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Wasco is thirsty for more housing

VERONICA JACUINDE
 The Press and Tribune

WASCO

A common thread runs through discussions of Wasco's housing stock: a need for more housing beyond low-income residences. And it seems like the core issue is much like others in the region: a lack of water.

Resident Sukie Martinez emphasizes the community's struggle to retain families like hers. Real estate expert Tilo Cortez points out that builders primarily focus on entry-level homes, often overlooking the demand for larger, move-up houses. This stagnation in development is compound-

ed by a pressing water shortage.

Martinez, a Wasco native, explains, "The problem with housing in Wasco is that there is no new housing available for those above the low-income level. That is why we are losing Wasconians to Shafter, Bakersfield and other neighboring communities. My son is a correctional officer who would like to live in Wasco, but because there are none available, he hasn't bought here."

Cortez, co-owner of California Home Pros, adds, "Some homeowners may want a three-car garage, big move-up type of

house after 10 to 15 years, but we don't have much of that in our community. They will look at Shafter or Bakersfield because we do not have those homes. Sukie asked why we don't have those homes here, and that's because we need a builder who will make that investment in our community."

He says that developers aren't seeing a potential market here. "Most builders are in it to make money," he explains. "The builders who built here over the last decade typically focus on entry-level homes because they know they will sell fast. They are typically not willing to risk building bigger or higher-income homes



The Toews family performed at Coffee House Music in 2024 and will return again this year.

A love story at Malone's Photography

VERONICA JACUINDE
 The Press and Tribune

WASCO

Luke and Jasmin Malone met at the age of 15 at Wasco High School and have two daughters, Hailie, 12, and Andy, 7. This year, they will celebrate 12 years of marriage. Together, they own Malone's Photography and share a passion for the art form.

Jasmin had always loved photography, and five years ago, Luke bought her her first camera. "I'm impatient and tried learning it but let it go. Two years ago, he picked it up, and that's where it all began. He's always had an eye for it," Jasmin said in an interview last week.

Luke started by taking his own family portraits, and from there, it expanded to taking pictures of his nieces



See A LOVE Page 4

Colours again to highlight the arts in Shafter

VERONICA JACUINDE
 The Press and Tribune

Colours: A Celebration of the Arts has been a tradition in the city for over 10 years, bringing creativity and inspiration to Shafter. This festival has become a cornerstone for showcasing artistic expression that uplifts and inspires. At the heart of the event lies its guiding mission statement: "It is our desire to help other people discover, create and enjoy transformed art. Transformed art is art that reflects what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute and worthy of praise."

Randy Toews, a member of the promotions committee, explained, "The statement, written by the festival founders Larry Starrh and Mike Kotrla, is based on the Bible verse Philippians 4:8. We chose it to ensure that the arts and everything happening this week are good and wholesome."

This year's festival will take place Thursday through Sunday, Feb. 20-23, at various locations around Shafter, offering something for everyone over the four days. Attendees can look forward to a range of events that will feature local artists and provide fun for



The Colours Fun Run is always a crowd favorite, offering participants of all ages the chance to run, walk or ride the 2-mile course.

the whole family. Highlights include a fun run, wine tasting, a car show, a meet-and-greet with a children's author, a youth art workshop, Shafter museum tours, a cornhole tournament, art gallery exhibitions, coffee

See COLOURS Page 3

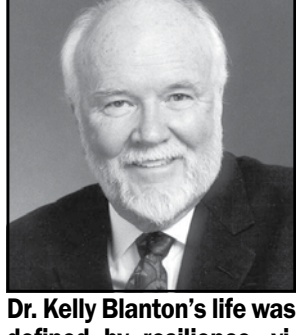
Kelly Blanton taught, led, inspired

VERONICA JACUINDE
 The Press and Tribune

WASCO

Dr. Kelly Foster Blanton served as Kern County's 18th Superintendent of Schools. Born on January 12, 1937, he passed away at 87 on Dec. 17. A dedicated educator, his work had a lasting impact on education in Kern County and beyond. Raised in Buttonwillow and Wasco, Blanton's life and career were profoundly shaped by his early experiences in the area.

Blanton lived in farm labor camps and picked cotton alongside his family. Despite the challenges his family faced, his love for learning



Dr. Kelly Blanton's life was defined by resilience, vision and a steadfast commitment to the success of all children.

See KELLY Page 8

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

"Purple Pig" fundraiser – Wasco Elks Lodge hosts its Leading Knight and Secretary Challenge Dinner, benefiting the Purple Pig, on Friday, Jan. 24, at the Elks Hall. RSVP by Jan. 22, or to purchase raffle tickets from Erik Brown at 661-477-4109 or call the lodge at 661-758-2235.

Colours Festival – Arts weekend set for Shafter Feb. 20-23. For more information, visit ShafterColours.org.

Valentine's Day event – Wasco Elks Lodge will have music, dancing, couples' activities like sand art and painting, and a gourmet ribeye steak dinner on Friday, Feb. 14. Call the lodge for more information, 661-758-2235.

ONGOING

PRIDE Pantry donations – Consider donating to SHS Pride Pantry this holiday season. Suggested items to donate include non-perishable 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 sweat-shirt 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.wascouhsd.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 artículos de basura grande? Llame a American Refuse 661-758-5316 o use su aplicación para programar una recojida de estas artículos. Este servicio es gratis para todos los residentes 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



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, or e-mail it to mysteryphoto@TheShafterPress.com. Winners will be revealed here next week. **LAST WEEK:** Those answering *The Press* photographer's question in 1985 were, from left, Kathy Vieria, Angeline Merrigan, W.C. Walker, Clayton Plaster, Leon Parks and Pearl Velasquez.

Inquiring Photographer

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



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, or e-mail it to mysteryphoto@WascoTrib.com. Winners will be revealed here next week. **LAST WEEK:** Al Turner, owner of Justesen's Market, in 1945.



ARREST REPORT

SHAFTER

As reported by the Shafter Police Department

DEC. 29

Rene Armondo Villavicencio, 52, of Shafter, was arrested in the 500 block of Butte Court for disorderly conduct: under the influence.

DEC. 31

Perfecto Frausto Alatorre, 53, of Shafter, was arrested on Central Valley Highway on an outside warrant.

JAN. 1

Gerardo Miguel Monge, 29, of Shafter, was arrested in the 400 block of Munzer Street for sexual battery by restraint, false imprisonment and battery on a spouse or former spouse.

