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# Wasco Tribune



SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1980

Vol. 42 No. 36 • Wasco, California • Thursday, March 5, 2020

## Students shadow councilors



Ag students, from left, Nicholas Gutierrez, Mackinley Wankum, Mikayla Orozco, Julie Grundt and Carson Jennings.

## High price for attacks on WHS animals

**TONI DEROSA**  
Wasco Tribune

Students who are part of the Wasco High School ag farm are on high alert due to the recent killings of goats and sheep by wild dogs. “This is so sad,” FAA junior Nicholas Gutierrez said about how he felt to lose the animals. Several students expressed their grief over the animals killed in the attacks. “Losing the breeding animals really hit us hard this year,” FAA junior MacKinley Wankum

See A HIGH Page 5



These baby goats are just “kidding” around.

## Hear report on tobacco dangers

**TONI DEROSA**  
Wasco Tribune

It was student government day at Wasco High School and several students shadowed the council members at Tuesday night’s meeting. At the session, the City Council had the students lead the Pledge of Allegiance, open the meeting, conduct the meeting and close it. There were two presentations, with the first being recognition of the varsity girls soccer team for taking first place in the South Sequoia league for the first time ever. “The girls have amazing abilities,” Coach Omar Garcia said. “I’m very proud of you.” The council members congratulated the players in unison for their season. The second presentation was given by the California Health Collaborative group UnidosporSalud. Community Engagement Coordinator Celeste Ramos and Program Manager Jennifer Acidera described to the attendees the dangers of smoking tobacco. Their goal is to restrict the sale of flavored and menthol tobacco. They also want smoke-free policies for multiunit housing and to engage youth in tobacco prevention programs. They also have a goal of engaging with Hispanic/Latino youth to lead them to become advocates for nonsmoking. Acidera described what a Juul, the newer vaping device, is. She said that a Juul is a brand of e-cigarettes that looks like a USB drive. “Juuling carries nicotine throughout the body that can have long-lasting effects on the adolescent brain and body,” she said. The nonprofit is concerned that because flavored tobacco tastes sweet, the youngsters won’t realize how harmful it is. Nicotine, hydrogen cyanide, formaldehyde, lead, arsenic, ammonia, benzene and carbon monoxide are all ingredients in tobacco. Prior to a 2018 campaign for tobacco-free kids, it was found that 43% of Hispanic youth were more likely to use flavored tobacco and that 13.5% of Hispanic youth use tobacco. “One Juul is equal to one pack of cigarettes,” Ramos said.

## WUESD students succeed at History Day



ABOVE: WUESD participants outside the Bakersfield City School District auditorium after the County History Day Competition. RIGHT: Deavanie Caban, Addison Fare-Vasquez and Leah Mealy (not pictured) were champions for their group exhibit on Hector P. Garcia.



**TONI DEROSA**  
Wasco Tribune

The Wasco Union Elementary School District had its best showing ever at the Kern County History Day competition in Bakersfield Saturday. This year’s theme was Breaking Barriers in History. Five students comprising different grades and school sites took home Champion blue ribbons and medals and will be competing at the state level. That competition will be held May 8-10 at William Jessup University in Rocklin. “We went all out on our poster boards,” Advisor Laurie Rodriguez said. “We had a large-size board in order to display more information.” Eighth-grade student Madison Martinez from Thomas Jefferson received a Champion designation for her individual exhibit on Nancy Ward. Ward not only broke racial barriers but also gender barriers. She was a 17-year-old mixed-blood Native American Cherokee woman who lived during the 18th century and used her wounded husband’s gun to lead her tribe to victory when they were in-

involved in a battle with American troops and white settlers. Another Champion for the WUESD was Palm Avenue eighth grader Camila Almanza, who wrote about baseball player Jim Abbott. Abbott, born without a right hand, went on to become a professional baseball player. He played for the California Angels, New York Yankees, Chicago White Sox and Milwaukee Brewers from 1989 to 1999. “When I saw the option of doing my project on Jim Abbott, I knew that this option was perfect,” Camila Almanza said. “My teacher [Mrs. Rodriguez] and I got the opportunity to email him and ask him how he got his number.” Abbott answered Camila Almanza by telling her that one of the Angels team officials chose the number for him. “Jim Abbott relates to the National History Day theme: Breaking Barriers because even though he had a disability, that didn’t stop him from achieving his dream of playing in the majors,” Camila Almanza said. “Having a disability only made him work

See SUCCESS Page 3

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# Community Calendar

For updates or to submit additional information about a club, organization or meeting listed in this public service column, call the Wasco Tribune at 661-292-5100 or email [calendar@WascoTrib.com](mailto:calendar@WascoTrib.com).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NEW:** Gospel concert -- Featuring Jordan River Boys on Sunday, March 8 starting at 11 a.m. At the Griffith Avenue Baptist Church, 408 Griffith Ave. For more info, call 559-786-7307 or 661-758-2516.

