rise. The 17th flight will have eight veterans from Merced County coming from Merced, Atwater, Los Banos, and

Hilmar. The Honor Flight is still seeking donations to cover the cost of this flight and future flights. If you are able to give and are interested in doing so, please check out online: cvhonor-flight.org

If you want to support the flight in others way, you can send-off the veterans at Fresno Airport on Monday, Oct. 1st at 5:30 a.m., or welcome them upon their return on Wednesday, Oct. 2 at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Free Flu Shots at Planada Health Fair

The Annual San Joaquin Drug Health Fair is set for Thursday, Oct. 11, from 4 to 7 p.m. at San Joaquin Drug Store, 9215 E. Hwy. 140 in Planada.

The event celebrates the 2018 Merced County Binational Health Week.

In addition to providing free flu shots, San Joaquin Drug will be doing free blood pressure checks, Body Mass Index (BMI) measurement, glucose level checks and vision

screenings. Children will enjoy a set for Thursday, Oct. 11, from 4 to 7 p.m. at San Joaquin Drug Store, 9215 E. Hwy. 140 in Planada. The event is sponsored by San Joaquin Drug, The California Endowment, Rabobank, Merced County, Dignity Health, Mercy Medical Center and Castle Family Health Centers.

Contact Diana Gunn at 382-1291 or sjdhealth-fair@gmail.com.

GSFA partners with USDA on cash back program for homebuyers

Craig Ferguson, Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) Deputy Director, joined Kim Dobrow Vann, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development California State Director, this week to announce a partnership on a new gift program that will benefit rural homebuyers in California.

Individuals or families purchasing a primary residence in California with a USDA Rural Development Single Family Loan Guarantee through the GSFA Platinum Program will be eligible for assistance of up to four percent in the form of a non-repayable gift. The amount of the gift is based on the amount of the mortgage loan. Funds from the gift can be used for closing costs and/or principal reduction.

"Partnerships like this one with USDA Rural Development are essential to meeting the needs of California homebuyers," said Ferguson. "We are excited to ex-

pand our existing down payment assistance program and focus on how to help more rural homebuyers achieve the dream of homeownership."

USDA's loan guarantee program offers 100 percent financing and is available to low-to-moderate income homebuyers in rural areas, typically communities with populations of 35,000 or fewer. Coupled with the GSFA Platinum Program, qualifying homebuyers may be able to purchase a home with no money out of pocket.

"With California's high home prices, affordability is a real struggle for many homebuyers," said Vann. "Through this partnership with GSFA, we have another great tool to help increase affordability, and support rural prosperity."

To participate in the program, homebuyers must meet income eligibility and the property must be located in an eligible rural area.

Travis Credit Union offers 9th annual free Young Adult Financial Boot Camp

Travis Credit Union aims to reach 1,000 young adults this year through financial education efforts.

That is why it invested in revamping its "Mad City Money" Young Adult Financial Boot Camp for 2018!

Mad City Money is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 6, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., at UC Merced.

Here are some updates on what's involved:

- Interactive, app-based learning • 50 Amazon Kindle Fires for any attendee to use • Hosted Wi-Fi • A fresh look and logo these eco-friendly and tech-focused improvements are the perfect compliments to today's generation and its love of mobile banking.

knowledge contributes to the uphill battle many youth face when entering adulthood," says Barry Nelson, President and CEO of Travis Credit Union. "Through our 'Awesome Cause' of financial education, financial literacy, and financial advocacy, we strive to be a part of the solution for our members and the communities we serve."

At Mad City Money, participants learn forward into the shoes of adulthood, experiencing today's fast paced society with all the obligations that will come their way.

From a pushy car salesperson, to a commission-based realtor, to a credit union for financial services, attendees must

decipher between their wants and needs, all while attempting to stay on an assigned budget. And if this were not enough, the fickle Finger of Fate is always on the lookout, ready to remind attendees how life can happen at the most inconvenient times. Thanks to this whirlwind of reality, overspending is a common theme, as highlighted by the reflections of one young adult: "If I choose to purchase an expensive car and a house, I end up struggling to provide for basic needs like food and clothing."

The goal for the program is for attendees to make financial mistakes with us, before they make them in the real world.

By learning about bud-

geting, savings, debt, and the importance of credit worthiness, young adults are able to achieve long-term financial health. Through an informal study, Travis Credit Union discovered every \$1 invested in Mad City Money creates \$52 of value in the communities it serves. This is due to the central realization attendees leave with: "One way or another, my choices with money will impact my life."

If you wish to register an attendee, or are interested in volunteering as a sales merchant, please visit online at: travisccu.org/mcm

Refreshments, prizes and a drawing for an Apple Watch will be provided.

County Behavioral Health department opens public review of program update

Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (MCBHRSS) has opened a 30-day public review and comment period for its Program Update to the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) - Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Annual Update.

Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 5847 states that county mental health programs shall prepare and submit a Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan and Annual Updates for MHSA programs and expendi-

tures. Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 5848 states the Behavioral Health Board shall conduct a public hearing on the draft Annual Update at the close of the 30-day public review and comment period. MHSA Plans and Annual Updates must be adopted by the County Board of Supervisors and submitted to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) within 30 days after Board of Supervisors adoption.

The MHSA Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Annual Update

and Public Comment form will be posted on the MCBHRSS Department website. Residents may download the document from the website or request an electronic version of the document by emailing mhsa@co.merced.ca.us.

The public can also request a hard copy of the documents by contacting the department at 381-6800 ext. 3611 or toll free at 1-866-626-6472.

A Public Hearing is scheduled for Nov. 6, as part of the Merced County Behavioral Health Board

Meeting. The meeting will be held at the MCBHRSS building, located at 301 East 13th Street in Merced. The Public Hearing will start at 5:30 p.m. Upon request, interpretive assistance will be available to Spanish and Hmong-speaking residents.

To provide input, recommendations and comments, please call 381-6800 ext. 3611 or complete a Public Comment form and either email the completed form to mhsa@co.merced.ca.us or mail or hand deliver it to MCBHRSS.

MCSD, City of Merced to host community meeting on key issues

The public is invited to participate in a meeting focusing on issues impacting both the Merced City School District and City of Merced.

It will be held Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. at Rivera Middle School, 945 Buena Vista Dr., Merced.

The meeting will bring leaders from both agencies together with stakeholders to discuss a variety of topics, including:

- School safety
- Pedestrians and vehicle traffic surrounding schools
- Current and proposed housing projects

- Development projects surrounding school sites
- Current and proposed joint and mutual use of facilities

• Future staff meetings to address interagency issues

The goal of this forum is to continue improving communication and strengthen-

ing relationships to benefit families in the Merced City School District and the entire Merced community.

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Livingston schools enter next phase of major modernization

Things may look a little different the next time you visit a school in the Livingston Union School District.

The latest phase of the district's major modernization project has just wound up and 24 new classrooms have been pressed into service at Selma Herndon, Campus Park and Yamato Colony schools, the result of successful passage of Measure E bonds 13 years ago.

Andres Zamora, Livingston superintendent, said 10 new classrooms were built at Campus Park School while six new classrooms grace Selma Herndon School and a six-classroom kindergarten suite is in place at Yamato Colony School.

Nick Jones, the district's director of maintenance, operations and transportation, said the modernization projects have been in process since January. He's also pleased about 90 percent of the portable classrooms, which were 20 to 25 years old, have been removed and scrapped.