JAN. 3

Leovigildo Garcia, 61, of Shafter, was arrested in the 100 block of West Orange Avenue for possession of unlawful paraphernalia.

JAN. 4

Sergio Acosta Prieto, 64, of Shafter, was arrested at South Shafter and Los Angeles avenues for possession of a controlled substance and on a bench warrant/failure to appear on a misdemeanor charge.

Hector Eli Valladolid, 43, of Shafter, was arrested in the 100 block of North Central Valley Highway on a bench warrant/failure to appear on a misdemeanor charge.

Miguel Garza III, 33, of Shafter, was arrested in the 400 block of Calloway Street on an outside warrant.

JAN. 5

Floryel Magaly Garcia, 36, of Shafter, was arrested in the 1100 block of Central Valley Highway on a bench warrant/failure to appear on a misdemeanor charge.

BUTTONWILLOW

No arrests were reported by the Kern County Sheriff's Department prior to press time.

WASCO

As reported by the Wasco Police Department:

DEC. 23

Carlos Gonzales, 48, was arrested in the 1600 block of Highway 43 on felony and misdemeanor bench warrants. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice facility.

Juan Daniel De Jesus Chino, 22, was arrested at Highway 46 and Maple Avnuée for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Eduardo Gonzales Correa, 25, was arrested in the 900 block of 16th Street for resisting arrest. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Sergio Antonio Mercado Torres Jr, 30 was arrested in the 2100 block of Highway 46 for driving with a suspended license. He was cited and released at the scene.

DEC. 24

Jose Humberto Perez Perez, 20, was arrested at Broadway and 7th Streets for driving under the influence of alcohol and possession of a controlled substance.

Edgar Arturo Barraza Bernal, 20, was arrested in the 1900 block of 5th Street on a misdemeanor bench warrant. He was cited and released at the scene.

DEC. 25

Ezequiel Cruz, 20, was arrested in the 1000 block of 13th Street for driving under the influence of alcohol and driving without a valid license. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Bryan Ramirez, 18, was arrested in the 1800 block of Soledad Street for possession of marijuana over 1 ounce. He was cited and released at the scene.

Arthur Arellano Jr, 59, was arrested in the 1800 block of Highway 46 on a misdemeanor bench warrant. He was cited and released at the scene.

Agustin Dominguez Diaz, 40, was arrested at 7th Street and Almond Court for driving under the influence

of alcohol. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

DEC. 26

Elijah Gonzalez, 34, was arrested in the 2000 block of Filburn Street for driving with a suspended license. He was cited and released at the scene.

Edwin Sair Lugo, 20, was arrested at Highway 46 and J Street for reckless driving and expired registration. He was cited and released at the scene.

DEC. 27

Daniel Antonio Vidal, 27, was arrested at Filburn Street and Central Avenue for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

DEC. 28

Ernie Joe Regalado Jr, 34, was arrested in the 2000 block of Highway 46 on a misdemeanor bench warrant. He was cited and released at the scene.

Miguel Castro Loyola, 43,

was arrested at Highway 43 and Jackson Avenue for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

DEC. 29

Jesus Irene Chavez Ortiz, 47, was arrested at Highway 43 and Jackson Street for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

DEC. 30

Javier Pizano, 53, was arrested in the 1000 block of 5th Place for possession of unlawful paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance, possession of hard drugs with two or more priors.and on a misdemeanor bench warrant, He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Ovidio Francisco Olivas Meza, 36, was arrested in the 700 block of F Street on a misdemeanor bench warrant. He was cited and released at the scene.

Eden Guerra Martinez, 35, was arrested in the 900 block of E Street on a misdemeanor bench warrant. He was cited and released at the scene.

DEC. 31

Arnold Maximiliano Zepedavillanueva, 25, was arrested in the 1100 block of Palm Avenue for public intoxication. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Rafael Comparan Jr, 37, was arrested in the 300 block of North Central Avenue for an expired registration and altering a vehicle registration. He was cited and released at the scene.

Victor Ascencio, 20, was arrested in the 800 block of Highway 46 for reckless driving. He was cited and released at the scene.

Brandon Julian Tijerina, 31, was arrested at Beckes Street and Summer Hill Court for possession of unlawful paraphernalia, possession of a controlled

substance, giving false ID to a police officer, and on a felony bench warrant. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Jose Jimenez, 31, was arrested in the 500 block of North F Street for possession of marijuana for sale and selling/giving/transporting marijuana. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

JAN. 1

Alfredo Lopez Lopez, 28, was arrested at 7th Street and Griffith Avenue for hit and run. He was cited and released at the scene.

Uriel Victor Arroyo, 27, was arrested at 748 F Street on a misdemeanor bench warrant. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Jesus Omar Lizaragga, 33, was arrested at Palm Avenue and Jubilee Drive for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

See ARREST Page 3

Wasco Tribune

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Editor in Chief: Veronica Jacuinde
(661-292-5100; vjacuinde@wascotrib.com)

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FOCUS ON LOCAL LEADERS | Wasco Rec and Park District

Oscar Luna championing city parks

Part of a continuing series highlighting local leaders, including members of the Wasco Recreation and Parks District board. Other stories can be found on WascoTrib.com.

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

Oscar Luna is in his second year serving on the Parks and Recreation board, bringing to the role his experience as the assistant superintendent of the Wasco Union Elementary School District since July 2022. He also has nearly 15 years of experience in school administration. In addition, he has served as the president of the Wasco Rotary Club.

A lifelong resident of Wasco, Luna said his background as a product of public service inspired him to take on roles like being a board member and working in education. Coming from a family of immigrants, he benefited from financial aid to attend undergraduate school, was a first-generation college student and participated in the migrant program.

"If it weren't for people who believed in me, maybe my future wouldn't have been that," Luna said in an interview recently. "I firmly believe that in a community like Wasco, to maintain tradition and have productive advancement, you need people to serve. That is why I feel if I want to have an impact and improve the future of Wasco and the community as a whole; it's about rolling up our sleeves and doing the hard work that needs to happen in order



Oscar Luna served as the Wasco Rotary Club president 2022-24.

WASCO

for meaningful change to happen."

Over his time on the board, he is most proud of how the district has built and strengthened collaborations with the city,

community and other partners. "To make a parks and rec district the best it can be, you can't do things alone. Things can't get off the ground if you don't have partners. I think things are coming together for the betterment of Wasco. We all have a shared

vision and mission, and when we roll in the same direction, we can accomplish a lot more."

