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Council nixes plan to open pool early

JAMIE STEWART
For The Shafter Press

SHAFTER

The Shafter City Council rejected a proposal to open the Shafter Aquatic Center's pool this year just for the Shafter High School swim team, so they would be able to practice in their own home pool for the

first time in years. Council members were told at a special meeting Tuesday afternoon that there would be a gap of about \$70,000 of the cost of operating the pool during that time, between what the Kern High School

District usually pays for the use of the pool and the cost that would be required to have it open during ongoing reconstruction of the facility.

Opening the pool for early use would require a link fence around space being used, as well as restrooms, both extra costs.

Mayor Chad Givens said that these costs would be in addition to the renovation project expenses. "Also, the Kern High School District does have an alternate site for the team to practice, so this isn't required for them to have a season."

All of the council members had

See COUNCIL Page 8

UPDATES ONLINE AT THESHAFTERPRESS.COM AND WASCOTRIB.COM

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THE SHAFTER PRESS

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1921

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Thursday, January 2, 2025

Wasco Tribune

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1980

Vol. 47 No. 28 • Wasco, California

Top moments from Wasco's busy year



Mayor Alex Garcia took down all his social media activity after a social media post emerged with allegations that he had arranged to meet with a 15-year-old boy "to do horrific things to the kid."

Here are second-half highlights of Wasco's year. Last week's first-half review can be seen on WascoTrib.com.

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

JULY

The second half of the year began with the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for Central Avenue Park. The new park, designed to be a vibrant hub for families and visitors, offers a variety of recreational activities and green spaces.

WASCO

Semitropic Elementary School welcomed a new addition to its leadership team with the appointment of Dr. Wendy Castañeda-Leal as superintendent. Her appointment promised a focus on student-centered policies and community engagement.

Wasconian Shirley Huffman turned 100 and held a large reunion at the Wasco Woman's Club attended by about 80 friends and family. She graduated from Wasco High School in 1943, was a secretary for 20 years and continued her career at the Wasco School District office.

AUGUST

Mayor Alex Garcia resigned following allegations stemming from a social media post claiming he

See TOP Page 4



Barbara Gladden holding her award plaque, accompanied by Kiwanis Club President Phillip Jimenez and Kiwanis Club member and longtime friend Arlie Smith.

Kiwanis celebrates Gladden

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

The Shafter Kiwanis Club honored Barbara Gladden with the 2024 Community Service Award last month in appreciation of her nearly 50 years of dedicated community service.

SHAFTER

A Shafter native, Barbara is a selfless servant who works not for recognition but out of a genuine passion for helping others, club members said during the ceremony. Her deep commitment to making Shafter a better place for families and a special community for everyone to call home is truly inspiring.

See KIWANIS Page 6

A big 2024 for Shafter

Here are second-half highlights of Shafter's year. Last week's first-half review can be seen on TheShafter-Press.com.

JAMIE STEWART
For The Shafter Press

JULY

Shafter saw thousands of people fill the Shafter High fields for the annual July 3 Fireworks show.

There was also an activity area for the kids, with games and inflatables for the children to play on. Shafter's Minter Field Air Museum also was on hand, giving kids the chance to sit in the cockpit of their LOACH helicopter. The fireworks show was put on by Zamboli Fireworks, who has been doing the show for over a decade.

Shafter had two District Champions in Little League, when their

See BIG Page 8



The fireworks show drew people from all over the county.

Catrina's 10-year milestone

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

Catrina's Mexican Grill celebrated its 10th anniversary on Dec. 17, and owner Marcela Bojorquez couldn't be prouder of this milestone. In 2014, she and her husband, Cesar Marquez, pursued their American dream by starting the business, trusting that with hard work and dedication, they could persevere.

They immigrated from Mexico 28 years ago and met in Bakersfield in 2007. Marcela is a Spanish professor, and Cesar had always wanted to open a restaurant because his family owned restaurants in Bakersfield. Both had worked in the industry. While living in Bakersfield, they commuted

WASCO



Marcela Bojorquez celebrating her son Daniel's 8th birthday.

See CATRINA Page 6

Community Calendar

The Shafter Press and Wasco Tribune encourage local organizations to let the public know about coming events and activities through this column. Drop off or mail items at the office, 455 Kern St., Suite E, in Shafter, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday, call 661-292-5100 or email esoriano@TheShafterPress.com. Deadline is 4 p.m. Thursday prior to publication. Updates will be on TheShafterPress.com and WascoTrib.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

16th Annual Christmas Tree Display – The Shafter Depot Museum presents “The Lights of Christmas!” Trees will be on display Saturdays, Dec. 28, and Jan. 2, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

ONGOING

PRIDE Pantry donations – Consider donating to SHS Pride Pantry this holiday season. Suggested items to donate include nonperishable foods, hygiene products, socks, jackets, warm clothing, laundry soap and household items. Monetary donations can be made out to “Pride Pantry” and dropped off at the school office, 526 Mannel Ave. Call Katie Young at on-campus intervention, 661-746-4961.

Wardrobe for Wildcats – Semitropic School is seeking donations to provide two full uniforms, school t-shirt and school sweatshirt to each student for the 2024-25 school year. All donations will directly benefit students at the school and are tax deductible. Bring a donation directly by the school at 25300 Hwy. 46 in Wasco or contact Melody Gebhardt at 661-746-4439.

MONDAY

North Kern 4H – Meetings are held at Karl Clemens cafeteria at 7 p.m. the second Monday of the month. For more information, contact Chris at 661-809-2851.

Richland School Board – Meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at Golden Oak Cafeteria, 195 S. Wall St.

TUESDAY

Senior Sack Program – First and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m. at the Griffith Avenue Baptist Church in Wasco.

Shafter Recreation and Parks District – Meetings the second Tuesday of the month at 505 Sunset Ave., the Shafter Senior Center.

Shafter City Council – Meetings the first and third Tuesday of the month at City Hall, 336 Pacific Ave.

Wasco City Council – Meetings first and third Tuesday of the month. Meetings are held at 746 8th St. at 6 p.m.

Wasco Woman’s Club – Meetings at the clubhouse, 1601 7th St., on the second Tuesday of the month. There is a \$15 fee for the lunch meetings.

Senior Food giveaway – Westside Family Fellowship hosts free senior food giveaway every fourth Tuesday of the month, 9-10 a.m., 60 or older (ID required). 2150 Palm Ave., Wasco.

WEDNESDAY

Shafter Rotary – Meetings at 7 a.m. at the Shafter Veterans Hall.

Shafter Kiwanis – Meetings Wednesdays at 12 p.m. at the Shafter Veterans Hall.

Shafter Woman’s Club – Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month, September through May, starting at 11 a.m. at the Shafter Youth Center, 455 Euclid Ave.

THURSDAY

Wasco High School Board – Meetings the second Thursday of the month at 1900 7th St. in Room 202, or alternatively in Library Room 1101. Visit wuhs.wascohisd.org for agenda information.

Wasco Recreation and Park Board – Meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Hall at Barker Park.

Food distribution – Shafter Recreation and the Gleaners have food distribution every first and third Thursday of each month at the W.C. Walker Senior Center, 505 Sunset Ave.

Free farmers market – Westside Family Fellowship hosts fourth Thursday of the month, 8-10 a.m. 2150 Palm Ave., Wasco.

FRIDAY

Bulky waste pickup – American Refuse offers free bulky waste pick-up service Fridays to all City of Shafter core residents. To schedule a pickup, use the app or call 661-758-5316. No sabes que hacer con esos articulos de basura grande? Llame a American Refuse 661-758-5316 o use su aplicación para programar una recojida de estas articulos. Este servicio es gratis para todos los residents de la ciudad de Shafter (core residents).

SATURDAY

Depot Museum – Shafter Historical Society presents the city’s history. Free admittance. 150 Central Valley Highway. Open Saturdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Green Hotel tours – Shafter Historic Green Hotel is open to tours on the first Saturday of each month from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information about renting the hotel for events, email thegreenhotel@gmail.com or phone 661-746-1913 and leave a message.