Zamora said construction of the modular classrooms cost \$11 million, of which \$7.5 million came from the Measure E bond.

"Our goal was to improve the teaching and learning environment, providing better space for teachers and students. The portables were supposed to be temporary. It's where we wanted to invest our dollars for our kids," Zamora said.

The new classrooms measure 30 by 32 feet. The new layouts give more

flexibility to configure classroom features. They are placed on a slab foundation and feature wood and stucco designs.

Jones said the new classrooms feature high-efficiency programmable heating and cooling units. White boards and tack boards can accommodate classroom materials.

Zamora said the next project seen as a need is a multipurpose room at Campus Park Elementary School. That campus has a smaller facility built in 1962; they are also looking at improving the school's playground equipment.

JTS Modular in Bakersfield was the contractor and Marko Construction in Fresno did the site work, such as electrical, plumbing and concrete.

"Teachers and parents are excited. It will transform the appearance of our campus. This was part of a 10-year facilities master plan adopted in November, 2017," Zamora said.

Jones said the new classrooms will be here for the next 40 years; they have a good, strong backbone for technology. The district also added 125 more security cameras at district sites and the classrooms are closed-in with new wrought iron fencing. All the classroom locks have been changed.

Zamora is pleased with the modernized appearance the new buildings exhibit. He said the district also repainted the exterior of Livingston Middle School, which is 17 years old.

Bond refinancing saved

taxpayers \$550,000 with the maturity date set for August, 2030. Establishing the maturity date as 19 years compared to 29 years before will save taxpayers \$1.5 million, Zamora said.

A new classroom wing at Campus Park School in Livingston.



PHOTOS BY DYLAN MCMULLEN / MCOE



Part of the new kindergarten suite at Yamato Colony School in Livingston.

Winton Design Fair

Help create a welcoming and walkable town center in Winton!

Join your neighbors in developing a walkable town center plan for Winton. The plan will build on the Community Plan and identify short and long-term projects that businesses, residents and the County can implement to create a vibrant town center.

Monday, October 1, 2018 • 6-8:30 PM
Opening Community Design Workshop
Sylvia Crockett Elementary, 7150 Walnut Ave. Light supper from 6-8:30

Tuesday, October 2, 2018 • 6-7 PM
Downtown Walk Assessment
Winfield Elementary, 6901 Chestnut Ln

Thursday, October 4, 2018 • 6-8 PM
Closing Community Workshop
Sylvia Crockett Elementary, 7150 Walnut Ave. Light supper from 6-8:00

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For More Information:

Octavie Valencia, Cultiva La Salud Cultiva La Salud Facebook
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Entrepreneurs focus on opportunities for women

Eighty local entrepreneurs and those interested in starting a business took part in the second annual UC Merced Women business conference held Sept. 18 in downtown Merced.

"The Woman Entrepreneur - A Conference to Explore Entrepreneurship for Women," was the title of the daylong event held at the Multicultural Arts Center.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Glenda Humiston, vice president of the UC Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. "Women mean business," Dr. Humiston told the group after sharing some information about business trends and resources available to business people in California.

The event was organized to present and better understand the many benefits to people who have an interest in, or ideas about, starting businesses.

"Throughout the state, there are countless examples of entrepreneurs taking advantage of opportunities to move their ideas into thriving businesses," Dr. Humiston said.

She shared the story of a county fairgrounds in another part of the state that had several buildings standing idle most of the year. The

fairgrounds began leasing their certified commercial kitchen space to food truck operators. They utilized facilities that would otherwise be dormant and created a new revenue stream, all while helping the food truck operators become compliant with health department regulations.

The No. 1 barrier for business people, Dr. Humiston said, is financing. She pointed to a resource every person interested in growing their business ideas. That resource is a guidebook called "Access to Capital" produced by her department.

"Every resource in this guidebook has a documented case to support its effectiveness," she told the audience.

Other resources entrepreneurs should consider, according to Dr. Humiston, are: the California Organized Investment Network, tax exempt industrial development revenue bonds, direct public offerings, and revolving loan funds. She encouraged the group to look at the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources website: UCANR.edu

The message resonated throughout the group of program participants.

"We need to be aware of all the



The UC Merced Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab presented "The Woman Entrepreneur - A Conference to Explore Entrepreneurship for Women," on Sept. 18 at the Multicultural Arts Center in downtown Merced.

resources available to women interested in entrepreneurship," said Jennifer Lopez, the CEO of Valley Innovators. Lopez spoke to the group about her work in helping incubate new businesses throughout the valley.

In her presentation to the group, Lopez encouraged the audience to take advantage of networking opportunities when circumstances are present. She also encouraged participants to engage fully with social

media that is geared toward business development.

"Any time I get be in the room where an exchange of new ideas and best practices can be shared, it's a win-win," said local author and columnist Steve Newvine.

Newvine has written a book for employees called *Soft Skills for Hard Times*. Other speakers included Sam Traina from the UC Merced Office of Research and Economic Development, and

Dawn Trook, a lecturer for the Merritt Writing Program at UC Merced.

A Conference to Explore Entrepreneurship for Women was organized to help the local community realize the benefits of entrepreneurship. The UC Merced Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab is a faculty-driven initiative to help grow the local business community.

UC Merced, TCOE partner to create research station

The Tulare County Office of Education and the University of California, Merced, have partnered to create a new field research station in the foothills of Tulare County.

Named the UC Merced/SCICON Field Station, the project is envisioned as a site for UC scientists to study the unique ecological issues of the San Joaquin Valley - a critical and understudied region in California for environmental research.

The project will also fos-

ter opportunities for Tulare County students and educators to participate in and contribute to research involving water, pollution, land use and conservation, and plant and animal life.

The field station is the vision of Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. Several years before the university opened its campus in 2005, Vidak saw the potential in connecting UC Merced's School of Natural Sciences and the Sierra Nevada Research Institute (SNRI) with the Tulare

County Office of Education's internationally known SCICON outdoor education program.

"I hoped that the university would see the benefits of partnering with a well-established outdoor education program attended by thousands of students every year," he said. "Through SCICON, we offer the university a broad range of research opportunities, housing, conference facilities and classrooms on two distinct sites - SCICON's mountainous 1,100-acre

campus and the lower-elevation Circle J-Norris Ranch, with 630 acres of range land."

This week, Vidak's long-held dream is becoming a reality. Construction is beginning on the new UC Merced/SCICON Field Station located on a recently acquired 8-acre property contiguous to SCICON's Circle J-Norris Ranch field study site.

The property already has a modern two-story house and a separate four-car garage with an apartment above it. The garage will be converted into a laboratory for UC researchers. The 1,000 square-foot lab will allow researchers to dry or freeze samples collected in the field for transportation and analysis in laboratories at any UC campus.

Once complete, the field station will be home to dozens of UC Merced researchers who are affiliated with SNRI. For more than 10 years, UC Merced has had partnerships with Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon national parks and has field stations in both.

For more than 20 years, students from elementary grades to the community college level have come to the Circle J-Norris Ranch to participate in hands-on lessons, and often return numerous times during each year for ongoing research projects. Each year, Circle J invites high school students and their teachers to work alongside naturalists and scientists during the Field Science Weekend and BioBlitz events.

The partnership between the university and the Tulare County Office of Education came together earlier this year with the support of UC Merced Chancellor Dorothy Leland and the enthusiasm of faculty members of the School of Natural Sciences and SNRI. The development of the field station at the Circle J-Norris Ranch will provide UC researchers opportunities to study the Sierra Nevada foothills' environmental systems, gaining insights into issues that affect the quality of life for Central Valley residents.