Luna is passionate about youth and views serving on the board as a way to empower young people through the programs the district offers, providing them with a safe space to stay off the streets. He also believes in creating green spaces where the community can find a sense of belonging, with areas for families to come together, share moments and enjoy aesthetically pleasing surroundings, allowing them to take pride in their community and create lasting memories as families.

He said that top of mind for the board is "How can we make our parks visually appealing and create spaces for all ages to gather and build community? We need to make the parks look better to attract people to go and take pride in the park. It's the pinnacle number one goal for us, and it's about how to make the right investments with the right money, the right resources, the right staff for upkeep and maintenance and the support of our director for realizing that vision and moving that initiative forward."

Apart from the year-round youth sports programs Parks and Rec offers at affordable prices, Luna said he is proud of the many activities they bring to the community throughout the year. "Especially during Christmas, we want to provide opportunities for joy and comfort, not only to kids but to families, such as our Light Up Wasco Community Cruise and Letters to Santa."

Elks Lodge plans 'Purple Pig' fundraiser

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

Wasco Elks Lodge 2419 is gearing up for its Leading Knight and Secretary Challenge Dinner, benefiting the "Purple Pig," on Friday, Jan. 24. This event is a major fundraiser for the California-Hawaii Elks Association, which supports a wide range of programs for disabled individuals, children, veterans and youth.

"The Purple Pig is one of our club's most prominent charities because most of the funds raised go to support significant projects in our community," said Erik Brown, the event chair and Wasco Elks Lodge Leading Knight.

WASCO

"A small purple piggy bank is given to every new member of the Elks Lodge. All members are encouraged to donate a coin each day to the Elks Purple Pig charity, turning in their piggy bank to the Lodge either when it's full or during the annual Purple Pig dinner. All funds collected support the Purple Pig fundraiser."

The event will feature a tri-tip or chicken dinner, complete with potato salad, beans, a vegetable medley, a roll, and dessert, all for a \$25 donation. Attendees can also participate in a raffle for a Kool Blue Stuffed Pig YETI ice chest filled with donated gift cards for premium cuts of meat from the Butcher

Block in Bakersfield and an assortment of fine spirits. Raffle tickets are \$20 each.

Brown highlighted that the evening promises a blend of great camaraderie and meaningful support for a worthy cause. "Come out and enjoy the company of your neighbors while supporting an annual dinner that makes a difference in the lives of disabled youth in our local towns of Wasco and Shafter."

The Purple Pig event is just the beginning of the year for the Wasco Elks Lodge. The club has a full calendar of events lined up, including the annual Valentine's Day event on Friday, Feb. 14, with music, dancing, couples' activities like sand art and painting and a gourmet dinner with

a 14 oz ribeye steak. On April 19, the club will host its annual Skeet Shoot at 5 Dogs Shooting Range, followed by Casino Night in September and the Blaine Wildard Car Show in October.

"These events help the club build strong connections, foster goodwill and create a sense of belonging," Brown said. "They allow us to engage with residents, support important causes, and show our commitment to the community while strengthening our reputation and making a positive impact."

To RSVP by Jan. 22 or to purchase raffle tickets, contact Erik Brown at 661-477-4109 or call the lodge, 16694 Wasco Ave., at 661-758-2235.

Colours again to celebrate the arts

From Page 1

house music performances, a spaghetti dinner, a Christian youth film festival and presentations from local dancers.

Another promotions committee member, Debbe Haley, said, "Our goal is to keep the prices as low as possible so families and adults can enjoy the festival. Prices

range from free to \$25 for most events, with \$50 for the Meet the Artist/Wine Tasting." Haley noted that ten of all the events on the list are free.

In addition to the artistic celebration, the festival has a deeper mission of raising funds for scholarships to support students pursuing careers in the visual and perform-

ing arts. Scholarships will benefit those studying music, photography, painting, sculpture, theater, mixed media, drawing, ceramics, and dance, to name a few. The event helps cultivate the next generation of artists by providing them with the financial resources to achieve their dreams.

Haley encourages the community to

attend the festival, "It will be an opportunity to see and hear new things while supporting the community and the arts. It will be full of entertainment, and everything about it is family-friendly."

The festival will conclude with an all-inclusive community worship. For more information, visit shaftercolours.org.

Wasco is thirsty for more housing

From Page 1

that will sell slower. Selling slower means less money, while entry-level homes sell fast."

Cortez, a former Wasco City Council member, says the issue goes back decades. "When I was on the council, we always tried to court national builders to build higher-end homes, but we were somewhat unsuccessful. In 2006-2007, Reynen and Bardis built some homes, but not many due to the market crash in 2008-2009. Another builder constructed semi-custom homes near John L. Prueitt Elementary School before the crash. A builder at

Poplar Point also built 3,000-square-foot semi-custom homes, but they stopped when the market crashed. So, we had large builders come, but market conditions forced them to stop."

He agrees with fellow resident Martinez: "We need a builder to invest in some move-up homes, and we need to pursue builders to make those investments in our community. We're talking about 3,000-square-foot homes with three-car garages on larger lots."

A bigger dilemma remains regarding the development of new housing in Wasco. Dr. Michael F. Hair, Sr., principal of

Your Valley Builders, states, "Land prices are expensive all over, as are oil prices, but that is not the reason we are not in Wasco. The reason is simple: there is no water. If we get water, we hope to come back. We like Wasco." His last development was in 2022, when he built Las Palmas, consisting of 150 homes with an average price of around \$325,000. "We sold them as fast as we could build them."

Community Development Director Keri Cobb explains, "We've worked with Michael Hair for many years and would love to see more housing development in Wasco. Our problem here is that our water

system and wells are at capacity. We can't pump enough water from the ground to accommodate new housing."

The city has worked with the State Water Resources Control Board for four years to secure funding to drill four replacement wells. "We need to replace wells," Kobb said. "We can't build housing unless we have water and the infrastructure to get it where it needs to go. We're working on it. It's a slow process. There's a lot of red tape and hoops to jump through to get the funding we need."

She notes that a parallel project is underway to analyze water storage solutions.

ARREST REPORT

From Page 2

WASCO

As reported by the Wasco Police Department:

Nancy Vargas, 33, was arrested at Palm Avenue and Jubilee Drive for public intoxication. She was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

ity.