Minter Field Air Museum – Open Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at 401 Vultee, Shafter. Admission free, donations accepted.

Wasco Museum – Open every second Saturday of the month, 1-3 p.m., at 918 6th St. Free to the public. Wasco High School artifacts from over the last 100 years are featured.

Mystery history

SHAFTER

Inquiring Photographer

Are stiffer penalties and enforcement of drunk driving a good idea?



Here’s this week’s challenge, courtesy of the Shafter Historical Society. If you know the location, circumstances, exact or rough date and/or people in the photo, send your educated (or semieducated) guess to [The Press, 455 Kern St., Suite E, Shafter, CA 93263](mailto:ThePress, 455 Kern St., Suite E, Shafter, CA 93263), or e-mail it to mysteryphoto@TheShafterPress.com. Winners will be revealed here next week. **LAST WEEK:** Christmas decorating in Shafter circa 1994.



WASCO



Here’s this week’s challenge, courtesy of the Wasco Historical Society. If you know the location, circumstances, exact or rough date and/or people in the photo, send your educated (or semieducated) guess to [the Tribune, 455 Kern St., Suite E, Shafter, CA 93263](mailto:theTribune, 455 Kern St., Suite E, Shafter, CA 93263), or e-mail it to mysteryphoto@WascoTrib.com. Winners will be revealed here next week. **LAST WEEK:** Mrs. Brown when Poso Creek flooded in Wasco on April 18, 1943. The mud was almost up to her knees.



ARREST REPORT

SHAFTER

As reported by the Shafter Police Department

DEC. 22

Everardo Gomez, 39, of Shafter, was arrested in the 800 block of North Central Avenue for possession of unlawful paraphernalia.

Jesus Cesar Encinas, 21, of Shafter, was arrested in the 400 block of East Lerdo Highway on a bench warrant/failure to appear on a misdemeanor charge.

DEC. 23

Francisco Javier Moreno Flores, 51, of Shafter, was arrested at Mannel Avenue and Rodriguez Street for possession of unlawful paraphernalia and on a bench warrant/failure to appear on a misdemeanor charge.

Joshua Keith Williams, 42, of Shafter, was arrested in the 200 block of Central Valley Highway for disorderly conduct: under the influence.

DEC. 24

Erick Nevarez, 29, of Shafter, was arrested in the 100 block of East Lerdo Highway on an outside agency warrant and for driving while having a suspended license.

Brandon Ortega, 23, of Shafter, was arrested on East Lerdo Highway for DUI, and hit and run.

Adrian Lawrence Romero, 42, of Shafter, was arrested in the 200 block of Poso Street for violating a domestic violence court order.

DEC. 25

Juan Antonio Pena Rojas, 44, of Shafter, was arrested in the 500 block of Central Avenue for possession of unlawful paraphernalia and on a bench warrant/failure to appear on a misdemeanor charge.

DEC. 26

Joe Alejandro Martinez, 35, of Shafter, was arrested in the 30300 block of Riverside Street on a

bench warrant/failure to appear on a misdemeanor charge.

Mark Anthony Ayala, 30, of Shafter, was arrested at Acacia Avenue and Sierra Avenue for possession of unlawful paraphernalia and on a bench warrant/failure to appear on misdemeanor charge.

Juan Jose Flores, 49, of Shafter, was arrested at Mettler Avenue and Gibson Lane on an outside warrant.

DEC. 27

Efren Josue Armenta, 18, of Shafter, was arrested at South Mannel and Or-

ange avenues for inflicting corporal injury on a cohabitant, battery against a police officer and obstruction.

Robert Smith, 49, of Shafter, was arrested at South Shafter Avenue and Orange Street for false imprisonment, inflicting corporal injury onto a cohabitant, possession of a controlled substance for sale and attempted murder in the first degree.

DEC. 28

Roque Garcia, 38, of Shafter, was arrested at East Lerdo Highway and Beech Avenue for aggravated bat-

tery onto a spouse.

Balsitis Kawika Momoa Haynes, 39, of Shafter, was arrested in the 600 block of Pacific Avenue for battery onto a spouse and disorderly conduct: alcohol.

BUTTONWILLOW

As reported by the Kern County Sheriff’s Office, Buttonwillow substation:

DEC. 23

Bruce Lee Payne, 73, of Bakersfield, was arrested at the intersection of Willow Drive and Tracy Avenue on a felony warrant. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

DEC. 26

Jose Ramirez-Medina, 21, of Wasco, was arrested in the 24300 block of Highway 46 in Wasco for possession of a stolen vehicle. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

DEC. 29

Cory Suzanne Hazdovac, 42, of Bakersfield, was arrested in the 100 block of West 1st Street for domestic violence. She was booked into the Kern County Jail.

WASCO

Arrests were not reported by the Wasco Police Department before press time.

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READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Every week in TheShafterPress.com & WascoTrib.com

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1921

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1980

FOCUS ON ELECTED OFFICIALS | Shafter Rec and Park District

Advocacy defines Rodriguez's work

This is the latest in a continuing series highlighting local elected officials. Prior stories can be found at TheShafterPress.com.

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

Gary Rodriguez joined the Shafter Recreation and Park District board in 2008 and considers one of his greatest accomplishments to be overseeing the process of acquiring state grant funding for the new Wonderful Sports Complex.

"A big thank you to the other board members who played a significant part in making that process a success, including Phillip Jimenez and his staff, as well as our grant writer and consultant, Gilbert Garcia," he said in an interview last week.

Rodriguez is enthusiastic about the complex, officially the Shafter Recreation and Community Sports Complex in Conjunction with the Wonderful Corporation, emphasizing its potential to level the playing field for disadvantaged youth in the community who lack access to the amenities necessary for advanced training and development in their hometown. "We'll be able to assist travel teams playing basketball or baseball whose coaches seek a place to practice. We can collaborate with boxing teams, martial arts groups, Folklorico dancers, and Tejano dance groups, host chess tournaments and bring in all kinds of events. The possibilities are endless with the complex."

He takes pride in his work as a board



Gary Rodriguez and Shafter Recreation and Parks District Manager Phillip Jimenez at staff member Angel Serrano's graduation ceremony at Cal State University, Bakersfield, last month, with Angel in the middle.

SHAFTER

member representing District 2. According to him, it takes a village to raise a child, and the Shafter Rec is a central part of that. He explained that children benefit greatly from being surrounded by positive role models, with coaches acting as second parents who ensure their safety. Through recreational activities for all, a strong, tight-knit community is built, he says.

Rodriguez has lived in Shafter his entire life. He taught at Richland Elementary School for 33 years, was a citizen preparation classes instructor for 20 years and has served on the board of Self-Help Enterprises for 25 years. Recently, he and his partners launched the nonprofit organization Unidos Contra la Injusticia.

His roots in the community date back to the 1930s. "My family came from Texas and landed in the Mexican Colony cir-

ca 1935. My dad, Lionel, was born in the Colony in 1938, and my mother, Katie, was born on a ranch in Buttonwillow in 1940. My grandparents came to Buttonwillow from Guanajuato and Chihuahua [Mexico] around 1933," he shared.

Rodriguez has decades of experience in social justice advocacy and was influenced by the Chicano movement, beginning with his involvement in Shafter High ME-ChA. One of his earliest victories was assembling a team that secured a \$2 million federal grant to extend the city's water line to South Shafter. "Now, instead of drinking water contaminated with pesticides, residents can access clean city water," he said.