**NEW:** Bakersfield's 49th Annual "Collectors Showcase" c Featuring "Classic country collectibles March 14 and 15 in the Hodel's Kern Rooms. For tickets and more information, call Barbara Fields, 661-399-1140.

**NEW:** Wind Wolves Preserve — 7th Annual Spring Nature FREE Festival March 21-22 at 16019 Maricopa Hwy., Bakersfield. Hop on a FREE shuttle bus at the Wasco Library. For more information, call 661-858-1115 or visit [wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve\\_windwolves\\_naturefestival.html](http://wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve_windwolves_naturefestival.html)

**NUEVO:** Wind Wolves Preserce – 7th annual Festival De la Naturaleza De Primavera Marzo 21-22. Subase a un autobus gratuito en se biblioteca publica local: Wasco. Visite nuestro sitio web para el tiempo de traslado: (661)858-1115 [www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve\\_windwolves\\_naturefestival.html](http://www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve_windwolves_naturefestival.html)

**Mobile clinic** — Friday, Feb. 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wasco Library Branch.

**Free tax filing** — The United Way of Kern County is once again offering free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance services to help in the filing of 2019 tax returns March 13, 27 and April 10. Contact the Shafter City Hall at 661-746-5001 for more details.

**Volunteer readers** -- Karl Clemens Elementary School is looking for volunteer readers to read to classrooms Monday through Thursday from 9-10 a.m. Volunteers need to be trained for this project. Contact academic coach Tara Rojas at 661-758-7120, ext. 42007.

**Wasco Animal Shelter** — Donations are welcomed: nonplumping cat litter, kitten/puppy chow and stainless steel buckets. Drop off donations at the shelter, 5409 7th St. Open Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**MOFA** -- Mexican American Opportunity Foundation of Bakersfield is a vocational training program at no cost. Career enhancement classes, externship, computers, typing and GED. Call for more information, 661-336-6821 or email [MAOF.org](mailto:MAOF.org)

## ONGOING

**Senior center serving meal Monday-Friday at 11:25 a.m., 1280 Poplar St.** Friday at 11:25 a.m., 1280 Poplar St.

## Mystery history

Here's this week's challenge, courtesy of the Wasco Historical Society. If you know the location, circumstances, exact or rough date and/or people in the photo, send your educated (or semieducated) guess to the *Tribune*, 406 Central Ave., Shafter 93263, or e-mail it to [mysteryphoto@WascoTrib.com](mailto:mysteryphoto@WascoTrib.com). Winners will be revealed here next week. **LAST WEEK:** 1940s WHS gymnasium.



## MONDAY

**Free Fit Camp** — Get fit with Giselle, 6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, at the Shafter Youth Center, 455 E. Euclid Ave. On Instagram at [getfitgigi](https://www.instagram.com/getfitgigi).

**Zumba Gold** (modified Zumba) — FREE for all ages, 9:30 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at 505 Sunset Ave., Shafter, at the Walker Senior Center. Call Shafter Recreation for information, 661-746-3303.

**North Kern 4H** -- Meetings 7 p.m. second Monday of each month at Karl Clemens Elementary School cafeteria, 523 Broadway St.

**Mayor's office hours** -- Mayor Tilo Cortez Jr. holds office hours on the second Monday, 3-6 p.m., at 810 8th St.

**Rotary Club** -- Wasco Rotary Club meets every Monday at the Wasco Recreation Center at noon.

**Adult education** -- Enroll for classes at 1445 Poso Drive. High school diploma program, ESL, citizenship and Microsoft Office.

## TUESDAY

**FREE Adult Hip Hop Class** -- 7 p.m. at the Shafter Recreation Walker Senior Center at 505 Sunset, Shafter. Classes are \$3 donation. Led by Brandi Root.