JAN. 2

Omar Pimentel Lara, 36, was arrested at Palm Avenue and Filburn Street for felony vandalism. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Joshua Keith, 43, was

arrested at the intersection of Palm Avenue and Highway 46 for possession of a controlled substance. He was cited and released at the scene.

JAN. 3

Carlos Thomas Antonio, 26, was arrested in the

1900 block of 1st Street for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

JAN. 4

Cecilio Martinez, 29, was arrested in the 1800 block of Orchid Lane for felony van-

dalism, contempt of court, stalking, and harassment or annoyance with repeated calls. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Stephanie Aguilera, 47, was arrested at Poso Drive and D Street on a misdemeanor bench warrant. She

was cited and released at the scene.

JAN. 5

Juan Cruzbautista, 38, was arrested in the 200 block of E Street for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

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SNIP clinics mark success in 2024

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

WASCO

In March 2023, the City of Wasco received a \$288,000 grant from UC Davis to partner with the SNIP Bus to expand the city's spay/neuter capacity. The partnership allows the SNIP Bus to hold free spay/neuter clinics monthly for three years, completing an estimated 1,800 surgeries. "Last year, we treated 210 dogs and 171 cats for a total of 381 animals, saving residents approximately \$300 a piece per surgery," Public Works Director Luis Villa explained.

The Spay Neuter Imperative Project is a 501(c)(3) low- or no-fee mobile spay and neuter clinic that works to actively prevent the suffering and death of unwanted animals due to overpopulation and the extreme capacity of shelters.

Wasco Animal Control Officer Rigo-berto Figueroa has witnessed the program's impact firsthand in addressing the overpopulation in the shelter. "It is positively affecting the number of strays and has helped minimize the number on the streets. It's a huge benefit, and you can see the impact. I was excited when I first heard about it and am even more excited to see it grow. Hopefully, we can secure another grant to continue the program once this one ends," Figueroa said.

Villa highlighted the program's value to residents. "It's a significant cost savings for residents, allowing them to use that money on other expenses. It helps someone on a tight budget with grocery bills or gas. Plus, this ensures their pets are healthier in the future, which could also save them

money on veterinary expenses."

In addition to spay/neuter surgeries, the clinics offer other services, including micro-chipping for \$25, post-op sedatives for \$20, and Bravecto to treat and prevent fleas and ticks for \$25 per month. Nail trims, e-collars and pain medicine are available for \$5. Vaccinations and dog licenses also are offered at a reduced price. These services are available to surgical patients only.

To qualify for the SNIP program, participants must be Wasco residents and provide proof of residency with a California ID and a utility bill. The following two clinics are scheduled for Mondays, Jan. 13 and Feb. 10; appointments are required. To schedule an appointment, call or text 661-331-6216. The clinics will be held at the old courthouse at 801 8th St. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For additional information, call 661-758-7271.



Public Works Director Luis Villa encourages residents to benefit from the cost-saving program.

A love story at Malone's Photography



Luke and Jasmin Malone, at Hart Park in Bakersfield in December, share a loving working relationship.

From Page 1

and other family members. Soon, others began reaching out to him. They came up with the idea of starting a social media page to post their photography. "And that's where it took off. It's been non-stop from there," Luke stated.

The roles are divided between them, with Jasmin handling the posing. "I help clients find what looks best and make them feel more at ease, particularly if we've just met and they're shy or unsure of what to do," she said "I guide them on what looks better, like relaxing their shoulders or adjusting their hair. I also do the editing and manage the social media."

He handles all photography, including setups, lighting and backdrops. "The cameras and equipment are all my responsibilities."

Luke noted, "Photography, especially portraits, is a really personal experience. It's about seeing people open up and building relationships, rather than just having a photoshoot."

His favorite is taking portraits, but together, they can do many aspects of photography, from weddings to birthdays, graduations, senior photos, holiday portraits, school events, quinceañeras, and newborns, which is Jasmin's favorite. "Maybe it's the mom in me. I love the little

ones."

"It's awesome working together, and it doesn't feel like work," Luke said. "Whenever we're out, it almost feels like a date, and we experience new situations and environments together."

Jasmin added, "We truly enjoy spending time together and meeting people. I feel that's something different from other photographers. The fact that we're a couple often makes people feel more comfortable, which I think translates into better photos. It gives us two sets of eyes."

Luke explained, "On my own, I tend to get tunnel vision, but with Jasmin, she offers a unique approach that I wouldn't have thought of. She helps me with different poses. I bring the male viewpoint, and she's better at guiding the girls."

This is just one aspect that makes them a great team. "I'm more of a shy person and have a hard time talking to people. He's great at sparking conversations, and I really appreciate that. I always rely on him to do the talking. What I'm most proud of, though, is being together for so long," she said.

You can follow them on Instagram at malones_photography, or to book a photography session, text Luke at 661-809-2256.

City Spotlight



News & Updates
You Need to Know

Wasco's Website: Agenda Center

The City of Wasco's Agenda Center is the perfect tool for anyone looking to stay connected with what's happening in local government. This user-friendly platform ensures that every resident has easy access to the decisions, plans, and discussions that influence the direction of our community. Whether you're new to Wasco or a longtime resident, the Agenda Center is your one-stop shop for everything related to city government activities.

The Agenda Center allows you to access meeting agendas and minutes from a variety of boards and commissions. This includes everything from city council meetings to planning discussions and updates on important community projects. Whether you want to find out what's coming up in the next meeting or revisit past decisions, the Agenda Center keeps everything organized and easy to follow. It's all about making local government more transparent and accessible.

Why is this so helpful? Let's say you want to share your thoughts at an upcoming meeting or follow up on a

specific project in Wasco. The Agenda Center lets you see exactly what will be discussed, so you can be well-prepared and informed. It's a simple way to ensure you're always in the loop and ready to participate in shaping the future of our city.

One of the best features of the Agenda Center is the ability to subscribe to updates. By signing up for email notifications or RSS feeds, you'll receive alerts whenever new agendas or meeting minutes are posted. This makes it easy to stay up-to-date on everything happening in the city. And for anyone researching past decisions or projects, the Document Center offers an archive of historical records that's just a click away.

The Agenda Center is about more than just sharing information—it's about fostering a stronger, more connected community. It empowers Wasco residents to stay informed, voice their opinions, and be an active part of local governance. So, check it out today and see how you can stay engaged and help shape the future of Wasco!

To access Wasco's Agenda Center, visit the City's website at www.cityofwasco.org, or scan the QR code below.