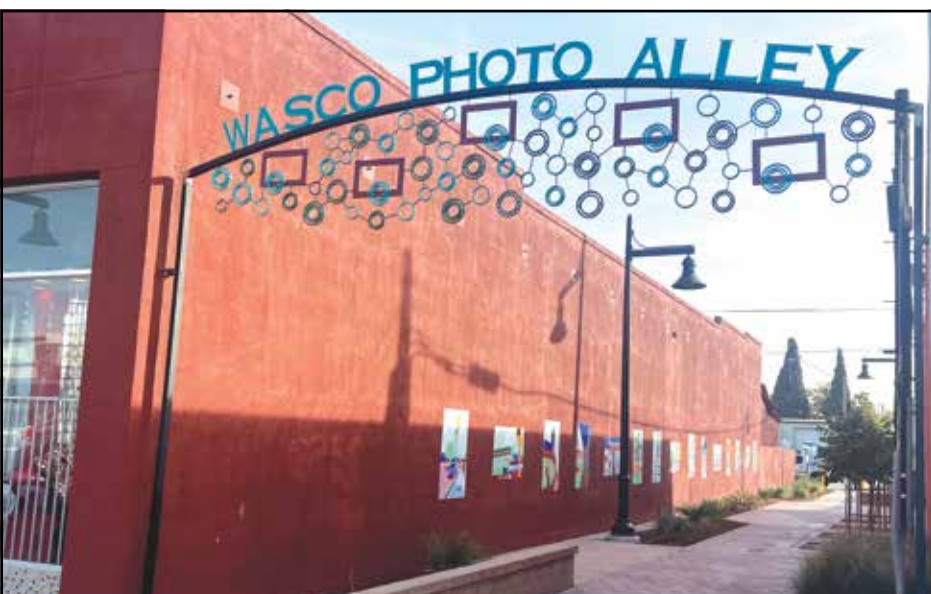
He admitted he isn't sure what inspires him other than the motivation to address the injustices he observes in the community. "I know a little about government, and I'm the kind of person who brings people together to put pressure on elected officials to ensure they're doing what needs to be done. In South Shafter, there are residents without adequate lighting, curbs and gutters, or a proper drainage system. These are the injustices I see that need to be remedied, and I've been fortunate to have the drive to work on these projects," he explained.

These values are at the heart of everything he does, whether in his role on the board of the Shafter Rec, through his work with his nonprofit or in addressing the needs of the disadvantaged. For Rodriguez, it is all about making things accessible and fair for everyone in the community.

Steel, art and redemption: Rene's story

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

WASCO



The archway took over six months to complete, with the design layout created at his Lost Hills home and most of the welding done on-site. **BELOW: "It took careful precision, numerous trial-and-error attempts, and choosing the right color to get the gate just right, but I had a great team with Art [Sherwyn]," Rene Gutierrez said.**



Rene Gutierrez is a rig welder who works in the oil fields and makes custom gates. Last year, he lent his welding talents to the Wasco Downtown Beautification Project. "After this job, I transformed myself into an artist. I never saw myself as one until Art Sherwyn gave me the assignment. He showed me the design picture, and I brought it to life."

He built a 19-foot steel archway inspired by camera lenses and squares symbolizing camera bodies. The varying sizes and shapes of the rings and squares create a whimsical aesthetic, serving as an entrance to an alley adorned with 15 works of art.

Gutierrez also constructed a large steel gate, laser-cut with a design showcasing the Wasco landscape, including the iconic Water Tower. Painted red to complement the alley, the gate features blue and green tones in the backdrop, adding depth and vibrancy.

A Wasco native, his path to this point was far from easy. After spending nearly a decade working in the oil fields, he faced a series of hardships, including the loss of his father, a difficult divorce and ultimately losing his job in 2014. To make ends meet, a friend introduced him to crafting custom gates around Kern County and Bakersfield. Despite finding success in this new venture, he struggled, turning to alcohol and drugs, which led to serious trouble and the possibility of facing years in prison.

"I don't know how I survived all those years living that life. I should be locked up. On November 21, 2019, I went to court for my criminal case, and the judge reduced my sentence from 10 years in prison to no jail time. That day, I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I should

have stopped drinking and using drugs then, but I didn't. It wasn't until December 23, 2019, after a car accident, that I finally stopped drinking and using drugs for good."

Gutierrez believes that God has been looking out for him. "It's been five years. Sometimes, I'm not even looking for work, but jobs seem to come out of nowhere. So, when Art called and told me that Councilmember Eddie Saldaña had given him my number and that I was a potential welder for a project, I was intrigued."

He said the construction of the archway was a challenge. "I have never done anything like this without a blueprint or measurements, but just work off a drawing," Sherwyn, the lead contractor for the artists on the downtown beautification project and the person who created the design, said, "What was special was he took his skill, which was normally used for creating function, and connected it to art and because of that it opened up a whole new avenue and pathway for him down the road."

Sherwyn added, "This was an opportunity to create a legacy piece. Steel lasts forever. As far as I know, it's part of the karma that came to him for taking on the challenge to improve his life. That was always something on my mind, and we talked about it."

Gutierrez said the result was amazing, and hearing Art say he exceeded his expectations was rewarding. "It's been a crazy journey because I've always shared my story about how, when making custom gates, I believed that someday my work would be featured in a magazine. I felt that my art would eventually get that recognition. This is just the beginning; it's here in Wasco now and part of history, at least how I see it."

HEADLINES IN HISTORY

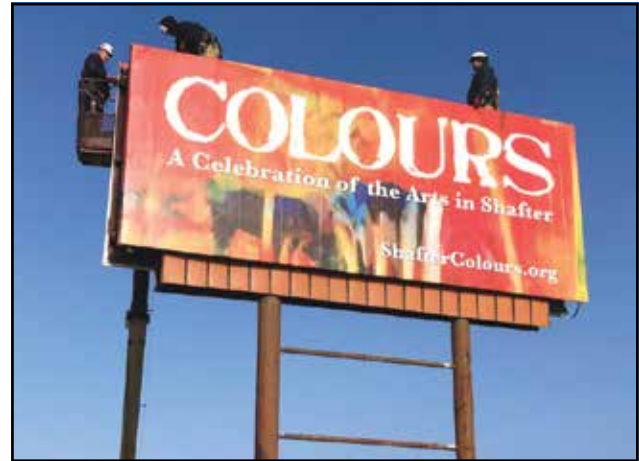
40 years ago: Jan. 9, 1985
Reed Print Inc., owners of The Shafter Press and Wasco Tribune, purchased the Delano Record and McFarland Press. The Reed family also owned the Buttonwillow Times, Arvin Tiller and Lamont Reporter.
—Compiled by Erica Soriano



The front page, Jan. 9, 1985.

A NEW SIGN OF COLOURS TO COME

Mike Russo of Russo Construction, contracted by Wonderful, has installed the new Colours sign on Highway 99 near Lerdo Highway. It's a reminder of this year's Colours: The Shafter Art Festival, Feb. 20-23. For more information, visit ShafterColours.org.



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Top moments from Wasco's year

From Page 1

had arranged to meet with a 15-year-old boy "to do horrific things to the kid." A video, viewed by thousands, appeared to capture the meeting between Garcia and the "boy." During the encounter, Garcia was assaulted by two brothers posing as the child. The allegations garnered international attention and prompted an investigation by the Bakersfield Police Department. However, the probe was ultimately closed after no witnesses came forward.

The Wasco Police Department hosted its inaugural "Chill with a Cop" event, inviting the community to engage in friendly conversations with its officers. Attendees were encouraged to discuss issues or concerns, fostering open dialogue and strengthening community bonds.

The City Council appointed incumbents Vincent R. Martinez and Eddie Saldaña, along with Miguel A. Raya, as council members for Districts 2, 4 and 5, respectively. This action resulted in the



The ribbon-cutting ceremony for Central Avenue Park showcased the park's basketball court, lawn area, picnic tables, playground equipment and connection to the walking path on Filburn and Central.

SEPTEMBER

Rihanna Sanchez was crowned the 2024 Miss Wasco Rose Queen. Thirteen young women competed in categories such as physical fitness, talent, interview, and poise and appearance. The Miss Wasco Rose Queen Pageant, which dates back to 1969, featured a Christmas theme this year. Cedes Saldaña was named first runner-up and Klarissa Gomez took the title of second runner-up.

