





# Community Calendar

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas at the Shafter Depot — Come and see the Christmas tree display. Saturdays, Dec. 23, 30 and Jan. 6, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

## ONGOING

Warm clothing drive — Supervisor David Couch invites the public to donate gently used or new warm clothing through the remainder of the year. Shafter drop off location is 329 Central Valley Hwy.

Basic office skills classes — Wasco Adult School offers Bakersfield College basic office skills certificates. Register now. Call 661-758-7414 for more information.

PRIDE Pantry donations needed — Help hurting families at Shafter High through donations of personal hygiene items, clothing, household items and nonperishable food. Drop off at the school office, 526 Mannel Ave. Call Katie Young at on-campus intervention, 661-746-4961.

## 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

Shafter Recreation & Parks District — Meetings are on 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, 3336 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 lunch program — Meals offered the first and third Tuesday of the month at Griffith Avenue Baptist Church, 408 Griffith St. Sack lunches for seniors will be given out at 11 a.m. Sponsored by Golden Gleaners.

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](http://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 farmer's market — Westside Family Fellowship hosts every fourth Thursday of the month, 8-10 a.m. 2150 Palm Ave., Wasco.

## FRIDAY

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

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](mailto:thegreenhotel@gmail.com) or phone 661-746-1913 and leave a message.

Minter Field Air Museum — Open Fridays and Saturdays 11 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

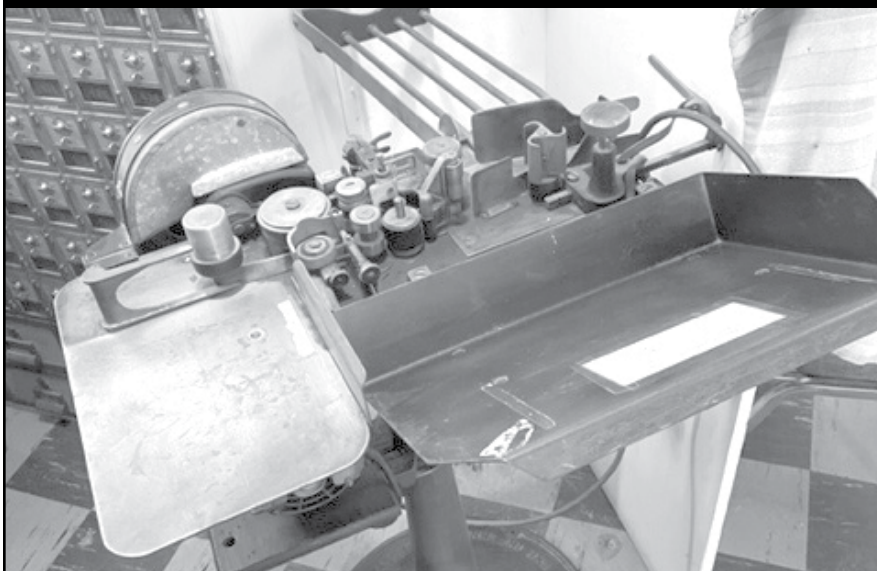


Here's this week's challenge, courtesy of the Shafter Historical Society. If you know the location, circumstances, exact or rough date and/or people in the photo, send your educated (or semieducated) guess to *The Press*, 455 Kern St., Suite E, Shafter, CA 93263, or e-mail it to [mysteryphoto@TheShafterPress.com](mailto:mysteryphoto@TheShafterPress.com).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

**LAST WEEK:** A rare snow in Shafter in 1962.



## 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](mailto:mysteryphoto@WascoTrib.com). Winners will be revealed here next week.

**LAST WEEK:** Mr. Kettleson's 8th-grade class graduation picture at Wasco Union Elementary School in 1950.



## ARREST REPORT

### SHAFTER

As reported by the Shafter Police Department

#### DEC. 13

Kayla Dawn Frederickson, 30, of Shafter, was arrested at Mannel Avenue and Walker Street for giving a false ID and on a bench/warrant to appear on a misdemeanor charge.

#### DEC. 14

Alonso Garza, 25, of Shafter, was arrested in the 700 block of South Shafter Avenue for possession of unlawful paraphernalia, disorderly conduct: under the influence of drug/narcotics violations and trespassing: occupying property without consent.

#### DEC. 16

Alejandra Yasenia Astorga, 29, of Shafter, was arrested in the 100 block of Central Valley Highway on an outside agency warrant.

#### DEC. 17

Aljandra Yasenia Astorga, 29, of Shafter, was arrested in the 500 block of South Shafter Avenue for disorderly conduct: under the influence of a drug and disorderly conduct.

#### BUTTONWILLOW

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

#### DEC. 11

Rodolfo Vargas, 36, of Wasco, was arrested at the

intersection of Wildwood Road and Kimberlina Road in Wasco for possession of a stolen vehicle, obstruction, resisting, delaying a peace officer and giving false information to a peace officer, and on a felony warrant and two misdemeanor warrants. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

John Langley, 38, of McFarland, was arrested at the intersection of Wildwood Road and Kimberlina Road in Wasco for possession of a stolen vehicle, obstruction, resisting and delaying a peace officer, and a misdemeanor warrant. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

#### DEC. 14

Rodrigo Angel Gutierrez, 38, of Shafter, was arrested in the 400 block of Klassen Street in Shafter for driving on a suspended license, expired registration, no proof of insurance, and on four misdemeanor warrants. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

#### DEC. 15

Gerardo Fierro Vasquez, 47, of Buttonwillow, was arrested at the intersection of Merced Avenue and Palm Avenue in Wasco for carrying a handgun: not owner, carrying a handgun in a vehicle on a public street, driving without a license,

no registration, and on a misdemeanor warrant. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

### WASCO

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

#### DEC. 11

Brittany Arreola, 26, of Wasco, was arrested in the 1000 block of Pistachio Street for felony infliction of corporal injury on spouse and misdemeanor cruelty to child. She was booked into the Kern County Jail.