"The Sierra Nevada are already a valuable living laboratory for a vast array of important research addressing some of the state's - and the world's - most pressing challenges, such as water supplies for California and climate change," Leland said. "UC Merced is excited to work with the Tulare County Office of Education to expand into the future of research and to introduce the next generations of scientists to the Sierra, through this valuable partnership."

In addition to SNRI, the university will encourage the participation of other faculty and students conducting pertinent natural science, engineering, education, social science, management, policy and humanities research. Institutes including CalTeach, UC Water, The Center for the Humanities and the Health Sciences Research Institute may lead initiatives with a focus on the environment, people the and future of the Sierra Ne-

vada and the San Joaquin Valley.

Celebration of science

To celebrate the creation of the UC Merced/SCICON Field Station, the Tulare County Office of Education will host a fundraising event Saturday, Nov. 17. The event will also serve to honor Vidak for his vision to create the field station and to celebrate his career as an educator. Vidak is serving the final year of his seventh term - making him Tulare County's longest-serving county superintendent. In total, Vidak has served 28 years as Tulare County superintendent of schools, as part of a 57-year career as a teacher, principal, SCICON director and Visalia Unified administrator.

Information on tickets to the dinner event, entitled *The Vision & The Visionary: A Night to Celebrate Science & Service*, is available at tcoe.org/FieldStation.

The event will be held at the International Agri-Center in Tulare and will feature a social hour with farm-to-fork hours d'oeuvres from UC Merced Executive Chef Mitch Vanaglin, a hearty dinner, a chance raffle and live entertainment. The event will also include a live auction featuring a seven-day stay at a beautiful Maui condo, four collectible cars and more. All proceeds from the event will benefit the UC Merced/SCICON Field Station. For more information, visit online at tcoe.org/FieldStation or call 559-733-6302.



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WorkNet Job Fair attracts 73 companies looking to hire

BY GWEN HAGAMAN

"At the Job Fair, people looking for work have a one-stop opportunity to meet some of the larger employers in Merced County," began Ranjeev Dosanjh, Merced WorkNet's supervisor of the Business Services Team. "We can also connect people with resources such

as helping to develop and distribute resumes."

WorkNet's second annual Job Fair was held Thursday, Sept 20. There were 73 employers on site with 160 job applicants after being open for less than two hours.

"Unemployment is high in Merced County," Dosanjh said. "There are a wide range of jobs being filled

here today, from entry level fast food jobs to career positions in law enforcement to skilled welders and fabricators."

For information about WorkNet services for job seekers and for employers, visit their office at 1205 W. 18th Street, Merced, call 724-2100 or go online to: worknetmerced.com.



WorkNet's second annual Job Fair was a busy place with 73 employers and hundreds of job seekers. WorkNet is located at 1205 W. 18th Street in Merced.



Elisa Cardoza of Laird is looking for qualified fabricators, welders and service technicians. "We are looking for great candidates. From here we screen applicants and set up interviews. Job Fairs help people become more familiar with Laird and our products," she said.



State Farm Agent Justi Smith says she is always looking for good people. "I filled one position and got some great resumes," she said. She is looking for insurance representatives and customer service representatives. Call 383-3208.

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Elena Perez of Merced has two years of work experience in residential housekeeping. She is looking for a job in housekeeping, janitorial, dishwashing or similar. To speak with Elena call 261-8311.



Terry Mays of Merced is a certified painter with experience in warehouse and construction jobs. "If I get hired I will get right to work. I will take any job," he said. Contact Terry by email at: terrymays1967@gmail.com.



Black Oak Casino is looking to hire for hospitality, maintenance and restaurant jobs. People are invited to use their online application process at blackoak-casino.com.

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TENNIS TIPS BECOME AN INTENSE PLAYER

Are you subject to "mood swings"? Do you have friends who stay away from an occasion because of their moodiness?

Well, I suggest that in tennis a "mood swing" is a good thing! Swinging into the "intensity mode" when you play matches, and even during practice. I have seen many players play poorly in matches because of their lack of focus and intensity.

I'm not talking about being so wound up that you get tight and can't hit the ball. What is critical is to up your "intensity level" for the one or two

hours time it takes to win!

Being intense during the match actually means that you focus on each and every point with little or no distractions. You can be relaxed but with tunnel vision when it comes to playing the ball.

Up your intensity level during your match.

It will make you a better player!

Bob Quall is a two-time USTA national champion, and a former Merced County Superior Court judge. You can email him with comments or suggestions at robertquall@comcast.net.



FROM THE COURT OF ROBERT QUALL

Tennis Tourney

The 35th annual Merced County Area Tennis Tournament will be held Oct. 6 and 7, at the Merced College Tennis courts. There will be Men's and Women's Singles and Doubles, as well as Mixed Doubles. Entry forms are available at the Merced College Courts. Entry fees are \$25 for Singles and \$40 per Doubles team. There's \$5 discount for those 18 and under. Group High School discounts are also available. Entry fee includes lunch on Saturday, water, snacks and a tournament T-shirt. Call, text or email Tournament director Judy Douglas for more information or to enter the Tournament. It is important that we receive your entry, or you contact the Tournament director by Oct. 3. Call Judy Douglas at 617-4353, or email: judydouglas@sbcglobal.net.

A SUPER COOL 1962 FORD MODEL IS MY DREAM VEHICLE

Tastes in old cars seem to evolve over time, with some things becoming more desirable while other subjects wane on the popularity list.

I'm pretty much a generalist when it comes to collectible cars and trucks — I like them all with a few exceptions.

In the last few years I find myself drawn more and more to early 1960s Fords, particularly the full-sized hardtops and convertibles. More by accident than by design, the 1962 Ford has emerged as my favorite.

I've got close to 20 models of the 1962 Ford with more likely to join the fold in years to come.

Styling preferences obviously are subjective but the 1962 Ford has some endearing qualities. It has a long, down-sloping hood, and a prominent cross-hatched grille and bumper. The back end has a downward-sloping, rounded contour, with the rear bumper



MOTOR MUSINGS

BY DOANE YAWGER

and grille strip merged into one piece just below the trunklid. The sides have a graceful, stylish slope to them, incorporating a prominent grooved trim strip running nearly the entire length of the car. There is plenty of chrome on the car but it doesn't seem overdone or excessive like some others of the same era.

The 1962 Ford has a for-

mal roof; the 1961 Ford Starliner hardtop had a sloping, fastback style but I don't believe that continued into the following year. The 1961 Ford is no styling slouch either. It's remarkable that both 1961-62 Fords were styling successes.

The 1962 Fords mostly were powered by hefty V-8 engines. The more basic, economy models likely had six-cylinder engines and that's fine, too.

The Galaxie 500 seems to be the top dog with these Fords. But even the two-door "post" sedans with less assuming powerplants have their charm as well.

To the point, I wouldn't mind having a "real" 1962 Ford parked in my driveway. I may be dreaming big but that's the goal. Why settle for something that doesn't particularly float your boat? Hold out for that dream vehicle.

How many surplus or spare 1962 Fords are out



A 1962 Ford Galaxie convertible.

there? That's hard to say but an Internet search may be in the works in the future. I haven't seen any early 1960s Fords on the local streets, much less any for sale. My uneducated guess is there aren't too many of that particular model up for grabs right now but I could be pleasantly surprised.