The Rose Festival over Labor Day weekend, themed "Small Town, Big Ideas," included the Wasco Elk Ladies "An Evening of Wine and Roses," the Color Blast Fun Run, a pancake breakfast, a parade with over 60 entries, the Wasco Historical Museum Open House, a vendor fair and DJ Nonsense at Barker Park. Other attractions featured a car show, casino night and the 2nd to None and Orange Heart Foundation Men's Basketball Tournament.

The council agreed to proceed with UnWired Broadband to build a city-wide fiber network starting next year, bringing high-speed cabled communications to every Wasco home and business. UnWired will fully fund the estimated \$12 million project.

The plan includes constructing 74 miles of infrastructure, installing one fiber optic cable to each home and two to each business, ultimately serving over 6,000 homes and businesses in Wasco.

OCTOBER

Wasco Police Department Chief of Police Charles Fivecoat received the Administrator of the Year award from the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation for his 50 years of contributions to the law enforcement community and for serving as the key facilitator in the startup of the Wasco Police Department.

The Wasco Union High School Athletic Hall of Fame inducted its Class of 2024 with an intimate dinner and ceremony. The gathering in the school cafeteria honored those who have left a lasting impact

on Wasco's sports legacy.

St. John the Evangelist Parish hosted its 2024 Harvest Festival. Organized by Councilmember and parish member Gilberto Reyna, the fund-raising event drew large crowds.

NOVEMBER

It was a celebration of local law enforcement at Wasco's National Night Out, as agencies from Wasco, Shafter, Avenal, McFarland, Arvin, the Kern County Probation Department, and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation joined together in a show of unity with residents. The newly renovated downtown along 7th Street and the plaza in Wasco provided the setting for the block party.

See TOP Page 6



Karen Barba of MV AutoWorks delighted Izabell and Lilyann Navarro with ice cream treats while Officer Daniel Talavera and WPD Chaplain Mike Lynch looked on with smiles at the "Chill with a Cop" event.

cancellation of the Nov. 5 election when Martinez and Saldaña faced no challengers, and Raya was the only nominee for his district.

speed cabled communications to every Wasco home and business. UnWired will fully fund the estimated \$12 million project.



In formation and standing strong, the Young Marines displayed their pride at the Rose Festival Parade.

City Spotlight



News & Updates You Need to Know

SB 1383: Cutting Organic Waste for a Cleaner Future

What is SB 1383?

SB 1383 is a California law passed in 2016 to reduce methane emissions and combat climate change. Its goals are:

- Cut organic waste in landfills by 50% by 2020 and 75% by 2025.
- Rescue 20% of surplus food for people in need by 2025.
- Recycle organic materials like food scraps and yard waste into useful products.

The law's rules, finalized in 2020, took effect in January 2022.

Why is SB 1383 Important?

Organic waste in landfills creates methane, a greenhouse gas 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide. It accounts for 20% of California's methane emissions and half of landfill waste. Reducing this waste lowers emissions, improves air qual-

ity, and helps fight climate change.

California is already feeling the impacts of climate change, including longer droughts, rising temperatures, frequent wildfires, stronger storms, and coastal erosion. Landfilled organic waste also releases air pollutants that harm public health, causing respiratory issues. Implementing SB 1383 can significantly reduce these environmental and health impacts.

What Can We Do?

1. Separate Organic Waste: Use green bins for food scraps and yard waste. Keep recyclables clean.
2. Reduce Food Waste: Plan meals, buy only what you need, store food properly, and compost at home if possible.
3. Donate Edible Food: Share surplus food with food banks or shelters.

4. Compost and Recycle: Participate in local programs to divert organic waste from landfills.

5. Educate Others: Spread awareness about the importance of reducing organic waste.

6. Support Local Efforts: Advocate for food recovery and organic recycling programs in your community.

By making small changes, we can help reduce methane emissions, protect our environment, and build healthier communities.

For more information, visit the City of Wasco's Website or call our Public Works office at (661)758-7271.



Open Positions

The City of Wasco is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

- Police Officer \$2,524.58 - \$3,222.10 / biweekly
- Police Dispatcher \$2,072.05 - \$2,644.50 / biweekly
- Homeless Outreach Coordinator \$2,254.16 - \$2,876.94 / biweekly
- Volunteers

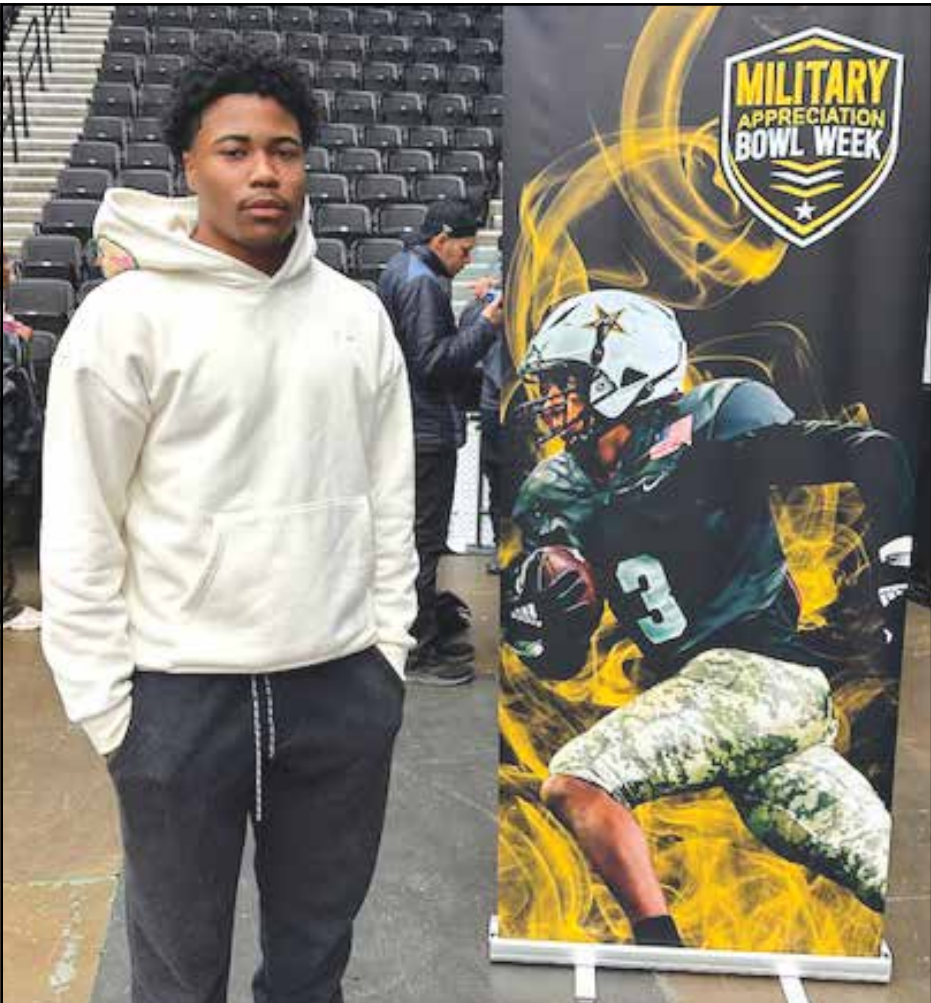


Apply online at: www.cityofwasco.org/Jobs.aspx

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 07 City Council Meeting Cancelled
- Jan. 10 City offices closed Friday
- Jan. 13 Planning Commission Meeting 746 8th St. @ 6:00 p.m.
- Free Pet Spay / Neuter 801 8th St. @ 8:00 a.m.
- Jan. 21 City Council Meeting 746 8th St. @ 6:00 p.m.
- Jan. 24 City offices closed Friday

Shafter's Sloan takes on national stage



Mariyon Sloan was inspired by the Hall of Famers he met at the U.S Army Bowl National Combine, including Emmitt Smith.