#### DEC. 12

Mario Vallejo Ayala, 40, of Wasco, was arrested in the 1200 block of Highway 46 for felony grand theft with a credit card, using accessed credit data, altering account data, grand theft, forgery and conspiracy to commit a crime. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Julio Daniel Rodriguez, 19, of Rialto, was arrested in the 1200 block of Highway 46 for felony grand theft with a credit card, using accessed credit data, altering account data, grand theft, forgery and conspiracy to commit a crime. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

#### DEC. 13

Hugo Gabriel Chomocheco, 19, of Wasco, was arrested in the 1000 block of 12th Street for felony assault with a deadly weapon: not a firearm, threatening a crime with intent to terrorize, child cruelty, and misdemeanor or exhibition of a deadly weapon: not a firearm. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

#### DEC. 15

Ricardo Ortiz Vargas, 26, of Shafter, was arrested near the intersection of Griffith Avenue and 8th Place for

misdemeanor DUI, hit and run, showing false ID to officer, and on misdemeanor bench warrants. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

#### DEC. 16

Uriel Victor Arroyo, 26, of Wasco, was arrested in the 1000 block of 5th Street for misdemeanor disorderly conduct: under the influence of drugs in public, possession of controlled substance paraphernalia, battery on a person and willful cruelty to child. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Jacquelyn Gonzalez, 26, of Shafter, was arrested in the 600 block of F Street for misdemeanor mail theft. She was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Omar Joya, 35, of Wasco, was arrested in the 600 block of F Street on a felony bench

warrant and for misdemeanor or mail theft. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Daisy Solorio, 39, of Wasco, was arrested in the 2100 block of Highway 46 for misdemeanor DUI and obstructing an officer: resisting arrest. She was booked into the Kern County Jail.

#### DEC. 17

Juan Carlos Castellon Nuño, age 33, of Wasco, was arrested near the intersection of D Street and 7th Street for misdemeanor DUI, and drive without a license. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Jose Vibanco, age 32, of Wasco, was arrested near the intersection of Lewis Street and D Street for misdemeanor disorderly conduct: under the influence of drugs in public. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

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## Wasco Tribune

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1980

Wasco Tribune is published each Thursday and is available at no charge at locations throughout the Wasco area and by subscription at \$49 per year. Send payment, along with name, address and email address, to P.O. Box 789, Shafter, CA 93263.

Adjudicated a legal newspaper by Superior Court Order No. 183950. Entered as Standard Mail at Wasco Post Office.

Postmaster: Send change of address to Wasco Tribune, P.O. Box 789, Shafter, CA 93263.

**Publisher: Michael Schroeder**

(661-292-5100; [mschroeder@WascoTrib.com](mailto:mschroeder@WascoTrib.com))

**General Manager: Diane Givens**

(661-292-5100; [dgivens@WascoTrib.com](mailto:dgivens@WascoTrib.com))

**Editor: Veronica Jacuinde**

(661-292-5005; [vjacuinde@wascotrib.com](mailto:vjacuinde@wascotrib.com))

**Office Manager: Erica Soriano**

(661-292-5100; [esoriano@TheShafterPress.com](mailto:esoriano@TheShafterPress.com))

**Distribution Coordinator: Romero "Mickey" Enriquez**

(661-292-5100; [dgivens@WascoTrib.com](mailto:dgivens@WascoTrib.com))

Contact the Wasco Tribune at P.O. Box 789, Shafter, CA 93263. Office hours at 455 Kern St., Suite E., Shafter, are from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. E-mail [info@WascoTrib.com](mailto:info@WascoTrib.com) or call 661-292-5100; fax 661-292-5077. Production by Central Connecticut Communications LLC.

## THE SHAFTER PRESS

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1921

The Shafter Press (#491700) is published each Thursday and is available at no charge at locations throughout the Shafter area and by subscription at \$49 per year. Send payment, along with name, address and email address, to P.O. Box 789, Shafter, CA 93263.

Adjudicated a legal newspaper by Superior Court Order No. 29926. Entered as Periodicals at Shafter Post Office Aug. 1, 1935, under Act of Congress.

Postmaster: Send change of address to The Shafter Press, P.O. Box 789, Shafter, CA 93263. Periodical postage paid at Shafter, California, permit PE491700.

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**General Manager: Diane Givens**

(661-292-5100; [dgivens@TheShafterPress.com](mailto:dgivens@TheShafterPress.com))

**Editor: Jamie Stewart**

(661-292-5005; [jstewart@TheShafterPress.com](mailto:jstewart@TheShafterPress.com))

**Office Manager: Erica Soriano**

(661-292-5100; [esoriano@TheShafterPress.com](mailto:esoriano@TheShafterPress.com))

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The winning team of the Kick Ball tournament. RIGHT: Ariana Garibay and Veronica Soliz were great little helpers at the event.



# Kickball tourney backs Toys for Tots

JAMIE STEWART  
The Shafter Press

Dodgeball is a game many of us played in grade school and haven't seen that giant rubber globe since. But a group of Shafter residents dusted off their sneakers Saturday and played in a kickball tournament to benefit the Toys for Tots organization. All of the proceeds went to the group and there was another Toy Drop-off event held at the tournament site, Veterans Park. The event was sponsored by Big Dog Presents and Acelaredos Off Road.