It's kind of a bittersweet deal: We want our hobby to be populated by desirable and valuable cars but we win when the price gets up there in the upper strato-

sphere. Car enthusiasts have to balance these competing trends of popularity and price but there seems to be considerable movement on the televised auction scene these days. So the right car at the right price could conceivably be out there. It may be a matter of being in the right place at the right time and the Worldwide Web likely figures in the picture.

If a full-sized 1962 Ford isn't out there, I would gladly settle for a 1962 Ford Fairlane or possibly the

same vintage Falcon. They have smaller, more economical engines and more modest interior dimensions. The Ford even came in a station wagon version that pegs the cool meter with today's auto enthusiasts.

Down the road, some other cars may capture my fancy but for right now the 1962 Ford is near the top of my hit parade.

Doane Yawger of Merced is a semi-retired newspaper reporter and editor.

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WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE – THE TIMES • WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

A FEAST FOR CONCERT FANS



Local band Bobbie Love and the Sugar Sweets brought residents to Bob Hart Square last Friday night with chairs and blankets in hand as the third annual FEAST Concert filled Downtown Merced with music. The concert was held in combination with last Thursday's annual Merced FEAST dinner and fundraiser on Main Street. 'FEAST' stands for Festival Engaging Agriculture Sustainability to the Table.

TIMES PHOTOS BY JOHN MILLER



Residents make their way through Benjamin Serpa's show 'Valley Structures.'

Exploring 'Valley Structures'

A selection of recent work by artist Benjamin Serpa is on display at the Merced College Art Gallery, through Oct. 11. Serpa is a professor of Drawing and Art History at Merced College. He is also a co-curator of the galleries at the Merced Multicultural Arts Center and serves on the Arts Council board. His oil paintings and pastel drawings feature subjects of the Central Valley, which explore the relationship of color, form, light and structure.



Merced College Art Professor Benjamin Serpa speaks with residents during his show's reception last week at the Merced College Art Gallery.

The Merced College Art Gallery, in the Theater Building near the main entrance, is open Monday to Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and noon to 2 p.m. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

Big night for MAMAs in Modesto

Chris Murphy & Chris Ricci will present the 2018 Modesto Area Music Association Awards, hosted by the historic State Theatre, on Oct. 16, starting at 6 p.m.

For 19 years, the MAMAs have celebrated the wide variety of musical talent in the greater Modesto Area.

This year, the awards are bigger than ever and reflect new excitement in the variety of music being created in our area. There are over 250 nominees in 21 categories reflecting the amazing talent in the Central Valley.

The MAMAs will be presented at the fabulous historic State Theatre on Tuesday, Oct. 16, beginning at 6 p.m. This is an invitation-only black-tie event. All nominees and guests attend free of charge. Each category winner receives the treasured laser cut stainless steel MAMA Carhop Award, donated each year by Beeler Industries. Middagh Goodwin has been leading the MAMA team to make sure that this is the most inclusive and successful MAMA Awards ever.

The MAMAs will celebrate and honor Steve Ashman bassist and leader of the legendary ZaSu Pitts Memorial Orchestra (formed in 1983 and in their heyday averaged 280 shows a year) with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Steve lends his talent to fundraising and working for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and supporting other musicians in our community.

MAMA nominees (MAMAnees) were selected by local promoters, DJs, producers, media, and venue operators based on key factors such as number of events performed, quality of promotion, online and social media presence, contact and booking



details and most importantly, the quality of the music and sound.

MAMA award presentations will be made by KHOP 95.1, KWIN, KAT Country 103, KRVR, KCSS, the HAWK 104.1, Sunny 102.3 Rock 96.7, ModestoView, Modesto Convention & Visitors Bureau, Stanislaus Magazine, Zorch Magazine, Central Valley Reports, ModestoNews, Modesto Chamber of Commerce and the City of Modesto to help local the vote and showcase the importance of local music to our culture and economy.

The 2016 MAMAs will be streamed live by Central Valley TV online at ModestoView.com. There are web link VOTE buttons in the ModestoView.com and modestorearemusic.com web sites to help reach as many voters as possible. Voting ends at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday night Oct 14.

These awards are solely determined by the fans, who are only allowed to vote once. Duplicates and bot votes will be filtered and eliminated, validated by email confirmation and audited by a C.P.A.

Vocal Trash to perform in Turlock

Vocal Trash is an urban-themed, Broadway-style musical production dedicated to promoting peace and love through the universal language of song and dance.

Don't miss this one-of-a-kind performance at Turlock Community Auditorium at Turlock Unified School District Building on Monday, Oct. 15, at 7 p.m. Single tickets for non-subscribers for this event are \$25, \$15 for students. Season subscription also includes reciprocal tickets at several affiliated associations in the region. For tickets, subscriptions, or further information, call Ken Weisel (606-6682) or Darlene Runsten (480-4020), or visit online at turlockconcert.org for pricing. Tickets and season subscriptions will also be available at the door.

Best described as "entertainment with a conscience," Vocal Trash is an urban-themed Broadway-style production that reconnects us with our planet and its inhabitants. This 5-member, green-minded troupe rescues items from landfills to create a meaningful experience unlike any other. One man's trash is another man's instrument!

Vocal Trash performances feature never-before-seen recycled instruments like toolbox guitars, a milk-urn bass and numerous repurposed industrial percussion props, in addition to outstanding vocals, breakdancing, and comedy. Audiences will not only be entertained, but inspired to spread peace, love and recycling.

'Pride and Prejudice' at Merced College

Stage shows of "Pride and Prejudice," adapted by Kate Hamill and performed by Merced College Theatre Department, open on Friday, Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. Additional performances at on Saturday, Sept. 29 and Thursday through Saturday, Oct. 4 to 6 at 7:30 p.m., and on Sunday, Oct. 7 at 2 p.m.

The play is an adaptation of Jane Austen's classic novel. It follows the humorous courtship of the independent Elizabeth Bennet by the enigmatic Mr. Darcy.

General admission tickets are \$10 each. The price for Students, Faculty, Staff and Military is \$8 per person. Students pay only \$5 for the Oct. 4 performance. Tickets may be purchased at Merced College Bookstore, the Box Office, or www.mccd.tix.com. Call 384-6284.

Symphony performs 'Beethoven & More' at Merced Theatre

The Merced Theatre filled with residents on Saturday night as the Merced Symphony Association kicked off its 61st season. Their opening concert, entitled "Beethoven & More," brought together music from a Bedrich Smetana, Reinhold Gliere, and of course, Beethoven.

The performance of Gliere's "Concerto for Horn and Orchestra, Op. 91" highlighted French horn soloist Kevin Rivard. Rivard joined the San Francisco Opera Orchestra in 2008 and became known for his "delicious quality of tone." He also serves as the Principal Horn in the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra.

The Merced Symphony will be making their way back to the Merced Theatre on Nov. 17, at 7:30 p.m., for their next concert, entitled "Simply Strings," which will feature a repertoire from Dmitri Shostakovich, Johann Sebastian Bach, and St. Paul Suite. For more, go online at: MercedSymphony.org.

TIMES PHOTOS BY JOHN MILLER



L&J PHOTOGRAPHY

Bruce "Bubba" Nelson made a late pass for the IMCA Sport Modified feature win.