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

Mariyon Sloan, a junior at Shafter High School who has played football since he was 4 years old, participated in the U.S. Army Bowl National Combine in Frisco, Texas, from Dec. 19 to 21. "It was a great experience meeting the top 160 high school juniors from across the nation, showcasing my talent and competing against everyone else," he said.

At the combine, football players were tested on their 40-yard dash, pro shuttle, broad jump and L-drill, and competed one-on-one. Offensive and defensive players selected their positions, with Sloan choosing running back. Each position had one or more coaches who recorded players' performances on measurable skills, including timing, catching, footwork, handoffs and blocking. These recordings are compiled into drill tapes for colleges to evaluate as part of the recruiting process.

SHS Head Football Coach Jerald Pierucci, who recently completed his ninth season of coaching, attended the combine to support Sloan. "Coaches were responsible for providing write-ups about what he is good at and needs to work on. I could give this feedback as his coach, but I'm a little biased," Pierucci explained. "This was a unique opportunity for him to be observed and rated by someone who hasn't seen him in the paper or on social media but views him purely

SHAFTER

as a number. On the field, players are identified only by their numbers."

Coach Pierucci was pleased with Sloan's performance. "He represented the city of Shafter and our program really well. It is my first player ever to get nominated for one of these, and it was a great chance to network with college coaches and other high school coaches, too."

Sloan was named the 2024 and 2023 Player of the Year in the South Sequoia League and was the 2024 Kern County Athlete of the Year. He holds a 4.14 GPA, is part of the track and field team, and wrestled in his freshman and sophomore years. After high school, he hopes "to continue playing football at the next level at a Division I college."

He expressed his gratitude to the Shafter Kiwanis Club for their generous \$500 contribution. Before leaving for the combine, he attended one of their meetings, where he was presented with a check for his trip. "They are so kind and love to know what we are doing at the high school. They are a great organization and do so much for Shafter," he said.

Sloan added, "Thank you to the Kiwanis Club and the Rotary Club for their \$500 donation, all the teachers from Shafter High School, and the community for supporting and believing in me to help make this dream possible."

Lady Generals are Consolation Champs

JAMIE STEWART
For The Shafter Press

The Shafter High Lady Generals basketball team came away with the Consolation Championship at the Arvin Showcase Tourney this past weekend. Also for the Lady Generals, Alexia Ramirez was selected for the All-Tournament team. Ramirez averaged 19 points a game, 10 rebounds and four assists a game.

According to Head Coach Juan Zavala, the Arvin tournament is one of the toughest tournaments in the area. "This is a very competitive tournament. There was a total of 56 teams this year, with several of them ranked."

Zavala said that all of their games were hard-fought games, with the team finishing the tourney with a 2-1 record. The Lady Generals opened the tournament with a tough task, taking on the powerful team from Cabrillo High in Lompoc. Cabrillo used a team effort to outlast the Lady Generals by a score of 47-34. Shafter has been averaging over 50 points per game up until this game.

Shafter then took the court against the Ridgeview Wolfpack. This was a tough game, with Shafter coming out on top by a 42-40 score. The game was tight most of the way, with the Lady Generals getting a couple of key stops and baskets in the final minutes.

In the Consolation Championship game, the Lady Generals ran out to a big lead against the Sanger Apaches, eventually pulling away for a 61-39 victory.



The Lady Generals were Consolation Champions in the Arvin Showcase.

The lead kept growing as the game progressed. Shafter's next opponent is going to be on Tuesday, Jan. 7, against the Delano Tigers. Zavala said that the Lady Generals' toughest competition for a third consecutive SSL championship is going to be McFarland and Taft. But, as pointed out by Zavala, Shafter is ranked to be the champion of the SSL season by a clear margin.

Driver identified in deadly Kimberlina Road crash

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

The Kern County Coroner's Office has identified the 18-year-old driver from Wasco involved in a fatal crash on Kimberlina Road on Dec. 7. Luis Jesus Rios was killed after his vehicle collided with a piece of farm equipment.

The incident occurred about 7:30 a.m. when Rios was driving a GMC Sierra pickup truck eastbound on Kimberlina Road near Root Avenue.

SHAFTER

Despite the dense fog that reduced visibility, Rios was traveling at an unsafe speed, according to the California Highway Patrol.

At the same time, a John Deere tractor was crossing the road southbound, pulling a horse trailer. The driver of the GMC was unable to slow down in time, and the truck collided with the right side of the tractor's implement.

Emergency responders from the Kern County Fire Department worked quickly to extricate Rios from the vehicle. He was then rushed to Kern Medical Hospital in Bakersfield, where he was pronounced dead later that day. The CHP continues to investigate the crash, though no signs of alcohol or drugs have been reported as factors at this time.

The tractor operator, unharmed in the collision, is cooperating with the investigation, according to the CHP.

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551 Central Avenue
Shafter, CA 93263-2121

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Top moments from Wasco's year

From Page 4 NOVEMBER

Wasco hosted the official ribbon-cutting for its new Wendy's restaurant on Highway 46, introducing the latest addition to the growing business landscape.

Strata Credit Union held its Día de los Muertos Member Appreciation event. The gathering featured raffles, face painting, and games for kids while sharing resources and highlighting the support services available to members. It was also an opportunity to commemorate the bank's one-year anniversary.

DECEMBER

The three appointed City Council members, Vincent Martinez, Miguel A. Raya and Eddie Saldaña, were sworn in. Valentin Medina was reappointed mayor, while Eddie Saldaña also was reappointed as mayor pro tem.

In partnership with the City of Wasco, the Rose Festival Group and Orange Heart Foundation hosted the Wasco Christmas Festival with this year's theme, "Kindness Shines." The event featured a parade, a vendor fair, a kids' corner with games, crafts, and a train ride, and a lighting ceremony, where Miss Wasco Rose Queen



Edward Moreno, standing next to Miss Wasco Rose Queen Rihanna Sanchez, was inducted into the Wasco Union High School Athletic Hall of Fame as part of the 2012 football team.

Rihanna Sanchez lit the 20-foot tree. This year, the 2024 Wasco High School Val-



Wasco Bengals players after being recognized and honored at the Wasco Christmas Festival.

ley Champion cheer and Tiger wrestling teams and the JV and sophomore Bengals football teams were honored.

The Wasco Toys for Tigers Christmas Tree Spectacular brought holiday cheer with activities such as face painting by the

Orange Heart Foundation, cookie decorating, marshmallow snowmen, crafts, games, a candy walk by the Elks Ladies and letters to Santa. The event, attended by many children, benefited the Wasco Bengals.

Kiwanis celebrates Barbara Gladden

From Page 1

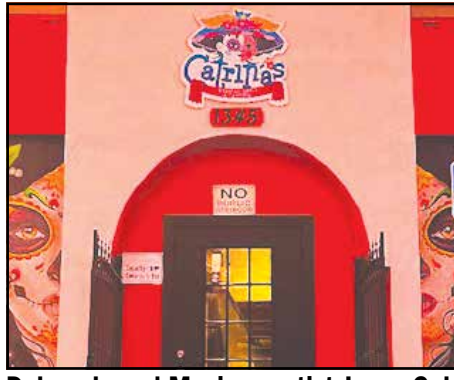
Arlie Smith, a longtime Kiwanis Club member who has known Gladden for five decades, said she is well deserving of the honor because of her strong involvement in the community. He highlighted her pioneering role as one of the first coaches of the girls' soccer team at Shafter High.

"Back in the late '70s, if you wanted to play soccer, you had to go to Bakersfield. But under her tutelage and with her husband's help, she started the AYSO [American Youth Soccer Organization] Region 262. They ran it for 10 or 12 years for the communities of Shafter, Buttonwillow and Wasco," Smith said.

Gladden is a board member of the Shafter Historical Society, has held several positions with the Shafter Woman's Club,

is a docent at the Shafter Depot Museum and serves as a deaconess at Valley Bible Church in Shafter. Along with her husband, Mickey, she served on the "Chain Gang Crew" at Shafter High football games for 20 years.