Public Notice

The Wasco City Council is recruiting two (2) individuals to serve on the Wasco Planning Commission and one (1) individual to serve on the Kern Mosquito and Vector Control District's Board of Trustees.

For any questions or assistance regarding this appointment, contact the City Clerk's Office at (661) 758-7215.

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. 10**
City offices closed Friday
- Jan. 13**
Planning Commission Meeting Cancelled
- 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

SNIP EVENTS

Free Pet Spay / Neuter for Wasco Residents

Jan. 13, 2025

🐾 Vaccines Included 🐾

To schedule an appointment
Call/Text **661-331-6216**

Hours:
8am to 5pm

Location:
**801 8th St
Wasco, CA
93280**

For more information, call 661-758-7271

THE HISTORY OF OUR CHURCHES | Home Fellowship Church, Shafter

Lives changed in a pioneer church

Shafter's churches have long histories as cornerstones of the community. One of them is the Home Fellowship Church. One of its members wrote this chronicle of the church, the first in a series.

BY REBECCA MILLER

What is now Home Fellowship Church began in a building on Highway 43 in Shafter in 1966. Pastor Ernie Byron Graeber and wife, Grace, pioneered and founded Full Gospel Tabernacle. Later Pastor Graeber bought the Boy Scout building in Shafter that would become the church, Shield of Faith. He pastored from 1966-83.

Pastor Graeber was licensed under the CEA organization that Pastor O.C. Harms began in 1934 in a church in Long Beach called Colonial Tabernacle. The organization was originally called California Evangelistic Association but later, as churches expanded outside California, it was changed to Christian Evangelistic Assemblies. The organization came from a Four Square background and Pastor Graeber brought that fire with him. He was a fire and brimstone preacher and the power of God would fall in that place.

People filled that little church, and it was a busy church. They had services every Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. and Sunday night at 7:30 p.m. The church also had services every Wednesday and Saturday nights at 7:30 p.m. Sometimes the services would last until 11 or 12 at night, because people were worshipping, standing in prayer lines that wrapped around the church or just praying at the altars. The power of God was so mighty in that little church that chains were broken and people were healed, saved and delivered. You could see people weeping, shouting praise and dancing with joy.

Many quartets, singing groups and traveling evangelists came from all over the United States, and sometimes revivals would last three to four weeks. The church had two 10-passenger vans during that time to pick up widows, children and families that had no way to get to church. These people were hungry for God, and God didn't disappoint. There was a drunk man that came into church that was sobered up by the power of the Holy Spirit. There was a Jericho March where people around town who didn't attend church said they saw an angel leading the way. Many people were touched by the power of God.

Pastor Graeber didn't compromise. You were either all in or out, and he tried to make sure his congregation was honoring God in all areas of their life. He was a hard preacher and wanted his congregation to tow the line.

When Pastor Graeber got ready to retire, he called the CEA to see if they wanted the church building for the organization, which they did. However, because Pastor Graeber had owned the building, he wanted to have pastors from the organization come and try out for the church, which was not as prevalent to do in those days. The CEA leaders would pray lots to see what pastors to put in the churches.

Pastors Tom and Margaret Baker, from Apache Junction, Ariz., who had pioneered a church there, put their name

SHAFTER

in for it. The Bakers came on a hot summer day in July of 1983 on a Saturday and stayed the night with the Graebers. The following Sunday morning and Sunday night Pastor Tom preached. Later that night, Pastor Graeber told them he wanted them to take over the church.

The Bakers were trained under the founder of the CEA organization, Pastor O.C. Harms. Pastor Tom Baker's first encounter with Pastor Harms would be as a very sick 13-year-old. Tom had cancer and wasn't expected to live. However, his grandpa wouldn't give up hope. He had faith to believe, and he attended Colonial Tabernacle Church under Pastor Harms at that time, and he took Pastor Tom to church there at Colonial Tabernacle as well as all over the Los Angeles area seeking the healing power of God. That's where Pastor Baker met Pastor Harms and felt the healing power of God begin to take effect after he was baptized at Colonial Tabernacle Church.

A few years later he would meet and fall in love with the love of his life, Margaret. Margaret was not allowed to date, but she could go to church. So the couple went to every church service and revival they could find in Covina to be with each other. It was in the Assembly of God Church in Covina where Tom and Margaret gave their hearts to the Lord.

They married and decided to go to Bible school together. At the time, Tom's cousin was going to Bible school under Pastor Harms, and the Lord led him to reach out to Tom and Margaret to talk to the pastor. In 1956, they decided to go to Long Beach to train for the ministry at Colonial Tabernacle, and in 1958 Pastor Harms sent them out into ministry after being trained for 2½ years.

The Bakers headed north to a place where they felt the Lord leading them.

They filled in at a church in South Bend, Wash., while they waited for the Lord to open a door to the church. He would have them pastor. The Lord would lead them to pioneer a church in Apache Junction, where they would pastor until they accepted the pastership in 1983 at the Shield of Faith Church. After the Bakers took over the church they had the name changed to Shafter Christian Assemblies, where they pastored from 1983-1989.

Tom and Margaret Baker were pioneers. They founded and pioneered several churches during their ministry. Their ministry was that of love. You could feel the love of God when you entered the church. They loved and accepted people right where they were and allowed the Lord to change the hearts of the people. They taught people the word of God and how to reverence it



Pastor Ernie and Grace Graeber (1966-1983)



Pastors Tom and Margaret Baker (1958, 1983-89, 1999-2012)



The church on California Street in the late 1990s.

and allow it to have the final authority in the believer's life.

When Pastor Tom ministered the word as he preached on Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings his love and compassion for people would draw them to Jesus. He had an altar call every service, and people would come up for prayer and to pray through whatever was going on in their lives and give it to Jesus which he encouraged his congregation to do.

Pastor Margaret taught Sunday school and Wednesday night Bible study, and she taught the truth. Many people were set free by the truth of the gospel that she taught. They had a powerful deliverance ministry that helped many people get out of bondage. People would come into church with addictions and problems whether it was drugs, alcohol or anger, and they would pray and seek the Lord and allow God to direct and lead them how to pray and seek deliverance for them.

Lives were changed and transformed under their ministry by the Word of Truth and Power of the Holy Spirit. People were saved, healed, delivered and transformed. Under their ministry they also counseled people and they also mentored people in becoming teachers and ministers of the gospel. They allowed the Lord to lead, guide and direct their ministry, and because of it lives were forever changed.