Hughes, Nelson, Dean earn wins At Merced Speedway

Darrell Hughes II wrapped up his championship season with his division-leading fifth 30 lap IMCA Modified Main Event win Saturday night at Merced Speedway. This was the Matt & Glass Cancer Fundraiser event, and they ran a championship night format that put the top point competitors out front in the Main Event lineup. Hughes started on the front row with Brian Pearce and would score his fourth straight Main Event win. Pearce used his season's best second place finish to wrap up second in the final standings. Passing honors went to DJ Shannon, who charged from tenth to finish third, followed by Ryan Porter, Ramie Stone, Jeff Streeter, Vincent DePalma, Bob Williamson, Chris Sieweick and Josh Combs. Stone won the four lap Trophy Dash.

Bruce "Bubba" Nelson won his second 30 lap IMCA Sport Modified Main Event of the season. After failing to finish the week before, Nelson slipped from first to third in the standings and needed a miracle to win the championship. Incoming point leader Jeremy Hoff charged into the lead at the start ahead of Danny Roe and Nelson. After a lap two yellow flag, the race ran smoothly until lap 25. The yellow at that point wiped out a nice lead for Hoff. On

the restart, Hoff got a challenge from Nelson, and the two drivers ran side-by-side until Nelson drove by on the outside on lap 28 to take the lead. Roe also made a late move into second, but Hoff wrapped up the championship with a third place finish. Kelly Wilkinson finished fourth, and Andrew Peckham made a move from 14th starting to finish fifth, followed by Fred Ryland, Tanner Thomas, Brent Curran, Chase Thomas and Patty Ryland. Nelson also won the four lap Trophy Dash.

Kodie Dean successfully defended his Hobby Stock championship after winning his ninth 30 lap Main Event of the season. Dean won with Trophy Dash winner Austin Van Hoff finishing a very close second. Shannon Nelson will settle for second in points following her third place finish. Kristie Shearer finished fourth, followed by four time champion Raul Rodriguez Sr, Kalob Shelton, Chad Ragsdale, Josh Hensley, Cody Smiley and James Stockton.

Allen Neal won his second straight Mini Stock Main Event and used it to win the division championship. Neal started out leading the way ahead of Lee Ragsdale. As they worked lap eight, Jennifer Rodgers went by Ragsdale in Turn 1 to take second.

Moments later, contact sent Ragsdale spinning. Tyler Jackson was put to the back of the pack for his part in the incident, but Ragsdale was never really able to recover and lost enough ground to lose the championship to Neal. It was still a good battle at the front as Neal won, followed by Rodgers, Jackson, Shawn DePriest, Dan Myrick, Ragsdale and Jerry Tubbs. Jackson won the four lap Trophy Dash.

Carson Guthrie closed the season with his first career 15 lap California Sharp Mini Late Model Main Event win. He will finish second in the points. Guthrie won with new champion Tim Crews not far behind in second. Riley Jeppesen settled for third ahead of Logan Clay and Ian Shearer.

After another week off to allow the locals to run the Pat Pettit Memorial Shootout at Watsonville, Merced Speedway will run the Third Annual John Fore Jr Memorial Dirt Track Nationals. This special non-point event will be a two-day show on Oct. 5 and 6. IMCA Modifieds will be there along with IMCA Sport Modifieds, Hobby Stocks and Mini Stocks. Over \$15,000 in purse money will be on the line.

PUBLIC NOTICES

MERCED COUNTY

Legal#4890
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

Barbara Lynn Wilker
Attorney or Party Without Attorney:
Jan Marie Hales
SBN127805
Renee J. Conrad SBN
177427
19040 Cox Avenue, Suite 3
Saratoga, CA 95070
Attorney for:
John East

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **Barbara Lynn Wilker** A Petition for Probate has been filed by: **John East** Case Number: **18PR-00287** in the Superior Court of California, Merced

Petition For: Letters of Administration and Authorization to Administer Under the Independent Administration of Estates Act

The Petition requests: **John East** have full authority granted to administer under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. Appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take any 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.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
Superior Court of California
County Of Merced
627 West 21st Street
Merced, CA 95340
Date:09-20-2018 ; Time: 8:15 a.m.; Dept: 10
Address of court: same as noted above

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

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the 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 8121 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are 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.

Attorney or Party Without Attorney:

Jan Marie Hales
SBN127805
Renee J. Conrad SBN
177427
19040 Cox Avenue, Suite 3
Saratoga, CA 95070
Attorney for:

John East
Case Number:**18PR-00287**
Publication Dates:**08-30, 09-06, 09-13, 09-20-2018**

Legal#4903
AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Crystal Brooks Zarate
P.O. Box 242
Le Grand, CA 95333
SUPERIOR COURT OF

Continued on B5

YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT

MUSIC & DANCE

• **Merced's Got Talent 2018** — The grand finale will be held on Sept. 29, at 6:30 p.m., at Sound Life Church, 928 W. Main Street in Merced. Call 355-4083.

• **Tex-Mex Comedy** — Sept. 28, Merced Theatre, 301 W. Main St., Merced. Tickets at Box Office (Tue-Friday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.) or online at mercedtheatre.org. Call 381-0500. Show starts at 8 p.m.

• **'A Night With Janis Joplin** — The Tony Award-nominated Broadway musical will rock the Merced Theatre in downtown Merced on Wednesday, Oct. 10, at 8 p.m. Tickets are available online at: tickets.mercedtheatre.org, or call 381-0500.

• **Cottonwood Creek** — Friday, Oct. 19, Merced Theatre, 301 W. Main St., Merced. Tickets at Box Office (Tue-Friday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.) or online at mercedtheatre.org. Call 381-0500. Show starts at 8 p.m. Nashville recording artists Cottonwood Creek are a country music duo comprised of husband and wife singer-songwriters, Scott & Maggie Little.

• **Coffee Bandits** — Coffee Bandits is presenting community, early-evening entertainment that's free for all ages. First Tuesday of the month: Bluesing Night. Second Friday of the month: Open Mic Night (music). Last Wednesday of the month: Poetry Night. Coffee Bandits is located at 309 W. Main St. in downtown Merced.

• **Aloha** — The South Pacific Dance Company teaches Hawaiian Hula, Tahiti Ori, Ukulele and Tahitian Drums.

Call 777-3534 for class times.

• **Sunday Dance Social** — Every 4th Sunday, 2 - 5 p.m. — Live Latin, waltz, fox trot, polka, swing, and old fashioned rock 'n' roll at the Merced Community Center, 755 W. 15th St. Refreshments served. Admission \$8. Call 723-0839 for more information.

Dudley, and interactive activity of "making Art Hop rabbit prints. The exhibit will run through Feb. 17. Free Admission. Museum hours are Wednesday - Sunday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

• **Halloween Restaurant and Pub Crawl** — Friday, Oct. 26, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. This is a fundraiser for the Merced Art Hop and to help highlight local downtown restaurants and bars. Raffle prizes. Costume contest. Scavenger hunt. Door prizes. Tickets: mercedarthop.org/halloween. Call 349-8682.

ART / EXHIBITS

• **The Merced College Art Gallery** is presenting an exhibition of paintings titled, "Valley Structures" by California artist Benjamin Serra. This exhibition will continue to Oct. 11. The Art Gallery is located in the Theater Building at Merced College. Gallery Hours are Monday-Thursday 9:30-11:30 a.m. and noon-2 p.m. Call Susanne French, Art Gallery Coordinator at 384-6064, or email: french.s@gmccd.edu.