She is a devoted supporter of the Shafter High Generals and rarely misses a football game. She also attends basketball and soccer games and other school sports



Delano-based Mexican artist Jesus Galvan painted the colorful murals featuring Día de los Muertos Catrinas on the building's facade.

events whenever she can. Barbara has a profound love for Shafter and is proud to call it home. All her children graduated from Shafter High School, as did she and her husband, both members of the Class of 1969. Her parents were also Shafter High graduates.

"She supports everything in Shafter, whether it's the parade or the Distinguished Young Women's Program, she's

involved in all of it. Any event that needs people to help or support it, she's there. She always makes herself available," Smith added.

Gladden said she was surprised but honored to receive the award. "There are so many people in the community that do so much, so to be recognized as one of those is so special." She said she enjoys serving in any way she can and finds great satisfaction in it.

"When I retired, I was afraid I would be bored, and I wanted something to look forward to and a way to contribute back to the community that I care about immensely," Gladden shared. "All my working career was throughout Kern County, but by retiring, I can focus on where I live."

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

A - NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CALLING FOR BIDS

Owner: Wasco Union Elementary School District
Publish Dates: December 23, 2024
December 30, 2024
January 10, 2025 @ 11:00am PST
Bid Due Deadline: January 15, 2025 @ 11:00am PST
Bid Due Location: All Bids will be received through the project website at <https://projects.infinitivcomm.com>. Bids will not be received in any manner other than digital copies through the project website. All submittals are required to be in PDF format, unless otherwise noted, and must be a file size of less than 10Mb.
Project Name: Structured Cabling & Network Electronics for Wasco Union Elementary School District
Project Number: 0059-25C.1
Plans on File: <https://projects.infinitivcomm.com> & <https://portal.usac.org/suite/>

In accordance with Section 7057 of the Business and Professions Code, only a Contractor with a "C-7 or C-10" license may bid. A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be conducted on January 6, 2025, at 10:00am, located at: 1102 5th Street, Wasco, CA 93280. This meeting is Mandatory. All Contractors attending will be required to sign in at the time of arrival and are also required to stay for the duration of the Pre-Construction Meeting.
All questions concerning this project shall be requested through the project website at <https://projects.infinitivcomm.com>. All requests for information shall be submitted not less than five (5) days prior to the opening of the bid. Any questions submitted after the question deadline will not be answered. All questions will be submitted through the project website. Bidders shall submit only one question submittal. All questions shall be included in the single submittal. DO NOT submit single question submittals. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the bidders response being negatively scored or rejected completely for failure to comply with the requirements of the RFP.
Each bid must conform and be responsive to the contract documents.
The projects and services depend on partial funding from the E-Rate program. The OWNER expects each Contractor to make themselves thoroughly familiar with any rules or regulations regarding the E-Rate program. All contracts entered into as a result of these Form 470's will be contingent upon specific funding by the SLD at the percentage rate submitted. The percentage rate applicable to a particular Form 471 is the maximum that the District is liable for. The Contractor will be responsible to bill the government (USAC) for the balance. No billing or work shall be commenced before April 1, 2025. On the day of the bid the Contractor shall supply their Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) and must certify that their SPIN is "current". This project is anticipated to start after April 1, 2025, and is anticipated to have a duration of 120 days. All work shall be completed per the project schedule but no later than the project finish date. Liquidated damages in the amount of \$500.00/day are included in this contract. All work shall be completed per the project schedule but no later than August 2026.
The OWNER reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or waive any irregularities or informalities in any bids or in the bidding process. Each bid package will be awarded separately and independent of one another. The OWNER may, at their option, choose to award the projects to one contractor or any combination of contractors.
The OWNER has determined the general prevailing rate of per diem wages in the locality in which this work is to be performed for each craft or type of worker needed to execute this contract. These rates are on file at the SCHOOL DISTRICT office located at location. Copies may be obtained upon request. A copy of these rates shall be posted at each jobsite. The schedule of per diem wages is based upon a working day of eight (8) hours. The rate for holiday and overtime work shall be at least time and one-half.

It shall be mandatory upon the contractor to whom the contract is awarded (CONTRACTOR), and upon any subcontractor under him, to pay not less than the said specified rates to all works employed by them in the execution of the contract. It is the CONTRACTOR'S responsibility to determine any rate change that may have or will occur during the intervening period between each issuance of written rates by the Director of Industrial Relations. During the Work and pursuant to Labor Code §1771.4(a)(4), the Department of Industrial Relations shall monitor compliance with prevailing wage rate requirements and enforce the Contractor's prevailing wage rate obligations.
Each Bidder must be a DIR Registered Contractor when submitting a Bid Proposal. The Bid Proposal of a Bidder who is not a DIR Registered Contractor when the Bid Proposal is submitted will be rejected for non-responsiveness. All Subcontractors identified in a Bidder's Subcontractors' List must be DIR Registered contractors at the time the Bid Proposal is submitted. The foregoing notwithstanding, a Bid Proposal is not subject to rejection for non-responsiveness for listing Subcontractor the Subcontractors List who is/are not DIR Registered contractors if such Subcontractor(s) complete DIR Registration pursuant to Labor Code §1771.1(c)(1) or (2). Further, a Bid Proposal is not subject to rejection if the Bidder submitting the Bid Proposal listed any Subcontractor(s) who is/are not DIR Registered contractors and such Subcontractor(s) do not become DIR Registered pursuant to Labor Code §1771.1(c)(1) or (2), but the Bidder, if awarded the Contract, must request consent of the District to substitute a DIR Registered Subcontractor for the non-DIR Registered Subcontractor pursuant to Labor Code §1771.1(c)(3), without adjustment of the Contract Price or the Contract Time.

This project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations, including but not limited to prevailing wage compliance and Skilled and Trained Workforce requirements.
No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of **thirty (30) DAYS** after the date set for the opening of the bids.
A BID BOND shall be required and shall be supplied with the CONTRACTOR'S bid on the day of the bid. All bids shall be presented under sealed cover and accompanied by one of the following forms of bidder's security: cash, a cashier's check, certified check, or a bidder's bond executed by an admitted surety insurer, made payable to the trustees. The security shall be in an amount equal to at least 10 percent of the amount bid. A bid shall not be considered unless one of the forms of bidder's security is enclosed with it.

A Payment Bond and Performance Bond for contracts over \$25,000.00 WILL BE required prior to the execution of the contract. The Payment and Performance Bond shall be in the form called for in the contract documents. Payment Bond and Performance Bond shall be provided upon receipt of the **Notice to Proceed**. Performance and Payment bonds shall be supplied prior to the beginning of construction. A Certificate of Insurance shall be required as well before work can begin.
Pursuant to the provisions of the Public Contract Code, Sections 22300, CONTRACTOR may substitute certain securities for any funds withheld by OWNER to ensure their performance under the contract. At the request and expense of CONTRACTOR, securities equivalent to any amount withheld shall be deposited, at the discretion of the OWNER, with either OWNER or with a state or federally chartered bank, as the escrow agent, who shall then pay any funds otherwise subject for retention to CONTRACTOR. Upon satisfactory completion of the contract, the securities shall be returned to the CONTRACTOR.
Securities eligible to investment shall include those listed in Government Code, Section 61430, bank and savings and loan certificates of deposit, interest bearing demand deposit accounts, standby letters of credit, or any other security mutually agreed to by CONTRACTOR and OWNER. CONTRACTOR shall be the beneficial owner of any securities substituted for funds withheld and shall receive any interest on them. The escrow agreement shall be essentially similar to the one indicated in the General Conditions.
In accordance with Education Code section 17076.11, this district has a participation goal for disabled veteran business enterprises of at least 3 percent per year of the overall dollar amount of funds allocated to the district by the State Allocation Board pursuant to the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998 for construction or modernization and expended each year by the school district. Prior to, and as a condition precedent for final payment under any contract for such project, the contractor shall provide appropriate documentation to the district identifying the amount paid to disabled veteran business enterprises in conjunction with the contract, so that the district can assess its success at meeting this goal.
Publish Wasco Tribune December 26, 2024 and January 2, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Fictitious Business Name Statement Kingdom Mobile Detailing 2024-B7308