In 1989, with a call from the Lord to leave Shafter Christian Assemblies, the Bakers would head to Washington, where they would pioneer a church up there for the next several years. During this time, Pastor Tommy and Linda Creech would become the new pastors of the Shafter Christian Assemblies Church. They pastored the church from 1989-1999. The Creechs had great organizational skills, and as soon as they arrived they

began to use their expertise to continue to move the church forward. They believed in church membership and the importance of supporting their local pastor and church.

Along with serving his congregation, Pastor Creech also served our country as an officer in the U.S. Air Force and fought for our country in the Vietnam War.

Sister Creech was a great musician. She played the piano and organ and was a complement to Pastor Creech. They (1989-1999) served in the church until Pastor Creech passed away in 1999.

In 1997, Tom and Margaret Baker had already moved back to Shafter and by permission of the CEA organization pioneered a church there in a storefront on James Street called Home Fellowship Church. There would now be two churches in Shafter under the same organization to serve the community.

After Pastor Tommy Creech passed away in 1999, it was decided that the Bakers would combine the two churches and join their congregations together making just one church changing the name to Home Fellowship. The Bakers would pastor here again for the next 13 years, until 2012 making a total of 22 years they pastored in this church building on 520 California Ave. During this time, the organization would undergo another name change, from Christian Evangelistic Assemblies to Grace International, reflecting the rapidly growing global family of churches and

See LIVES Page 6



Pastor O.C Harms (1934-1979)

PET OF THE WEEK

A loving friend welcomes you

Cindy is a 2-3-year-old female terrier mix who came to us as a surrender. With her beautiful, soft brown fur and adorable floppy ears, Cindy has a gentle and friendly demeanor that makes her a wonderful companion. She's great with staff and other dogs and is sure to bring joy to anyone who gets to know her. At this time, we are unsure if Cindy is house/crate trained, and her behavior around children is unknown, as she has not been tested. She is ready to fill your home with happiness and will be available for adoption starting Thursday, Jan. 9.

-Wasco Animal Shelter



Local service & great rates

Call, click or stop by today



Ruth Yazmin Ramos
Agent

1071 7th Street
Wasco, CA 93280-1933

Bus: 661-758-5164
www.ruthramos.net
ruth.ramos.ly9w@statefarm.com
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The church today on California Street.

Lives changed in a pioneer church

From Page 1

ministries.

With a call from the Lord to leave again in 2012, the Bakers would eventually head up north again to pastor their last church, in Doty, Wash., from 2015 until 2023, before they would retire.

Pastors Jose and Beverly Perello, missionaries from Honduras, would leave the church they were pastoring as well as the churches Pastor Jose was overseeing with a call from the Lord to come to Shafter to pastor Home Fellowship Church. In January 2013, Pastor Beverly was first to take on the pastorate, while Pastor Jose stayed behind another 6 months to make the necessary arrangements to assure a smooth transition there.

Pastor Jose and Beverly Perello are missionaries at heart and their ministry reaches far beyond the church walls of Home Fellowship Church. Pastor Beverly interprets Pastor Jose's dynamic preaching with her sweet southern charm. They work in unity preaching God's word, and it flows. As pastors they show their love for family and community through



Pastor Tommy and Linda Creech (1989-1999)

fellowship as they lead with love and encouragement.

Their ministry is that of grace. They love and accept people right where they are, and you feel welcomed and accepted when you come in.

Pastor Jose has a father's heart and the gift of intercessory, which he uses

to pray faithfully for his congregation daily. At times after service, he will call his congregation up to the front of the church and will pray for each one individually. The Lord speaks to him and through Him. He is a humble, kind and gentle pastor shepherding over the flock under the care of the Great Shepherd.

Pastor Beverly is a studied teacher and has wisdom that she imparts on the congregation through her teaching, preaching and counseling. They have served faithfully at Home Fellowship Church for 11 years, and they continue to serve as pastors at Home fellowship Church today.

Today Home Fellowship Church is a small bilingual nondenominational church. We have Sunday school at 10 a.m., with church service starting at 11:15 a.m. We have a ladies bible study on Tuesday mornings at 11 a.m. and prayer meetings on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome here. By the grace of God for 58 years, Home Fellowship Church has stood as a lighthouse in our community. A beacon of light in the darkness illuminating the way to our Lord and Savior. By God's grace may we continue to serve our Lord as we serve our congregation and the community of Shafter.



Pastors Beverly and Jose Perello (2013-present)

OBITUARIES

Kenneth Earl Duncan
Dec. 29, 1935 –
Dec. 24, 2024



Our Dad, Kenneth Earl Duncan, passed peacefully the morning of Christmas Eve at his home in Wasco. His final day was one filled with family, and fittingly the last voice he heard was our Mom's, his bride of 68 years – high school sweethearts.

Dad was born in Woodland on Dec. 29, 1935, but grew up and lived most of his life in his hometown of Wasco. He was in the graduating class of 1954 and figured prominently in the Tiger's Valley Football Championship season of 1953. He was also active in FFA, exhibiting the Grand Champion market steer at the 1952 California State Fair.

On May 26, 1956, he married his high school sweetheart, the great love of his life, Leona Gentry, and set off on their life adventure producing three children, Wesley, Debbie and Kelly.

He enjoyed hunting and fishing and was a 4H swine leader for 40 years, along with Mom. The Kern County Fair dedicated the swine auction to them following their retirement as leaders.

After his retirement from Belridge / Shell Oil Co. where he worked as an electrician for 32 years, he and Mom toured fairs and livestock shows exhibiting his swine breeding stock until the practice was discontinued by the state.

He was always generous with his time, a strong and tough man throughout his life, and would be out cutting

and splitting wood or maintaining his property right up to the end. Working hard is just something he liked to do. He passed from this life as he lived his entire life, on his own terms.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Ruby Duncan of Wasco, grandparents John and Elisabeth Koop of Shafter, Joe and Daisy Duncan of Arkansas and son in law Scott Jones of Wasco.

He is survived by his wife Leona of Wasco, and his children Wesley (Debra) of Bakersfield, and Debbie and Kelly of Wasco along with his grandchildren Diana (Tim), Angie (Andy), Shannon (Ryan), Lys (Theresa), all of Bakersfield, and Kelly (Gilbert) of Wasco. Also by his great grandchildren Elijah (Lupe), Gabriel, Ruby, Sadie and Desha, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

A giant thank you to granddaughter #3 Kelly for being the strong one in the family and seeing to Dad, and to Jimmy Dunlap for his deep and abiding friendship with him.