• **Epekel Gallery** — Art Workshop, "Create A Ring Holder" from old cigar boxes. Monday, Oct. 1, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$30. Instructor: Madison Toel. Purchase tickets online at mercedarthop.org/workshops. Seating is limited. For more, email: kimberly@mercedarthop.org. The Epekel Gallery is located at 1733 Canal Street in downtown Merced.

• **'A Decade of Art Hopping** — Celebrate the Merced Art Hop over the past 10 years in a new exhibit at the Merced County Courthouse Museum, 21st and N Streets, with the opening celebration on Thursday, Oct. 4, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. A performance by Dance Saute will start at 5:30 p.m., and then live music by Mariposa Cox and Azriel Montano. There will be an art demonstration by Jennifer

stand the situation — and the opportunities that may be lost to him through no fault of his own. The screening will be followed by a Q & A with Oscar Ramos. THE CARNEGIE: Hours: Weds. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Fri. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sun. noon-4 p.m. The Carnegie Arts Center is located at 250 N. Broadway in downtown Turlock. Call 632-5761.

THEATER / ON STAGE

• **Merced Shakes** presents a staged reading of "Henry IV, Part 2," the second English history play of treason and rebellion, generational conflicts, and the antics of fat Falstaff, on Thursday, Sept. 27, at 7:30 p.m., at the MAC on 645 W. Main Street in downtown Merced. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Call 723-3265.

• **Merced Improv Club.** Merced Improv Club had been performing throughout Merced County since 2006. They offer free improv lessons for people in the community. For more information contact Stephanie Rivero @ 617-3394 or visit www.facebook.com/mercedimprovclub.

SPECIAL EVENTS

• **The Sierra Art Trails** open studio tour takes place Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 5 through Oct. 7, throughout more than a dozen Yosemite area communities of Eastern Madera and Mariposa Counties. This is the largest exhibit of its kind and features a variety of media including painting, photography,

jewelry, sculpture, fiber art, woodcarving, ceramics, glass and more. The cost to attend a self-guided tour is \$20 for two adults. The 2018 Sierra Art Trails Catalog, which also serves as the admission ticket to the studios, contains a profile of each artist, maps and other information about the area. To learn more about the artists along the trail, visit www.SierraArtTrails.org or search Sierra Art Trails on YouTube for videos highlighting the many artists. You can also order the 2018 Sierra Art Trails catalog online, by calling 558-658-8844 or by emailing info@sierraarttrails.org. The catalog is also available at the Visit Yosemite Madera Country, 40343 Highway 41, in Oakhurst.

• **Superheroes of all ages** are invited to "Save the Day for Congenital Heart Defects" at the 3rd Annual Superhero Heart Run on Sunday, Nov. 4. Heart Heroes, Inc. and Mendocillo Little Hearts of the Bay Area are proud to bring this event back to Quarry Lakes Regional Rec Area (2100 Isherwood Way, Fremont) for the third annual event. The Bay Area Superhero Heart Run is a family-friendly, 5K/2K fun/walk raising funds and much-needed awareness for Congenital Heart Defects (CHD). Last year's run welcomed 500 capped participants and raised nearly \$30,000 for CHD.

This year's event begins at 10 a.m. with registration and family fun activities. The 2K and 5K begin at noon. Each registrant receives an official Superhero Heart Run Cape and finisher's medal with their online registration. Teams are also encouraged to fundraise for CHD awareness and support by creating a team. Superhero costumes of all varieties are highly encouraged! Participants can sign-up for the event online at www.SuperheroHeartRun.com

through Nov 2. Walk-up registration available at the event (capes and finisher's medals provided as available), starting at 10 a.m.

• **Merced Farmers Market** — The Original Merced Certified Farmer's Market is located right behind 510 Bistro, where there is plenty of parking and room to grow. All of your old favorite farmers will be there, as well as some new and exciting ones. The Merced Main Street Association is delighted to host this weekly event that is year-round and held on every Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. Come on down and remember to buy "Fresh and Local!"

• **Merced College Farmers' Market** — Tuesday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The market is a weekly event, year-round, located in the Tri-College Center parking lot along G St. The Merced College Farmers' Market has certified vendors selling local produce, meats, nuts, nursery plants, crafts and specialty items.

• **Movies In The Park** — The City of Merced Parks and Recreation Department will be providing another summer of family nights for the "Movies in the Park" series. These free movies nights are open to everyone and will be held in different parks throughout Merced. This year there will be another "live-in" movie held at the pool and, new this year, there will be a rooftop screening of a movie. The movies will play throughout the summer and end in fall. Come out for a night of fun, bring your family, friends and neighbors. Don't forget to bring lawn chairs and a blanket to stay cozy. Movies begin when the sun sets.

For more info, call 385-6235. • Oct. 5 — "Hocus Pocus" at Youth Center Complex • Oct. 19 — "Jamari" at Applegate Park Zoo

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FREE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EARTHFOOD SCALE (1000 lb capacity) good condition. \$250. Escalator 3-ray black food dehydrator \$100.00 Free magazines. Ca Rare Fruit Growers and Mother Earth. Delhi 667-2916

TWO WHEEL UTILITY BOG TRAILER. \$400. Call 209-537-9491

DIATOMACEOUS EARTHFOOD GRADE 100% OMRI Listed. Meets Organic Use Standards. BUY ONE LINE ONLY. home depot.com (Cal-SCAN)

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BEAUTIFUL BIG ANTIQUE OAK DESK. Good condition. \$400. Little misc. crowlake like new \$15. 209-383-9268 or 209-777-8914

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CASH FOR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS. Up to \$40/Box Stained - Unexpired - Payment Made SAME DAY. Highest Prices Paid! Call Keri Today! 800-413-3479 www.CashForYourTestStrips.com (Cal-SCAN)

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Merced Senior Social Club - Bingo Noon to 2:45pm - Meets every Friday. Catered lunch or sack lunch. Center has pool, room, library, card games, line dancing, and many more activities. Merced Senior Center (209) 365-5804, 755 W. 5th Street, Merced

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Merced Senior Social Club - Bingo Noon to 2:45pm - Meets every Friday. Catered lunch or sack lunch. Center has pool, room, library, card games, line dancing, and many more activities. Merced Senior Center (209) 365-5804, 755 W. 5th Street, Merced

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2005 BUICK LACROSSE 125,000. 209-756-1233

98 HONDA ACCORD with new tires, A/C, heater & cd \$2500 OBO. Turnkeyholdings.com 209-769-1290

2004 FORD BRONCO 94 Ford Bronco. 85,000 miles. Needs work. 3' lift big tires, lots of kung fu. \$3000 obo (209) 354-0528

1940 CHEV master deluxe 4 dr, suicide rear door, 216 motor, 3 spd trans. Selling for \$1400. Needs paint & upholstery - \$6500. Call 209-485-8097 ask for Rick

2010 MUSTANG GT 17.5 5 spoke alloy wheels, w air pressure sensors. Selling for \$1400. \$4875 retail price 209-725-1839

79 EL CAMINO NEEDS TOL. Has brand new color bought at Harley Davidson. Chevrolet, 4 new tires. Asking \$2300 OBO 542-0502

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TRAILER FOR SALE, DUAL AXLE 16 ft. car carrier trailer \$2500. Located in Hughson. Call for more info. 209-620-4478

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FOR SALE: 1999 VAWHALLA 65' V-RIDE CLASSIC. Owner, 18,250 miles. Runs good. Includes