Several teams kicked their way around the diamond, bringing back memories of grade school PE class and having a great time in the process. The winning team won a trophy and bragging rights for the holiday season. But the big winners here are the children of Shafter, who will benefit with a large cache of toys.

## SHAFTER

These toys will be given out on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at the Shafter Veterans Hall at 9 a.m. Each child in attendance will receive one toy, while the supplies last.

At the tournament on Saturday morning, there was a large table set up that held the toys collected so far, with another Toys For Tots box at the site as well. Entry fee for the tournament was a \$10 wrapped gift for a child.

To finish off the event, a large convoy of off road vehicles, trucks and decorated cars were at the park, participating in their own Christmas Parade. The convoy of vehicles went down Los Angeles Avenue and wound its way all through the downtown area, back to Veterans Park, blaring Christmas music with brightly colored vehicles and costumed participants, as well as huge inflatables on board some of the vehicles.



Santa riding in style in this souped up hot rod.

Rick Sharp, a Shafter resident who drives a bus for the Richland School District was there in his lifted truck, He said

what everyone else was saying throughout the day. "It's all for the children!" It's for the kids!"

# Mural artist leaves imprint on Wasco

VERONICA JACUINDE  
Wasco Tribune

Leo Alvarez is a Chicano artist based in Wasco, who has been cultivating his gift since the age of seven. He was raised here but is originally from a small town called Llano Grande in Jalisco, Mexico. He came here at the age of 4.

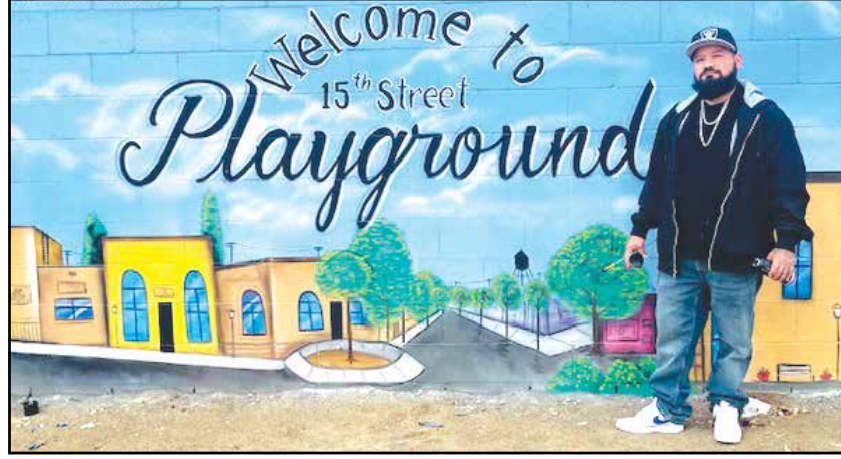
Recently, he completed a mural for the City of Wasco at the 15th Street Playground Park. "It was my first mural in Wasco, but I've done a lot of murals in McFarland and Bakersfield."

He started as an artist by drawing cartoon characters, then artwork from "low-rider" magazines and later portraits. "I kept at it until I realized one of my dreams, which was to be featured in magazines."

He draws his inspiration from life, he said. "By what you live through, by what I see around me, by even music, by the struggle is what makes me create art."

His art has particular themes and messages he aims to convey.

"I do Mexican art to inspire others, especially young kids on the same road as me. To help them do something with themselves and to keep off the street and away from drugs."



Artist Leo Alvarez spent a month working on his creation to beautify the 15th Street Playground Park. RIGHT: The colorful design of the mural provides a playful background to the jungle gym.



With his murals, he draws his inspiration in a unique manner. "I look at the wall, and it speaks to me. I think, 'What would flow and what would look good?' I do a sketch, and it goes on from there."

His spiritual foundation helps him get into the right mindset for creating his murals. "I thank God and do a little prayer so everything will go well."

What he finds most rewarding is the end process. "When people see it and their reaction to how, in a couple of days, I can completely transform a blank wall into

something amazing. There's nothing like painting on walls. I love the challenge."

Doing his first mural in Wasco is particularly meaningful for him because this is his hometown. "It makes me proud that I can leave my imprint on the city I love for all my family and friends to see."

He said that with this mural, he hopes to impact the community positively.

"The mural is for the kids, and the focus is a tribute to Wasco's rich history and agricultural past. I'm using brushes, spray cans and airbrush. It's a little mix of everything."

He said his aspirations and goals for the future are to keep doing murals around town and other towns as well.

Alvarez has advice for other artists. "Just go for it, and don't hold back. If you have a vision, go and do it."

The lessons and insights he has gained in his career as an artist and would like to share with other emerging artists are invaluable.

"Art can take you anywhere you want; don't give up and keep at it. Whatever you desire, you can make happen."



Councilmember Cathy Prout was at the center of the county Fire Department group receiving its new fire truck in Shafter.

# Shafter gets a new fire truck

JAMIE STEWART  
The Shafter Press

Shafter received its first new fire truck in almost 15 years recently, getting a brand new engine that was "pushed into" Kern County Fire Station 32 in Shafter.

Fire officials say that the new engine was loaded with brand new tools and was

## SHAFTER

thoroughly examined before it was pushed into – the term used by firefighters for the first time a truck is driven into a bay – the engine bay in Station #32 in Shafter.

Shafter Mayor Pro-Tem Cathy Prout was onsite for the delivery, She also was on hand for the last engine welcomed back in 2009.

## PET OF THE WEEK

### Introducing Sebastian

Sebastian came into the Wasco Animal Shelter as an owner surrender. He is approximately a 4-5 month-old male Labrador. He is great with staff and other dogs. At the time, it is unknown if Sebastian is house/crate trained. Dogs are not tested with children. His behavior toward children is unknown.