2401 Alpine Meadow Ct.
Wasco, CA 93280
County: Kern
2401 Alpine Meadow Ct.
Wasco, CA 93280
Anthony Christopher Campo
2401 Alpine Meadow Ct.
Wasco, CA 93280
The business is conducted by:
Individual
Date the business commenced: N/A
/s/Anthony Christopher Campo
Date Statement Filed: 12/10/2024
Date Statement Expires: 12/10/2029
Aimee X. Espinoza
Auditor-Controller-County Clerk
By: M Torralba
Publish Wasco Tribune December 26, 2024 and January 2, 9, 16, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Fictitious Business Name Statement Silver Ag 2024-B7205

2243 Quincy St
Delano, CA 93215
County: Kern
2243 Quincy St
Delano, CA 93215
Silverio Alonso
2243 Quincy St
Delano, CA 93215
The business is conducted by:
Individual
Date the business commenced: N/A
/s/Silverio Alonso
Date Statement Filed: 12/05/2024
Date Statement Expires: 12/05/2029
Aimee X. Espinoza
Auditor-Controller-County Clerk
By: D Hinojosa
Publish Wasco Tribune December 19, 26, 2024 and January 2, 9, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Fictitious Business Name Statement Hernandez Nivevedegarafa 2024-B6726

1601 Poso Dr Spc 48
Wasco, CA 93280
County: Kern
1601 Poso Dr Spc 48
Wasco, CA 93280
Juan Ibarra Garcia
1601 Poso Dr Spc 48
Wasco, CA 93280
The business is conducted by:
Individual
Date the business commenced: N/A
/s/Juan Ibarra Garcia
Date Statement Filed: 11/07/2024
Date Statement Expires: 11/07/2029
Aimee X. Espinoza
Auditor-Controller-County Clerk
By: M Cedeno
Publish Wasco Tribune December 12, 19, 26, 2024 and January 2, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

T.S. No.: 24-11530 Loan No.: *****0758 APN: 487-211-02-00-3

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 2/4/2008. 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 auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale.
Trustor: Charles R. Altom And Daisey L. Altom, Husband And Wife, As Joint Tenants
Duly Appointed Trustee: Prestige Default Services, LLC
No. 0208021617 in book --, page -- of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Kern County, California,
Date of Sale: 1/29/2025 at 10:00 AM
Place of Sale:
AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE TO THE CITY HALL 1501 TRUXTUN AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$380,864.70
Street Address or other common designation of real property: 1224 LILY STREET
WASCO CALIFORNIA 93280
A.P.N.: 487-211-02-00-3
The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale.
NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist

on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. All checks payable to Prestige Default Services, LLC.

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (949) 776-4697 or visit this Internet Website <https://prestigepostandpub.com>, using the file number assigned to this case 24-11530. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.
NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (949) 776-4697, or visit this internet website <https://prestigepostandpub.com>, using the file number assigned to this case 24-11530 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase.
Date: 12/17/2024
Prestige Default Services, LLC
1920 Old Tustin Ave.
Santa Ana, California 92705
Questions: 949-427-2010
Sale Line: (949) 776-4697
Tina Suikonen Vice President of Operations
PPP#24-005365
Publish Wasco Tribune January 2, 9, 16, 2024

PASTOR'S CORNER

Living wisely

PASTOR PAT COYLE

Shafter Mennonite Brethren Church

Well, another year is behind us and a new one has begun! As I've been following the Daylight Savings Time debate, it occurred to me that our government may be able to put an end to that event, but they certainly can't stop time altogether!

When our kids were quite young, a good friend said, "The days may go by slowly, but the years go by quickly." Wow, how true that statement has turned out to be! Whether we're in the middle of raising a young family or perhaps wondering how many more days our earthly life will last, time does go by. That raises a question in my mind, and perhaps yours, too: How are we using the time we do have as followers of Jesus?

In Ephesians 5:15-16, the Apostle Paul writes this:

"Be very careful, then how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."

Paul's warning is in the context of how our lives are changed when we follow Jesus and that we're called to live for him in all ways. We all know that



it's far too easy to fall into old patterns that can become sinful as we live in this world. We may be struggling with something right now along those lines with the thought that we have plenty of time to change, but to be honest, we don't.

Let me encourage all of us to "live as wise people" and "make the most of every opportunity" that the Lord puts before us before it passes. I believe the Lord has great things for all of us in the coming year, so let's live wisely and not miss out on those blessings!

Happy New Year!

PETS OF THE WEEK

A loving companion awaits you



Chloe is a stunning 2-4-year-old doberman pinscher mix with shiny soft black and brown fur. This friendly and playful girl is ready to be your perfect companion. Chloe came to the Wasco Animal Shelter as a stray but has shown she gets along well with both staff and other dogs. While we're unsure if she's house/crate trained, Chloe's loving and social nature makes her a wonderful addition to any family. Her behavior around children hasn't been test-

ed. Chloe will be available for adoption starting Thursday, Jan. 2. She can't wait to meet you!

-Wasco Animal Shelter

DEATH NOTICES

Jimmy Dale McGowen, 76, of Bakersfield, passed away Dec. 24, in Bakersfield. Peters Funeral Home, Shafter.

Kelly Foster Blanton, 87, of Danville, passed away Dec. 17, in Danville. Peters Funeral Home, Wasco.

James Poole, 87, of Bakersfield,

passed away Dec. 25, in Bakersfield. Peters Funeral Home, Shafter.

Kenneth Duncan, 88, of Wasco, passed away Dec. 24, in Wasco. Peters Funeral Home, Wasco.

Nathaniel Houston, 95, of Moreno Valley, passed away Dec. 26, in Riverside. Peters Funeral Home, Shafter.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS.



The Minter Field Museum's Wings 'n' Wheels drew thousands to the airport. RIGHT: Santa arrived in style at the Shafter Christmas Parade.

A big year for Shafter in 2024

From Page 1

Boys all stars and girls all stars both won their respective tournaments. Daniel Burciega, director of the Little Leagues, said that this is the city's first year to have a Little League, and titles in their very first year.

Jose Padron became the first ordained priest from Shafter's St. Therese Church this year. Padron said that he is excited to be fulfilling a lifelong dream to have a parish and allow God to work through him. The Mass of Ordination took place in Visalia at St. Charles Borromeo Church, and was attended by a large number of the parishioners from St. Therese's. Padron is currently the priest at St. Anthony's Church in Fresno.

AUGUST

Shafter welcomed a new city manager after the resignation of Gabriel Gonzalez. Lance Lippencott was economic director for the City of Fresno. Lippencott was selected because of his extensive experience in the economic development field, both in the private and public sector.

The Shafter High Generals began their season with wins, but in week two, they were dealt a blow when quarterback Ezekiel Osborn broke his collarbone and was out most of the rest of the season.

SEPTEMBER

The Shafter High Generals had a bye week so they decided to take advantage of it and do something for their fans and supporters. The school hosted a Movie Night at the stadium, playing the movie "Lego: Batman." The event drew over 100 people.

The Police Department got approval from the City Council to move forward



Lance Lippencott was named Shafter's new business development director.

with their Drone Program. This would allow the department to investigate buildings without having to send officers in first, using the drones to assess the situation. They also can be used in search and rescue.

OCTOBER

The Shafter Generals kept their perfect record with a key victory against Kennedy High in a battle for first place in the SSL 34-28. Quarterback Mariyon Sloan scored five times on the night, accounting for over 300 yards in total offense. Sloan had over 200 yards in rushing, while gaining over 100 more yards in passing and return yardage.

The Generals also laid claim to the victory in their annual rivalry game with Wasco High. Shafter dominated the Tigers in the second half, keeping the Generals' perfect season alive and giving them another SSL title.

Shafter saw its first automated car wash

open, Countryside Carwash. Countryside is a family-owned company that has brought Shafter its first Taco Bell, Starbucks and Subway.