Our Dad, Papa to his grandkids, will be greatly missed and held in our hearts forever.

Per his wishes there will not be a public service, but if you wish to honor him in some way, please support your local 4H, FFA and Independent exhibitors.

VISIT US ONLINE!

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SHAFTER PRESS

Wasco Tribune

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice of Petition to Administer Estate of:

Larry John McDaniel
Case Number: **BPB-24-003614**

1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Larry John McDaniel

2. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Patsy Jean McDaniel, by her attorney-in-fact Ginger Richmond in the Superior Court of California, County of: Kern

3. The Petition for Probate requests that: Patsy Jean McDaniel, by her attorney-in-fact Ginger Richmond be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

4. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

5. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

6. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
a. Date: 01/24/2025 Time: 8:30AM
Dept.: J-1

b. Address of court: Superior Court of California, County of Kern, 2100 College Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93305.

7. If you object to the granting of the petition you should appear at the hearing and state your

objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

8. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

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.

9. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

10. Attorney for petitioner:
Robert H. Brumfield, III
1810 Westwind Drive, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301
661-316-3010
Publish Wasco Tribune January 9, 16, 23, 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
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
Recorded 2/12/2008 as Instrument 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 TRUXTON 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

Grace upon grace

PASTOR CHAD GIVENS
Canyon Hills Shafter

"May the Lord bless you and protect you. May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace." Numbers 6:24-26

That is what we are walking into for 2025 - believing that God is smiling down on every one of us, and that his favor and peace is with us.

character that has made us who we are today.

So when our family was discussing what the new year would bring, this is the thought that came in. We know that God is faithful to us, even when we are not toward him, and we know that his peace and favor has been with us, even when we thought otherwise.



wards us, undeserved yet kind, without merit but freely given. A grace that so quickly embraces you, shows you a true love that can heal hurt at its core.

Grace is a powerful tool to overcome challenges we face with one another. It allows for healthy conversation to take place amongst our children, our spouses, our friends and those around us.

It extinguishes ill feelings toward one another and allows for a safe space to be generated with each other to grow and flourish instead of holding a grudge and discontent with one another.

The year 2025 is considered a year of grace and balance based on the number five. Five fingers and toes on each hand

and foot, five knots on the prayer shawl, five ingredients in the anointing oil, five books of the Torah, five smooth stones for Goliath. Day five in creation saw water, fish and birds, which gives nutrients to the world around us.

Lamentations 3:23 tells us "Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning." So for our family, we soon realized that this is a year of grace, favor and balance in our lives.

OBITUARIES

Zelma Lucille Allen
June 19, 1929 - Dec. 31, 2024



Zelma Lucille Allen went to be with the Lord on Dec. 31, 2024, at her home in Shafter. She was 95 years old.

Born in Cleveland, Oklahoma on June 19, 1929, to Fred and Zettie Peeks, Lucille's family moved to California during the Great Depression, when a friend offered her father a job at King's Garage in Wasco.

Lucille met her future husband, Cecil Allen, at age 17 while working at G&L Market on 7th Street in Wasco to help support her family.

Lucille and Cecil married on Oct. 11, 1946, and eventually owned a Norwalk service station, a custom harvesting business and Cecil M. Allen Farms.

Lucille was an artist. Whether refurbishing furniture or painting with oils on canvas, she made things beautiful. Lucille loved decorating and hav-

ing a crowd for holidays and birthdays. She made her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and their friends feel welcome. Everyone called her Gran.

Lucille and Cecil were married 43 years. She was widowed in 1990 at age 61. When grandchildren asked about remarriage, she smiled and answered, "I will always love your grandpa." She lived a fruitful widowed life for 34 years, many of which were spent volunteering as a Pink Lady at Mercy Southwest Hospital.

The third of seven siblings, Lucille is survived by her brother Howard Peeks (Darlene); sons Kenneth Allen (Deborah) and Martin Allen (Pamela); grandchildren Candace Glad-

Brandy Vencil (Josiah), Casey Sharifi (Noah), Lacey Hillberg (Carson) and Blake Allen (Ashley); 19 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandson, and numerous nephews and nieces. Lucille was preceded in death by her husband, Cecil, and eldest son, Danny Allen. She was a longtime member of Christ Church of the Valley.

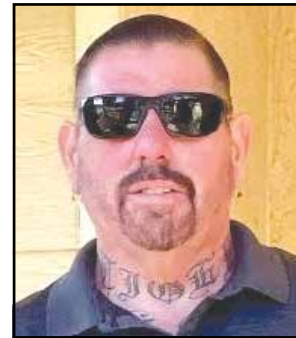
Visitation is Friday, Jan. 10, 5-7 p.m., at Peters Funeral Home, Shafter. Burial is Saturday, Jan. 11 at 9:30 a.m. at Shafter Memorial Park. Memorial service and reception immediately follow at 10:30 a.m. at Christ Church of the Valley, 13701 Stockdale Hwy, Bakersfield.

Jeffery Shawn Tiger
Nov. 29, 1971 - Dec. 11, 2024

Jeffery Shawn Tiger was born on Nov. 29, 1971, to Jack Tiger and Charlotte Osborn Tiger McPhetridge in Wasco.

Shawn grew up in Wasco and graduated from Wasco High in 1990. Shawn began his work journey at Larry Cross Tire Shop until he went to work for Advance Beverage, where he dedicated 19 years of his life. Shawn's work ethic and willingness to go the extra mile made him shine and stand out wherever he was.

Shawn Tiger was one of a kind. He loved to ride and could ride anything. Whether it was screaming past you on a dirt bike or



thundering through traffic on his Harley, you could guarantee he was all out. Shawn loved to be in the garage with family or friends working on cars and motorcycles. It didn't matter what it was, he would do his best to fix it himself.

Shawn loved the beach, and he loved camping at Pismo Dunes with his family and friends. He loved the Dodgers and the Houston Texans, but more than anything he loved being a

son, brother, father, grandfather, uncle, nephew, cousin and friend.