Everyone is welcome to adopt from our facility, and we like to give everyone the same opportunity to adopt. Adopters can be from out of town and/or



local. We do not place holds for adoptions. Adopters are responsible for transportation.

Adoptions are on a first-come, first-serve basis, beginning at 8 a.m, on the date they are available. You are welcome to call us the day before their availability to ensure the pet is still for adoption.

More information is available by emailing rifigueroa@cityofwasco.org or masilva@cityofwasco.org.

—Wasco Animal Shelter



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Wasco Tribune

Alejandra Diaz attended the Posada with her family. "I think it was a great opportunity to bring happiness to those of

Yesenia Acosta, outreach worker for Linderes Campesinas, said, "We have experienced a fifty percent reduction in production this year, which has resulted in many farmworkers losing their jobs. Today, we gave out \$25 gift cards to Walmart, hoping that they could at least use that money for food. This was our first time, but we hope to make it an annual event."



"I was proud to help sponsor with Lideres Campesinas. As a family doctor actively providing healthcare servicing

the communities of Delano, McFarland, Wasco, Earlimart and into Tulare County, I have been a strong supporter of our farm workers."

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# YOU ARE INVITED

## LEARN HOW BY-DISTRICT VOTING CAN GIVE YOU MORE POWER TO ELECT SRPD BOARD MEMBERS

Location: 505 Sunset Avenue in Shafter

Meeting Times: 6PM

Date	Description
December 12, 2023	Overview and training on the process and criteria. Receive public and Board comment and input on mapping and Communities of Interest.
January 9, 2024	Receive public input and Board direction on mapping.
January 16, 2024	Draft map(s) posted online for public comment
January 30, 2024	Receive feedback on the draft map(s), make adjustments live as necessary.
February 13, 2024	Receive feedback on the draft map(s), make adjustments live as necessary.
February 27, 2024	Vote on the final map.

# FREE Christmas Tree Recycling

DECEMBER 26 - JANUARY 8

**KERN**  
COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS

**OPTION 1 Recycle your Christmas Tree into your GREENWASTE container!**

- Remove tree stand, decorations, and nails.
- Cut tree into small pieces and place into greenwaste container.
- Container lid **MUST** completely close.
- **NO** flocked trees.

**OPTION 2 Drop off your Christmas Tree**

- Remove tree stand, decorations, and nails.

## NORTHWEST KERN DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

**MCFARLAND-DELANO  
TRANSFER STATION**

**VACANT LOT IN WASCO**

**CITY OF DELANO  
CORPORATE YARD**

**WASCO GREEN  
WASTE FACILITY**

**SHAFTER-WASCO LANDFILL**

**CITY OF SHAFTER  
CORPORATE YARD**

SCAN FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF  
COUNTY-WIDE LOCATIONS &  
HOURS OF OPERATION:



# City Council reopens bids for camp cleanup

VERONICA JACUINDE  
Wasco Tribune

At a special meeting on Tuesday, the City Council repealed its Dec. 5 acceptance of the Resource Environmental Inc. bid for the Wasco Farm Labor Camp demolition and cleanup project.

Currently, the labor camp is at the step of abatement, which is making sure that the materials that need to be removed are properly disposed of from the site, such as lead paint and materials containing asbestos.

On Nov. 14, seven bids were received for the project. Following the Dec. 5 city council meeting, staff received additional inquiries and requests to clarify various as-

pects of the RFP (request for proposal).

After consultation with the city attorney, staff concluded that ambiguities may exist in the RFP that may result in miscommunications about the project. The council rejected all seven bids, and the city will issue a new request for proposal to clarify the specifications.

"The matter with the old farm labor housing complex has been a long time coming, and it behooves the city to cross its t's and dot its i's, and this process allows us to clarify the RFP and ensure that this project doesn't experience any more delays," Mayor Pro Tem Alex Garcia said.



Mayor Pro Tem Alex Garcia.

# Officer leads by example

VERONICA JACUINDE  
Wasco Tribune

Hailing originally from Memphis, Daniel Vaughn, who spent his formative years in Wasco, is a example of someone who overcame the challenges of social and economic adversity, rising from the bottom to accomplish his dreams, and who now is a role model to many youth who find themselves in similar circumstances.

Vaughn credits much of his success to his Wasco High School coaches. "I played basketball and ran track. My coaches influenced me and taught me about being a team player and a leader. They inspired me, seeing how they were so dedicated, giving their time to helping us be the best."

In Memphis, Vaughn faced an upbringing of gangs, drugs and poverty. He saw no way out until one day at school, there was a guest speaker.

"He was a detective with the Memphis Police Department, and he made a statement that resonated with me. He said he used to be just like me when he was younger. I never believed that a person like him, with success, could come from an environment like I was from and make it."

"So, when I got to Wasco, I was



Deputy Probation Officer Daniel Vaughn poses with two WHS football players at a recent career fair on campus.

ready to seize the opportunity and follow my dreams."

Moving from a large city like Memphis to Wasco was a big change for him. "I felt like it was a good chance to turn my life around. Everybody was helpful, and it was very family orientated. My friends showed me that there was more for me and that I had great potential."

Vaughn is now a deputy probation officer with the Kern County Probation Department. He has been in law enforcement for 10 years. He started as a youth service officer at a youth detention center at Camp Erwin Owen in Kernville.

In 2020, he transitioned into his current role. He said his work is rewarding. "What I enjoy most is making a difference in someone's

life other than mine, no matter what age group they are, and attempting to make a change."