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FOR SALE: 1999 VAWHALLA 65' V-RIDE CLASSIC. Owner, 18,250 miles. Runs good. Includes

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CASH FOR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS. Up to \$40/Box Stained - Unexpired - Payment Made SAME DAY. Highest Prices Paid! Call Keri Today! 800-413-3479 www.CashForYourTestStrips.com (Cal-SCAN)

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Lowest Prices on Health & Dental Insurance. We have the best rates from top companies! 888-989-4807. (Cal-SCAN)

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discount plan, REAL coverage for 350 providers. 1-855-472-0035 or <http://www.dental50pl.com/canvans/Ad#6118> (Cal-SCAN)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

MERCED COUNTY

Continued from B3
MERCED
County of Merced
627 West 21st Street
Merced, CA 95340
Civil
CASE NUMBER 18CV-03289

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSON:
 Petitioner:

Crystal Brooks Cleveland & Ruben Rios Vera Jr.

filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Isaiiah Christian Francisco Vera
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING:
Date: 10-10-2018 Time: 8:15AM Room: 08

A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Merced County Times Dated:09-29-2018

Signed by: Brian L. McCabe
 Judge, ret by assignment ,
 Judge of the superior court
 Brian L. McCabe

Publication Dates: 09-29-2018, 09-30, 09-20, 09-27-2018
Legal #4965

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Julia Garnica
948 D Street #A
Merced, CA 95341
SUPERIOR COURT OF MERCED

County of Merced
627 West 21st Street
Merced, CA 95340
Civil
CASE NUMBER 18CV-03509

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSON:
 Petitioner:

Jose Garnica Torres to Erik Garnica Chavez

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

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 Judge, ret by assignment ,
 Judge of the superior court
 Brian L. McCabe

Publication Dates: 09-29-2018, 09-30, 09-20, 09-27-2018
Legal #4965

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

John Lupica
10000 E. 1st Street
Merced, CA 95340
SUPERIOR COURT OF MERCED

County of Merced
627 West 21st Street
Merced, CA 95340
Civil
CASE NUMBER 18CV-03509

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSON:
 Petitioner:

Theresa Smith, Deputy

filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

John Lupica, aka John David Lupica, individually and DBA Lupica's Painting, Does 1 through 20, inclusive.

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY THE PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTAD DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

American Express National Bank, Successor by Merger to American Express Bank, FSB

FILED IN THE: MERCED SUPERIOR COURT

04-04-2018 10:41 AM
 Linda Romero Soles
 Clerk of the Superior Court

By: Theresa Smith, Deputy
NOTICE:

You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are

served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/self-help), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you do not pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/self-help), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o un llamado telefónico no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales

sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales.

Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desearch el caso.

CASE NUMBER: (Numero del Caso): 18CV-01331

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF MERCED
 627 W. 21 ST STREET
 MERCED, CA 95340

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

Michael & Associates 805-379-8505
 555 St. Charles Drive Suite 204
 Thousand Oaks, Ca 91360

Date (fecha): 04-04-2018 10:41 AM
 Linda Romero-Soles
 Clerk, by (secretario) Theresa Smith

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served as the person sued under the fictitious name of: The Testate and Intestate Successors of David Garcia, deceased, and all persons claiming by, through or under him; etc., et al.

AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

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CASE NUMBER: (Numero del Caso): 18CV-01245

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF MERCED
 627 W. 21 ST STREET
 MERCED, CA 95340

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

Michael & Associates 805-379-8505
 555 St. Charles Drive, Suite 204
 Thousand Oaks, Ca 91360

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 MERCED, CA 95340

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 555 St. Charles Drive, Suite 204
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By: Theresa Smith, Deputy
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CASE NUMBER: (Numero del Caso): 18CV-01331

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

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 627 W. 21 ST STREET
 MERCED, CA 95340

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 555 St. Charles Drive Suite 204
 Thousand Oaks, Ca 91360

Date (fecha): 04-04-2018 10:41 AM
 Linda Romero-Soles
 Clerk, by (secretario) Theresa Smith

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Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales

sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales.

Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desearch el caso.

CASE NUMBER: (Numero del Caso): 18CV-01245

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF MERCED
 627 W. 21 ST STREET
 MERCED, CA 95340

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

Michael & Associates 805-379-8505
 555 St. Charles Drive, Suite 204
 Thousand Oaks, Ca 91360

Date (fecha): 04-04-2018 10:41 AM
 Linda Romero-Soles
 Clerk of the Superior Court

By: Theresa Smith, Deputy
NOTICE:

served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/self-help), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you do not pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/self-help), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

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Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desearch el caso.

CASE NUMBER: (Numero del Caso): 18CV-01331

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF MERCED
 627 W. 21 ST STREET
 MERCED, CA 95340

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

Michael & Associates 805-379-8505
 555 St. Charles Drive Suite 204
 Thousand Oaks, Ca 91360

Date (fecha): 04-04-2018 10:41 AM
 Linda Romero-Soles
 Clerk, by (secretario) Theresa Smith

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served as the person sued under the fictitious name of: The Testate and Intestate Successors of David Garcia, deceased, and all persons claiming by, through or under him; etc., et al.

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Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales

abandonment from State. Of the demandants who no longer reside in the County, Cory B. Chartrand Esq. 166896 Triebisch & Frampton, APC 300 N. Palm Street Turlock, CA 95381-0709 (209) 667-2300 (Dated) 06/23-07-2018 Linda Romero-Soles Clerk, by (secretary) Constantino Herrera

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED:

You are served under: **Damages to Property** **Damages to Personal and Other Damages (Loss of Consortium)** **Jurisdiction:** Action is an unlimited civil case (exceeds \$25,000) **Plaintiff:** Jose Ludgero Alves and Florbela Alves alleges causes of action against defendant: Marisela, Bautista and does 1 through 10 inclusive 5. Defendant named above

is a natural person except defendant: 1. Defendant: 6. The true names of defendants sued as Does are unknown to plaintiff: Do defendants 6-10 were the agents or employees of other named defendants and acted within the scope of that agency or employment: Do defendants 1-5 are persons whose capacities are unknown to plaintiff.

8. This court is the proper court to hear this case: a. at least one defendant now resides in its jurisdiction: b. injury to person or damage to personal property occurred in its jurisdiction: c. injury to person or damage to personal property occurred in its jurisdiction: 10. The following causes of action are attached and the statements above apply to each: a. motor vehicle f. Other (Loss of Consortium)

11. Plaintiff has suffered a wage loss c. hospital and medical expenses d. general damage f. loss of earning capacity g. other damage: As to Florbela Alves 14. Plaintiff prays for judgment for costs of suit, for such relief as is fair, just, and equitable; and for: a1. compensatory damages

The amount of damages is: b1. according to proof 15. The paragraphs of this complaint alleged on information and belief are as follows: 5a, 6a, and 6b, Mv 2b, Mv 2d-f Publication Dates: 09-27-10-04, 10-11-10-18-2018

Legal 85017 NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS CITY OF MERCED

RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE TO AN ATTACHED SUMMARY IS APPLICABLE TO THE NOTICE PROVIDED TO YOU PURSUANT TO THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED. YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 01/03/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auctioneer has been appointed for each item (seller's check) is made payable to National Default Servicing Corporation, a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or sav-

ings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in the City of Merced is seeking a qualified vendor to provide a comprehensive Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), which includes the ability to archive and track laboratory monitoring data. The system and view data amongst Wastewater Operations, Laboratory, Water, and Pretreatment personnel, de-

crease processing and data entry times, and comply with regulatory requirements and standards. This system should be capable of reporting increased workloads (present and projected) and reducing our operating costs. RFP FORMS and detailed specifications may be obtained by e-mailing Basma Ghaleb bghaleb@cityofmerced.org or by visiting the City's website www.cityofmerced.org under the RFPs tab. Publication Date: 09-27-2018