Shawn passed away on Dec. 11, 2024, at the age of 53 in Bakersfield. He's predeceased by his father, Jack Tiger, and brother Michael Tiger. His memory will be forever cherished and kept alive by his parents, Joe and Charlotte McPhetridge; brother Criston McPhetridge; children Joshua Tiger (Courtney Tiger) and Caitlyn Tiger; grandchildren Jase Tiger, Rylie Tiger and Presley Endes; and uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins and lifelong friends.

A graveside service will be held on Jan. 10 at 10 a.m. at Shafter Cemetery, 18662 Santa Fe Way, Shafter. A reception will follow at Westside Church, 2150 Palm Ave., Wasco.

DEATH NOTICES

Ricardo Acosta Lopez, 39, of Bakersfield, passed away Dec. 28, in Bakersfield. Basham Funeral Care, Shafter.

Ignacio Rios Ochoa, 91, of Bakersfield, passed away Dec. 28, in Bakersfield. Peters Funeral Home, Wasco.

Marina Reynoso Gonzalez, 83, of Bakersfield, passed away Dec. 28, in Bakersfield. Peters Funeral Home, Shafter.

Johnnie R. Bevins, 83, of Bakersfield, passed away Dec. 29, in Bakersfield. Basham Funeral Care, Shafter.

Carolyn Sue Carender, 80, of Wasco, passed away Jan. 1, in Wasco. Peters Funeral Home, Shafter.

Kathleen Wright, 94, of Bakersfield, passed away Jan. 2, in Wasco. Peters Funeral Home, Shafter.

Paul Ellis, 76, of Fresno, passed away Jan. 3, in Fresno. Peters Funeral Home, Wasco.

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Golden Oak Elementary School representatives, from left, Mari Jose Ortega, Assistant Principal Jose Montelongo and Melanie Perez.



Richland Junior High representatives Gisille Denogean, left, and Jayleen Gonzalez



Redwood Elementary School representatives, from left, Assistant Principal Antonio Juarez, Isaac Salgado and Stefany Rios Zamudio

Kiwanis salutes responsible students

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

SHAFTER

The Kiwanis Club of Shafter held a special luncheon on Dec. 11 to honor local students selected as Terrific Kids for demonstrating exceptional responsibility in the classroom. Teachers nominated the students whose achievements were celebrated alongside their families and community members. Guests enjoyed lunch,

and each student received a certificate, pencil, bumper sticker and t-shirt in recognition of their efforts.

"We love acknowledging people who are responsible at all ages, but particularly children, because we love to see them grow up to be responsible adults. Congratulations to all our honorees. We are very proud of you," Debbe Haley, a Kiwanis

Club member for eight years, said.

Golden Oak Elementary School Assistant Principal Jose Montelongo presented certificates to Mari Jose Ortega and Melanie Perez. Richland Junior High School students Gisille Denogean and Jayleen Gonzalez were honored with awards. Redwood Elementary School Assistant Principal Mr. Antonio Juarez presented certificates to Isaac Salgado and Stefany Rios Zamudio.

Sequoia Elementary School students Valentina Vargas-Rios and Ethan Cortinas received their certificates from Assistant Principal Tonia Aguilera. Angelique Trevino, Lucas Garcia, Oscar De La Torre and Izabella Galaviz Becerra from GROW Academy Shafter were awarded certificates by Dean Esteban Arias. Maple Elementary School Principal Christy Herstad presented certificates to Ethan Barajas, Reagan Gebhardt, Leila Gonzalez and Olive McCuen.



Sequoia Elementary School representatives, from left, Valentina Vargas-Rios, Assistant Principal Tonia Aguilera and Ethan Cortinas



Grow Academy Shafter representatives, from left, Angelique Trevino, Lucas Garcia, Oscar De La Torre and Izabella Galaviz Becerra



Maple Elementary School representatives, from left, Principal Christy Herstad, Ethan Barajas, Reagan Gebhardt, Leila Gonzalez and Olive McCuen

Kelly Blanton taught, led, inspired

From Page 1

set him on a path to becoming a transformative figure in education. Blanton earned degrees from Bakersfield College, San Francisco State University, and California State University, Fresno, before pursuing a doctorate at the University of Southern California. Afterward, he returned to Wasco to begin his career in education.

Blanton's journey as an educator started in 1959 when he became a teacher at Wasco's Palm Avenue School. After serving two years in the military, he went back to teaching and took on leadership roles that shaped his career. In 1967, Blanton became the superintendent/principal of Maple Elementary School District, and by 1971, he joined the Kern County Su-

perintendent of Schools office. He was appointed superintendent in 1986, a role he would hold until his retirement in 1999.

During his time as superintendent, Blanton revolutionized education in Kern County. He introduced programs and initiatives that made a significant contribution not just in the county but also on a statewide, national, and even global scale.

One of his most notable accomplishments was the implementation of truancy reduction programs, which helped decrease dropout rates by more than 50 percent. He also championed the creation of The Community Learning Center, a charter school for alternative education students. The center was later renamed in

his honor, a testament to his dedication to helping all students succeed.

Blanton believed that education should be accessible to everyone, regardless of their background. "All children can be successful in school," he said. "No child should ever be labeled as a likely failure because of the social, economic, racial, or ethnic characteristics of their families or communities."

This belief drove many of his initiatives, including supporting students with disabilities. He played a key role in developing the MOVE, Mobility Opportunities Via Education, program, which helped students with severe physical disabilities sit, stand and walk. MOVE was eventually translated into at least eight

languages and adopted worldwide, including Japan, The Netherlands, Russia, Portugal and Italy. The program continues to operate today.

After retiring in 1999, Blanton didn't stop innovating. Along with his son, he co-founded Epylon, an internet start-up providing eProcurement software to education and government institutions. He also remained active in local organizations, including the Kern Citizens for Effective Local Government and the West Bakersfield Rotary Club.

Blanton once said, "I am a teacher, and I'll always remain a teacher." His legacy lives on through the students he supported, the programs he developed and the educators he inspired.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

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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 Fictitious Business Name Statement Kern Electrical Services 2025-B0044
15805 La Strada Ct Bakersfield, CA 93314

County: Kern 15805 La Strada Ct Bakersfield, CA 93314 Jimmy Randolph Aparicio 15805 La Strada Ct Bakersfield, CA 93314 The business is conducted by: Individual Date the business commenced: N/A /s/Jimmy Randolph Aparicio Date Statement Filed: 01/03/2025 Date Statement Expires: 01/03/2030 Auditor-Controller-County Clerk By: M Hernandez Publish Shafter Press January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE Fictitious Business Name Statement 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