"Sometimes youth need advice. They may feel that they can't achieve a goal; they just need that guidance so they can understand that they can be successful."

As a deputy probation officer, he wears multiple hats. "That is one of the biggest things I like about my job: I can be a counselor. I am an officer, but we sometimes must hold people accountable."

Vaughn is also a man of faith. "Since I have grown and realized in life, God would not put you in a situation that you may feel is overwhelming; he has already prepared you for it. The fact that you are in it, you can handle it. You are stronger than you think. You are more powerful than you think. Never give up."

Looking ahead at the type of legacy he hopes to leave behind in Wasco, especially in inspiring the next generation of youth, he said, "It's not where you started; it's where you are going. Don't be discouraged about what you believe because of others' opinions. Follow your goals and dreams, and don't let anybody change those."



Deputy Probation Officer Daniel Vaughn with WHS student Michael Dominguez at a recent career fair on campus.



# Super Students at Clemens

Karl F. Clemens Elementary School announced its weekly Super Students. Criteria for selection were based on significant math improvement, showing kindness to all friends, respect and hard work, following class procedures, helping other students understand new concepts and improving learning English. Front row, from left, are Eliana Camacho (kindergarten), Kevin Martinez (2nd grade), Johnathan Cruz (1st) and Anabel Raya (4th). Back row, from left, are school mascot Whiskers, Kendra Naranjo (5th grade) Luke Bradley (3rd) and Principal Anabel Garrison.

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### NOTICE OF VACANCY

Interested persons are hereby notified that pursuant to Government Code 1780 there is a vacancy at the **Shafter Recreation & Park District Board of Directors**.

The position to be filled is for a term ending December 2026. The seat will go up for election or appointment on January 9, 2024 for the final 36 months of the term.

**Applications are available at the Shafter Recreation & Park District Office located at:**  
**700 E. Tulare Shafter, CA 93263**  
**Phone #: (661) 746-3303**  
**Website: ShafterRecreation.com**  
**Applications are due by: January 4th, 2024**

This district board has 60 days from the date the board is notified of the vacancy or the effective date of the vacancy, whichever is later, to fill the vacancy by appointment or call a special election. Gov. Code 1780.

Pursuant to Government Code 1780, this notice will be posted for 15 days at the Shafter Recreation & Park District Office, The Shafter W.C Walker Senior Center, The Shafter City Hall and the Shafter Press from dates December 14, 2023 to December 28, 2023.

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# The kids are home for the holidays

## How's their mental health?

DR. ARCHANA DUBEY

As the holiday season approaches, students across the country are wrapping up their papers and exams for a long holiday break. For many, it is a time to rest, recharge and catch up with friends and family. It can also be an important opportunity for the adults in students' lives to check in about their mental health and wellness.

In college, our kids' lives are full of new experiences; while exciting for many, navigating academic pressures and a growing independence can also bring about mental health challenges, including anxiety or mood disorders that might need extra attention.

According to a recent health data brief from America's Health Rankings, young adults (18-25 years of age) faced the greatest behavioral and mental health concerns across all adult age groups, and were most likely to report frequent mental distress, depression, unmet mental health needs, suicidal thoughts, and substance use disorder.

Many assume that they would recognize when their child is facing things like depression or anxiety, but these challenges can often escape parents' immediate notice. A survey fielding college students and

parents of college students revealed large disparities in parent perceptions of student mental health struggles. Parents were twice as likely to report that their child did *not* experience a behavioral or mental health concern in the last year, compared to what students reported about their own experiences. This disconnect is more than just a generation gap -- when it comes to depression, substance abuse, eating disorders, or suicidal thoughts, not knowing what students are going through can have serious implications.

Opening the door to honest conversations is an important first step, as is staying tuned in to behavior. Some common warning signs of developing mental illness include persistent sadness, withdrawal from social interactions, outbursts of extreme irritability, drastic changes in mood, behavior or personality, changes in eating habits, difficulty sleeping, frequent headaches or stomach aches, difficulty concentrating, displaying changes in academic performance, or avoiding or missing school.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind when addressing mental health with your child:

**Get the conversation going by asking questions.** Mental health is a sensitive subject that your child might not want to



Dr. Archana Dubey

discuss. As a parent, help make your child feel comfortable by approaching the topic with empathy and curiosity. Consider asking questions that encourage them to share experiences rather than respond with "yes" or "no" answers:

- "How are you handling the balance between school and social life?"
- "Can you tell me about some friends you've met and what you like to do together?"
- "I've noticed you're not feeling yourself lately, can you share what's on your mind?"

**Validate your child's feelings** and let them know it's okay to feel upset, anxious, scared, or angry. Avoid arguing about how they should feel and be open to discussing what makes them feel that way. Even

though they might not respond, know that they are listening. If your child hesitates to discuss their emotional or behavioral shifts with you, continue providing support and encourage them to speak with someone they trust who might better understand their circumstances, like a different adult, school counselor, or doctor.

**Come up with a plan to take action.**

After carefully listening and assessing the situation, it's okay to have only some of the answers. To prepare for your child's return to school, make sure they know what resources are available to them, should they need help -- whether that's knowing how to access support available at school or on campus, or knowing the care options that exist through their insurance.

For example, they may have digital self-help solutions or access to virtual visits through their parent's plan or on a student health plan. If you have any questions about resources, please speak with your doctor, insurance company or contact the school to better understand your coverage.

While conversations about mental health may not be easy, they are essential. It is more likely that our children will turn to us for support if we approach them with empathy and openness.

For more information about behavioral health resources, visit UHC.com and UHCSR.com.