MERCED CITY

Date of Sale: 10/17/2018 at 1:00 PM Place of Sale: West Entrance of the Old Merced Courthouse, 827 W. 21st Street, Merced, CA 95340 Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$302,472.38 Street Address or other description of real property: 274 Pyramid Avenue, Merced, CA 95340 The undersigned Trustee declares any liability for any encumbrances of the street address or any other designation, if any, or shown above. If no street address or other designation is provided, the location of the property may be obtained by referring to the beneficiary within 10 days of the first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the Trustee is unable to contact the registered owner, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid hereunder to the Trustee, and the Trustee shall have no further recourse. The requirements of California Code of Section 2924.2 shall apply to this sale. A Notice of Default was recorded: 2018/09/27. POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property

that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction, you will be bidding on your own behalf. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to bid and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage on the property. The sale shall be subject to the property NOTICE TO TRUSTEE OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed or delayed by the mortgage, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924(d) of the California Civil Code. The law requires that in-

mation about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy whenever present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the postponement date and the sale of this property, you may call 800-280-2832 or visit this Internet Web site www.ndcorp.com/alias, using the file number assigned to this case 18-0714-SM-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration and that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the auction in person. For more information, visit Default Servicing Corporation c/o Tiffany and Bosco, P.A., at 1230 Columbia Street, Suite 600 San Diego, CA 92101 Tel: Fax: Phone: 888-264-2123 Line 800-280-2832; Sales Website: www.ndcorp.com; Default Servicing, Trustee Sale Representative SA-4668983; Public Dates: 09-20-09-27-10-04-2018

Legal 85067 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
FILE NO. 18-10688
 The following person(s) is/are (a) doing business as: **Mound Mobile Bantending**
LOCATED AT:
 2341 Granddave Ave
 95711
Maple
 95711
Maple
 95711
 The business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant has contracted to transmit business names listed above on 08-20-2018. The registrant has contracted to transmit business names listed above on 08-20-2018. Notice in accordance with subdivision (a) of Section 17200, a fictitious business name statement shall be filed before the expiration of the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale. Reasonably motivated to set forth the following information: National Default Servicing Corporation R/09/2006/10/09/2006 as Instrument No. 2006-001674 (of Book, Page) of the Official Records of Merced County, California.

Legal 85068 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
FILE NO. 18-10689
 The following person(s) is/are (a) doing business as: **Mound Mobile Bantending**
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Legal 85069 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
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Legal 85070 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
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Legal 85071 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
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Legal 85072 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

Legal 85073 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
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Legal 85074 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
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Legal 85075 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
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Legal 85076 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
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Legal 85077 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
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Legal 85078 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
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Legal 85079 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
FILE NO. 18-10700
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Legal 85080 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
FILE NO. 18-10701
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Legal 85081 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
FILE NO. 18-10702
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Legal 85082 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
FILE NO. 18-10703
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Legal 85083 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
FILE NO. 18-10704
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Legal 85084 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
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Legal 85085 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
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 The business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant has contracted to transmit business names listed above on 08-20-2018. The registrant has contracted to transmit business names listed above on 08-20-2018. Notice in accordance with subdivision (a) of Section 17200, a fictitious business name statement shall be filed before the expiration of the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale. Reasonably motivated to set forth the following information: National Default Servicing Corporation R/09/2006/10/09/2006 as Instrument No. 2006-001674 (of Book, Page) of the Official Records of Merced County, California.

Legal 85086 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
FILE NO. 18-10707
 The following person(s) is/are (a) doing business as: **Mound Mobile Bantending**
LOCATED AT:
 2341 Granddave Ave
 95711
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 The business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant has contracted to transmit business names listed above on 08-20-2018. The registrant has contracted to transmit business names listed above on 08-20-2018. Notice in accordance with subdivision (a) of Section 17200, a fictitious business name statement shall be filed before the expiration of the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale. Reasonably motivated to set forth the following information: National Default Servicing Corporation R/09/2006/10/09/2006 as Instrument No. 2006-001674 (of Book, Page) of the Official Records of Merced County, California.

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LOCATED AT:
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Legal 85088 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
FILE NO. 18-10709
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LOCATED AT:
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Legal 85089 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
FILE NO. 18-10710
 The following person(s) is/are (a) doing business as: **Mound Mobile Bantending**
LOCATED AT:
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Legal 85090 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
FILE NO. 18-10711
 The following person(s) is/are (a) doing business as: **Mound Mobile Bantending**
LOCATED AT:
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ACROSS

1. Tulip precursors
6. "Lo ___ des cygnes"
9. Education-related acronym
13. Heads-up
14. Fertility clinic stock
15. A la ___
16. Curl one's lip
17. Cub's home
18. "The Goldbergs" sibling
19. "Carpool ___" with James Corden
21. "Fallon is on when?"
23. Crime scene evidence
24. Sounds of amazement
25. Tokyo, once
28. Strong hold
30. "Host of "Good night, and good luck" fame
35. Roll call document
37. End of prayer
39. Bowl unsuitable for water
40. Shakespeare's king
41. Cocoyan, pl.
43. What egoist and egotist have in common, pl.
44. Encouragement
46. Madam, to a cowboy
47. Pleasant gentle accent
48. Intellectual
50. Not us
52. Lusitania's last call
53. Sherlock Holmes' assignment
55. Waikiki garland
57. "Letterman's successor
61. Do like in "A River Runs Through It"
65. To a bartender: "The ___"
66. Argonaut's propeller
68. Empower
69. Of a particular gray shade
70. By way of
71. Theatrical characters
72. Displeasure display

73. Australian runner
 74. Editor's "Let it stand" marks
- DOWN
1. Derive pleasure
 2. Forearm bone
 3. Malicious look
 4. Cabbage
 5. Chris Hemsworth's movie "12 ___"
 6. Ore deposit
 7. Perpendicular to St. in NYC
 8. Ann Patchett's novel "Bel ___"
 9. Hindu wrap
 10. H.S. math class
 11. Write on tombstone, e.g.
 12. Animal protein
 15. Population count
 20. Gold unit
 22. Omega of electrical resistance
 24. Perform a surgery
 25. "Talker and Oscar, Grammy and Emmy host
 26. Muralist Rivera
 27. "___ County" with

29. Mosque V.I.P.
31. Cambodian money
32. "Kelly's ex
33. Convex molding
34. Adam and Mao
36. Ragtime turkey dance
38. "Jon Stewart's successor
42. Fresh Prince: "___ ya later!"
45. In a pleasant manner
49. "Where some James Corden segments are set
51. "Former "Weekend Update" host
54. "Appliance on Rachael Ray" Show set
56. "___ me, then who?"
57. Pointy part of a tooth
58. Nobel Peace Prize capital
59. Hula feast
60. Quilter's stuffing
61. German Mrs.
62. Not in use
63. Edible fat
64. Hitler's Deputy
67. Go for the bull's eye

Answer for last weeks Marine Life

A crossword puzzle grid with some words filled in, corresponding to the previous puzzle.

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