NOVEMBER

Shafter's Minter Field Air Museum held its annual Wings 'n Wheels event at Minter Field, drawing thousands of people for the all-day event. It featured a variety of aircraft, tractors and custom vehicles. The event also included a host of vendors, a beer garden, raffles and a wide selection of food for families and enthusiasts of cars and planes.

The Friends of the Shafter Library held the launch of its Book Bench project to inspire a love for reading across the community. This initiative combines art and literacy by placing benches designed to look like books, each painted with unique

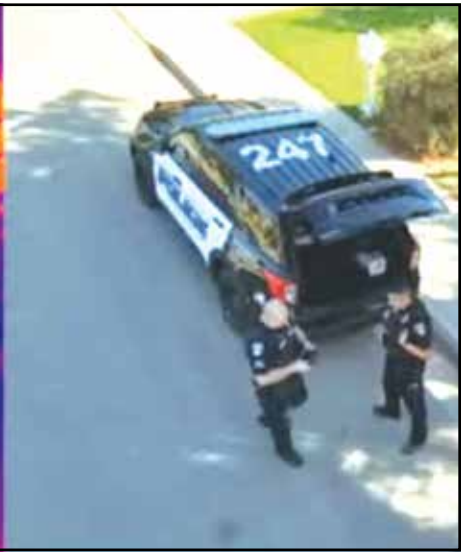
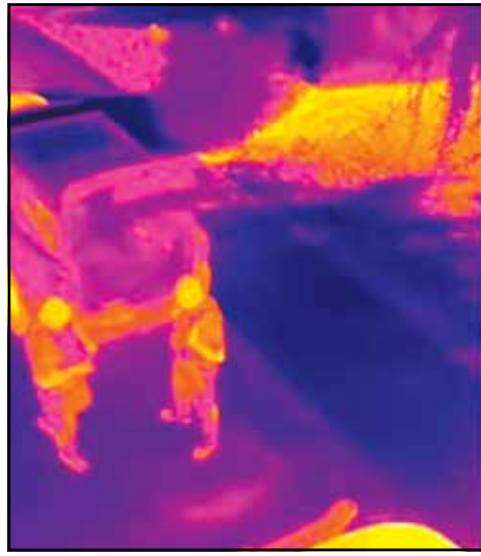
artwork, throughout the town.

DECEMBER

The Shafter Generals saw their season come to an end in the Central Section Division IV championship game with a heartbreaking loss to the Coalinga Horned Toads, 33-32.

Shafter came into the game as the top seed, but came up just short in the game, missing a couple of field goals and an extra point, and letting the Horned Toads score twice in the last four minutes of the game. It was still an outstanding season for the locals, and it gave them a 29-7 record for the past three years.

The city celebrated the holiday with its annual Christmas Parade. The Shafter Lions Club sponsored the event, with over 40 entries in the parade, including cars, bands, floats and Santa Claus.



The Police Department's Drone Program was approved by the City Council.

Council nixes plan to open pool early

From Page 1

Concerns about the safety of the kids, as well as the additional cost for the proposal. Member Cathy Prout said, "I just have too many reservations with the delays that we have incurred, as well as the thought of having it open with construction going on. David Franz also

commented that the district refused to split the cost of maintenance on the pool during the season.

According to a concerned Shafter High swim team parent, the cost of the project would be worth the result of having the kids being able to swim at home. "There will always be a need for pool maintenance,

chemicals and other costs during the season," said one parent who remained anonymous.

There has been a report that construction delays have pushed the opening date for the pool back to the end of 2025.

Councilmember Pete Espinoza said, "I am disappointed about the delays, and

want the kids to be able to come back, but there are always disappointments to deal with on a project. I remember when I was in school, they promised us a new gym, and it took 15 years to make that happen. I am not saying that it will be 15 years, but there are always issues to deal with on projects like this."

Challenges can't stop Catrina's 10-year milestone

From Page 1

to Wasco for six months and grew to love the town's hometown feel. Eventually, they realized Wasco was the place they wanted to call home.

"So, we moved here in 2014, the same year we opened the restaurant. A month later, I found out I was pregnant. It was a difficult beginning; we were on our own. We had to work relentlessly to get the restaurant off the ground. It was hard, but everyone welcomed us with open arms. Now, I see this place as a family, and everyone who comes in feels like family."

In 2020, Cesar was diagnosed with cancer. "It happened at the beginning of the pandemic. They shut us down in March, and in April, we found out he had cancer. He passed in June. I feel blessed. These anniversaries are always bittersweet, but I'm here, keeping the dream alive. When he was sick, I worried I might have to close the restaurant and return to Mexico, but he told me, 'Don't give up, and promise me you won't go back there.' He reminded me that this country had given us so much."



Barbara Gladden surrounded by friends and family at the monthly Kiwanis Club luncheon, where she was presented with the 2024 Community Service Award.

Marcela shared that this year has been the hardest yet, with rising costs and raising her 9-year-old son, Daniel, on her own. "I'm doing my best to keep prices affordable, but it's one of the toughest econo-

mies I've faced. Still, I'm so grateful for my loyal customers who have supported us. My life would feel empty if I didn't have a restaurant to care for. It's where I socialize. My friends are here."

She also cherishes her close-knit relationship with her staff. "They are incredible. I don't see them as employees, and they don't see me as the boss. They're family. The waitress and the cook have been with me since the beginning."

Catrina's is known for its homemade chile verde, cheese enchiladas, chimichangas, chile colorado, fajitas, ceviche, chicken tortilla soup and abondigas, as well as its cucumber and Calabacitos margaritas and mangonadas. "We have a full liquor license and take care of people. It's a family-oriented and friendly atmosphere."

Marcela remains optimistic. "I believe the economy will improve and businesses like mine will have better stability. I feel positive about the future of my restaurant and look forward to continuing to serve Wasco. For those who haven't tried us yet, I invite you to visit Catrina's this new year."

Catrina's Mexican Grill, 1345 F St., is open Tuesday-Saturday 3-8:30 p.m. and Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The restaurant is closed on Mondays. For more information, call 661-758-3435.

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Old River Place Apartments
2024-B7182
Old River Place
2024-B7183
4907 Calais Ct
Bakersfield, CA 93311
County: Kern
4907 Calais Ct #A
Bakersfield, CA 93311
Old River Apartments, LLC
7 Corporate Park Drive, Suite 100

Irvin, CA 92606
State of Incorp. or org.: Delaware
The business is conducted by:
Limited Liability Company
Date the business commenced:
08/28/2024
/s/David S. Kim
Date Statement Filed: 12/04/2024
Date Statement Expires:
12/04/2029
Auditor-Controller-County Clerk
By: M Torralba
Publish Shafter Press December 19,
26, 2024 and January 2, 9, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
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R. Owens Transport
2024-B7464
400 Carsen Way
Shafter, CA 93263
County: Kern
400 Carsen Way
Shafter, CA 93263
Richard A Owens Jr
400 Carsen Way
Shafter, CA 93263
State of Incorp. or org.: CA

The business is conducted by:
Individual
Date the business commenced:
04/10/2008
/s/Richard Owens Jr, Owner
Date Statement Filed: 12/13/2024
Date Statement Expires: 12/13/2029
Auditor-Controller-County Clerk
By: M Torralba
Publish Shafter Press December 26,
2024 and January 2, 9, 16, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
Fictitious Business Name Statement
Dago's Contracting
2024-B7111
238 Central Ave
Shafter, CA 93263
County: Kern
238 Central Ave
Shafter, CA 93263
Dagoberto Diaz
238 Central Ave
Shafter, CA 93263
The business is conducted by:

Individual
Date the business commenced:
03/14/2015
/s/Dagoberto Diaz
Date Statement Filed: 12/02/2024
Date Statement Expires:
12/02/2029
Auditor-Controller-County Clerk
By: M Torralba
Publish Shafter Press December 19,
26, 2024 and January 2, 9, 2025