*Dr. Archana Dubey is chief medical officer of UnitedHealthcare of California.*

# The vital role of community colleges

VERONICA JACUINDE

Wasco Tribune

Bakersfield College offers diverse programs, from vocational courses to associate degrees in many fields, and is made more convenient for local residents through their Wasco site on the campus of Wasco Independence High School.

With economical fees, readily available financial aid and accessible scholarships, BC is attainable for those facing barriers elsewhere due to financial constraints, academic preparedness, or life circumstances.

"The Wasco site is part of BC's Rural Initiatives, providing Wasco and nearby communities with local access to Bakersfield College programs and services. Our students live in Wasco and the rural communities of northern Kern County," says Brian A. Rodriguez, director of Rural Initiatives and Adult Education for the college

At the BC-Wasco site, there are general

WASCO

education courses for transfer to four-year colleges/universities, including the California State University and University of California systems. Transfer courses include topics related to communication, math, sociology, psychology, criminology, English and economics.

BC-Wasco also offers for-credit and noncredit certificates related to child development, business, nurse assisting, welding and English for multilingual students.

Also, at the BC-Wasco site, vocational courses include a job skills certificate in blueprint reading and layout for welders, which can be completed in one 16-week semester, and a certificate in shielded metal arc welding, which can be completed in one academic year.

Rodriguez said that BC serves the Latino community, especially the non-English speakers.

"BC supports the large Latinx demo-



Brian A. Rodriguez, PhD, director of Rural Initiatives & Adult Education at Bakersfield College.

graphic in the region in many ways. For example, BC offers courses for English language learners through our English for Multilingual Students series.

"This course series provides noncredit

courses, at no cost, for students at various skill levels from introductory to advanced in speaking, reading, and writing to further develop their knowledge and skills in English," Rodriguez said.

"Nearly all our Rural Initiatives and Adult Education staff are bilingual, and all are deeply passionate about supporting the needs of our Latinx population in Wasco and the rest of Kern County."

Enrollment for Spring 2024 classes continues until the spring semester, which begins in mid-January. Students can begin the BC registration process online at [bakersfieldcollege.edu/enrollment-aid/apPLY/index.html](https://bakersfieldcollege.edu/enrollment-aid/apPLY/index.html).

To enroll/register in person, students can attend one of BC's express enrollment events, including Monday, Jan. 8, from noon to 5:30 p.m. at the Wasco Adult Education Center, 1445 Poso Dr.

More information is available at 661-758-7414, Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday until noon.

# Kiwanis helps with food for families

From Page 1

Shafter Healthy Start, who gives the club the names of families that they know are in need during this holiday time.

According to Ben Wilson, who was in charge of the event, each family received boxes of canned goods, as well as miscellaneous items, such as boxes of pasta and cereal.

Together, the schools collected enough food for almost 100 boxes. "We had enough to give larger families extra boxes of food," said Wilson.

After the food drives were held, the bounty was delivered to the Shafter Kiwanis Club, which organized the distribution of the packages.

The Shafter High Key Club is an extension of the Shafter Kiwanis Club, with its members committed to serving the community, especially its youth. "The Key Club is modeled after the Kiwanis Club, doing community service projects throughout the year," Wilson said.



Members of the Shafter Key Club helped pack the boxes.



The Shafter High girls basketball team was on hand to help. RIGHT: Volunteers from Shafter High, as well as the Shafter Kiwanis Club, work to pack boxes.





Maple School's Principal Christy with Gwen Gebhart, Carly Moyes and Noel Salazar. RIGHT: GROW Academy's Mrs. Prieto, Mrs. Graves, Alicia Salazar and Principal Lacie Harris with students Sophia Rico, Jesus Noriega and Iliana Morfin Urbana.

# Kiwanis honors some Terrific Kids

JAMIE STEWART  
The Shafter Press

The Shafter Kiwanis Club held its monthly Terrific Kids Luncheon Tuesday, honoring a special group of kids from the elementary schools in the Shafter area. Students from Redwood, Sequoia, Golden Oak, Richland Junior High, GROW Academy and Maple School were recognized for displaying a certain character trait that was the feature trait for this month. This month, the character trait is Responsibility.

In addition to Responsibility, the other traits that are recognized by the program that stand for TERRIFIC, are Thoughtful, Enthusiastic, Respectful, Responsible, Inclusive, Friendly, Inquisitive and Capable. Teachers from the Richland School District nominate students who exhibit that trait. Each student receives a certificate, a pencil, bumper sticker, and a t-shirt.

The Shafter Kiwanis Club has been recognizing local students for over two decades and has been instrumental in the development of our local youth, including their Terrific Kids program, as well as their annual New Teachers Luncheon, as well as different programs that they support that

SHAFTER

help students inside the classroom and outside of the classroom.

Richland Junior High's Mylum Nicholson presented Janessa Torres and Rebeca Diaz with awards. Each recognized student receives a certificate, a t-shirt, a pencil and a bumper sticker, in addition to the special lunch.

For Redwood Elementary, Assistant Principal Anthony Juarez presented students Rachelle Gomez and Daisy Garcia Carmona with awards. From GROW Academy, teachers Mrs. Prieto and Mrs. Graves, along with Counselor Alicia Salazar and Principal Lacie Harris presented awards to students Sophia Rico, Jesus Noriega and Iliana Morfin Urbana.

For Maple School, Principal Christy Nelson presented awards to students Gwen Gebhart, Carly Moyes and Noel Salazar.

From Golden Oak Elementary, Assistant Principal Jose Montelongo presented awards to students Evangeline Jackson and Yulieth Bojorquez.

Principal Jillian Morrison from Sequoia Elementary presented awards to Valentina Martinez and Raelyn Puate.



Sequoia's Jillian Morrison with Valentina Martinez and Raelyn Puate. BELOW: Golden Oak's Jose Montelongo with students Evangeline Jackson and Yulieth Bojorquez.



Redwood's Anthony Juarez with students Rachelle Gomez and Daisy Garcia Carmona. RIGHT: Richland Junior High's Mylum Nicholson with Janessa Torres and Rebeca Diaz.

# A holiday expedition around homes

From Page 1

It was Emilio Limon's second time attending. "There's a lot more than last year. Some of the houses are creative. I like that it's becoming a community tradition."

He said his favorite part was the extravagant houses. "They stood out with the bright, colorful lights and the ones that made good use of their space."

Martha Figueroa said she liked the tour. She said of those who decorated their homes, "You got to show your personality. Everyone had their own twist to it. That is what made it unique."

Miguel Vera dressed up as the Grinch and was one of the participants who decorated his home. "We went all out this year. We did many more Christmas lights and bought the Grinch suit this year to take it one step further. We wanted to be part of the Wasco community."

Councilman Gilberto Reyna attended.

"It was a fantastic opportunity to see the stunning decorations and sparkling lights adorning the homes of many Wasco residents. This event truly captures the festive energy of the holiday season and is an excellent option to enjoy some quality time with family and friends."

Bus driver Mayra Medina guided the tour. "Each year, little by little, we're growing. More people are participating. My favorite part is seeing the kid's faces light up. They're so amused with all the lights and houses participating."

WRPD Manager Chris Serna said, "It was a fantastic turnout. It was amazing to see so many enjoying the tour."

"A highlight was the excitement of those riding the Dial-a-Ride bus and those driving behind in their cars. It was joyful."

The City of Wasco, Dial-a-Ride and California Home Pros sponsored the event.



Residents rode through town on the Dial-a-Ride bus, viewing the decorated homes.



The Cardenas family with Santa Claus. RIGHT: The Gingerbread Men made a special appearance, to the children's delight.







PASTOR'S CORNER

The Savior of the world

**PASTOR JOHNNY MARTINEZ**  
Westside Family Fellowship Church, Wasco

What is the true meaning of Christmas? Is it about Christmas trees, lights and presents? Or is it about good food and reunions? Yes. But it goes much further than that. It's about God sending us a gift that we can enjoy forever.

In Isaiah 45:22, the Lord said, "Look unto

me and be saved, all the ends of the earth." The question is, saved from what? In Isaiah 59:1-2, the Lord says, "The hand of the Lord is not short that he cannot save you, neither is ear closed that he cannot hear you, but your sins have separated between you and your God."

In Romans 6:23, it says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord." This is the true meaning of Christmas.

The Christmas story is about a child born from a virgin woman, his name is Jesus, his purpose is to save the people from their sins. This is the gift of God; this Christmas, let it be the most wonderful time of the year. This child is no ordinary child; he is the son of God. Saint Luke 1:35 says, "and the Angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Spirit shall come upon you and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you:

therefore, also that Holy One which shall be born of you shall be called the Son of God.'" In Luke 1:10-11, the Angel said unto tem, fear not: for; behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which shall be to all the people, for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. 1 John 4:14 and we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

Aquatic Center will get new building

**From Page 1**  
building and do improvements on it. This project would be the quickest timeline and the cheapest of the options. It would cost up to \$2 million, with \$1.25 million coming from the city's General Fund Reserves and \$715,000 from an ARPA grant. It would include improvements to the existing building, an HVAC system and installation of ADA compliance items.

The other two options include tearing down the existing structure and building a

new one. Option #2 would include a building with 2,000 more square feet than the existing building and would cost between \$4.5 million and \$6 million. It had the longest timeline, 26 to 24 months to complete. It would include office space, a snack bar, restrooms and an activity space.

The third option also would include demolishing the existing building, but the new facility would be modular, have fewer amenities, and would be slightly smaller. It would take a lot less time to complete, as

early as January 2025. The cost of this option would be between \$2 million and \$3 million.

After discussion, the council decided

to move forward with the third option, at the lesser cost and earlier completion date, while still getting a new building in the project.

DEATH NOTICES

**Esther Gallegos**, 72, of Wasco, passed away Dec. 17, in Wasco. Peters Funeral Home, Wasco.

**Jazmin Hall**, 32, of Shafter, passed away Dec. 17, in Shafter. Peters Funeral Home, Shafter.

HEADLINES IN HISTORY

**20 years ago:** Dec. 18, 2003  
The old Frosty King was demolished and was in the process of being relocated. Frosty King now sits at 683 Central Valley Hwy.

**70 years ago:** Jan. 8, 1953  
The new Shafter High School auditorium was one of the additions to the school district. It was a part of a \$17-million bond issue.

—Compiled by Erica Soriano



The front page, Jan. 8, 1953

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS.**

The Shafter Press & Wasco Tribune office will be closed  
**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> for Christmas**  
and  
**Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> for New Years**  
We wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year

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# Medi-Cal to cover more undocumented

**VERONICA JACUINDE**  
Wasco Tribune

Beginning Jan. 1, a new law in California will provide adults ages 26 to 49 access to full-scope Medi-Cal services, and immigration status will not matter.

Ethnic Media Services held a news briefing to discuss Medi-Cal's expansion, who benefits, and how, particularly in rural communities such as Wasco. Juan Avila, chief operating officer of the nonprofit Garden Pathways, was one of the panelists. "Medi-Cal will seek to make health care more accessible to the hard-to-reach populations, including undocumented individuals," Avila said.

Medi-Cal eligibility rules, including income limits, will still apply.

All other age ranges already qualify for full coverage of Medi-Cal, regardless of im-

## WASCO

migration status.

"This is significant, especially for rural communities like Wasco where there is a large migrant population that does not seek health services due to costs and fear of their status being exposed."

California is on the frontline of transforming public health care for those who need it most, as it is one of the first states to develop this expansion for the undocumented population and those who are justice-involved, Avila said.

"This expansion also pertains to the justice involved, meaning those currently incarcerated. They will be able to enroll in Medi-Cal before their release so they can access health care services as they transition back to our community."

"The expansion is a big deal because



**Juan Avila, chief operating officer of Garden Pathways.**

it fills the gap between the ages of 26 and 49, and also, by the fact that those undocumented receiving Medi-Cal will not be prevented from getting their citizenship

either."

Avila said that getting Medi-Cal is just the first step, though. The second step is using Medi-Cal and accessing the services, which include a primary physician, dental, vision and mental health services, as well as prescriptions and treatment for drug and alcohol use.

"One of the biggest issues is that we have been enrolling people, but then those who are enrolled don't use it. They don't see their doctors, so we want to encourage people as they become eligible to go and utilize the services, see their doctors and see their dentists, etc."

"Don't wait until you're sick to prevent any future illness and catch things early."

For more information about enrolling in Medi-Cal, call 877-410-8812 or visit Kern County Department of Human Services at KCDHS.org.

# Wasco Council names Garcia mayor

**From Page 1**

recognizing Fortunato Mariscal (police sergeant), Patrick Klawitter (senior police officer), Armando Salcedo (police officer), Agustine Uribe (police officer), Anthony Trout (police officer), Carlos

Harrison (police chaplain), Mike Lynch (police chaplain) and Brian Klassen (police chaplain).

They all took the oath of office administered by City Clerk Maria O. Martinez. The officers are all city employees; the chaplains are volunteers.

Police Officer Agustine Uribe said, "It's a dream come true. This is something I've wanted as a kid. I couldn't see myself doing any other career. Today, I feel like I've accomplished the biggest goal in my life."

Armando Salcedo, police officer, added, "It will be a new culture for the people of Wasco. They can know that we are here to serve and protect them. They can feel free to stop us in our vehicle and talk to us. It's an honor to work for Chief Fivecoat."

Salcedo started law enforcement in 2022 with the Shafter Police Department and served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2011 to 2015. "I think that prepared me for this role because of all of the training and the scenarios that we had in the military that will carry over to my career here in Wasco."

Police officer Anthony Trout has nine years of law enforcement experience as an Air Force civilian. "The best part will be meeting the city's people and building the trust in law enforcement that many cities have lost."

Chief Charles Fivecoat said, "It's exciting to see the



**Police Officer Armando Salcedo, with his son Santiago and daughter Sienna, said the ceremony was a proud moment for him.**



**New Mayor Alex Garcia said he appreciates the council's confidence in returning him to the mayor's seat.**

project come to fruition. I'm still amazed at the support the community has given us, and we are going to endeavor to make sure we do the best job that we can."

The hiring of this latest round brings the team to 19 full-time staff (officers, dispatch and records personnel), two reserves and

three chaplains for a total of 24. "If you add it all up, we have closer to 200 years of experience combined."

The new Wasco Police Department is expected to go live in the first quarter of 2024, according to Fivecoat, though there is no exact target date.

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**SUMMONS**  
**CITACION JUDICIAL**  
**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:**  
**(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):**  
Omar Gonzalez  
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:  
TIFF:  
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):  
Jose Jimenez  
CASE NUMBER (Numero del Caso):  
BCV-22-101308  
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.  
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot find the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.  
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California legal Services Web site ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), or by contacting your local court or coun-

ty bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.  
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.  
Tiene 30 DÍAS CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las cortes de California ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.  
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio

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

The name and address of the court is:

(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

1215 Truxtun Avenue

Bakersfield, CA

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:

(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

Jose Jimenez

357 W. Ash Ave

Shafter, CA

DATE: 06/07/2022

(Fecha)

Clerk, by Tamarah Harber-Pickens

(Secretario

Deputy Alejandra Velazquez

(Adjunto)

Publish Shafter Press November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 2023

**2023-B7248**

**Tehachapi Sewer Jetting**

**2023-B7249**

**Kern County Hydro Jetting and**

**Plumbing**

**2023-B7250**

**KC Hydro Jetting and Plumbing**

**2023-B7251**

**Louies Plumbing Hydro Jetting**

**and Plumbing**

**2023-B7252**

**LPS Hydro Jetting and Plumbing**

**2023-B7253**

**LPS Hydro Jetting**

**2023-B7254**

**Louies Plumbing Sewer Jetting**

**and Plumbing**

**2023-B7255**

22331 Meadows Rd

Tehachapi, CA 93561

County: Kern

22331 Meadows Rd

Tehachapi, CA 93561

Louie James Lomonaco IV

22331 Meadows Rd

Tehachapi, CA 93561

The business is conducted by: Individual

Date the business commenced: 10/24/2023

/s/Louie James Lomonaco IV

Date Statement Filed: 11/15/2023

Date Statement Expires: 11/15/2028

Aimee X. Espinoza

Auditor-Controller-County Clerk

By: M Hernandez

Publish Shafter Press November 30,

December 7, 14, 21, 2023

Date Statement Expires: 12/15/2028

Aimee X. Espinoza

Auditor-Controller-County Clerk

By: M Hernandez

Publish Shafter Press December 21,

28, 2023 and January 4, 11, 2024