**Woman's Club** -- Meeting second Tuesday at noon until May at clubhouse, 1601 7th St.

**WUESD** -- Wasco Union Elementary School District meets second Tuesday in the board room at 6:30 p.m.

**City Council** -- Meets first and third Tuesdays at 6 p.m. on 8th Street.

## WEDNESDAY

**NEW:** Healthy Eating & Active Living — Cal Fresh class is FREE March 11 and 18. 3-4 p.m. at the Wasco Branch Library.

**Community nutrition education** — Classes held Wednesdays at the Wasco Public Library, 3-4 p.m. For additional information, call 661-439-3838.

**Free Fit Camp** — Get fit with Giselle, 6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, at the Shafter Youth Center, 455 E. Euclid Ave. On Instagram at [getfitgigi](https://www.instagram.com/getfitgigi).

**Zumba Gold** (modified Zumba) — FREE for all ages, 9:30 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at 505 Sunset Ave., Shafter, at the Walker Senior Center. Call Shafter Recreation for information, 661-746-3303.

## THURSDAY

**ACTS Class** — Alcohol and chemical treatment series meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the Sounds of Pentecost, 2000 Palm Ave. Rides are available.

## FRIDAY

**Storytime and craft** — At 3:30 p.m. at the Wasco Library.

**Seniors exercise** -- Wasco Senior Center exercise class, starting at 10 a.m. 1280 Poplar St.

**Family Storytime & Crafts** -- 3:30-5 p.m. at the Wasco Library.

**NEW:** Low-cost spay/neuter event -- March 7, 8 & 9, Wasco Courthouse, 810 8th St.. 8 a.m. Cash only! No food for animals morning of surgery. First-come, first-serve beginning at 8 a.m.:

For updates or to submit additional information about a club, organization or meeting listed in this public service column, call the Wasco Tribune at 661-292-5100 or email [calendar@WascoTrib.com](mailto:calendar@WascoTrib.com).

## PET OF THE WEEK

### Jake is looking for a new home

Jake is a multicolored small, adult male Pomeranian mix. He has a medium coat and gets along well with other dogs.

Jake came in as a stray and is approximately 8 years old. He is microchipped, and the owners will be contacted. He's great with staff and other dogs, but he is a bit timid toward large-breed dogs. Jake will be available for adoption on March 11. If you are interested in Jake, please come by the shelter and give him a visit at 7409 7th St. Give us a call at 661-758-7420.

—Wasco Animal Control



## ARREST LOG

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

### FEB. 24

Roberto Gonzalez, age 57, of Wasco, was arrested in the 1000 block of Lily Street for violating an order to prevent domestic violence. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Rodolfo Lopez, age 38, of Wasco, was arrested in the 300 block of D Street for first degree burglary and violation of a court order to prevent domestic violence. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

### FEB. 25

Beverly Noguez, 44, of Wasco, was arrested at Southgate park for violation of park curfew. She was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Harvey Glenn Dodd, 61, of Wasco, was arrested at Southgate park for violation of park curfew. He

was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Norma Garza, 56, of Wasco, was arrested in the 700 block of F Street on an active felony warrant. She was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Jesse Mora, 33, of Wasco, was arrested at Southgate Park for violation of park curfew. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Guadalupe Ramos, 39, of Wasco, was arrested at Southgate Park for violation of park curfew. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

### FEB. 26

Damien Gabriel Torres, 20, of Wasco, was arrested in the 2600 block of Spruce Avenue for possession of narcotics. He was cited and released at the scene.

### FEB. 27

Ramon Enriquez Cortes, 25, of Wasco, was arrested in the 1800 block of Pepper Tree Close for inflicting corporal injury on a spouse, possession of a controlled substance for sale and making a fictitious check. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Alexis Michelle Limones, 24, of Wasco, was arrested in the 800 block of 16th Street for possession of a controlled substance, being under the influence of a controlled substance and possession of unlawful paraphernalia. She was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Veronica Macias, 38, of Wasco, was arrested in the 800 block of 16th Street for child cruelty with the pos-

sibility of causing injury or death, possession of a controlled substance, being under the influence of a controlled substance and possession of unlawful paraphernalia. She was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Ramiro Conrado Enriquez, 31, of Shafter, was arrested in the 800 block of 16th Street on an active felony warrant, and for possession of a controlled substance and possession of unlawful paraphernalia. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

### MARCH 1

Luis Alberto Quezada Aguirre, 59, of Shafter, was arrested at the intersection of Filburn Avenue and Highway 43 for driving without a license. He was cited and released at the scene.

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OneSight volunteers at WUESD Migrant Center.



McFarland student Araceli Mora.



McFarland student Blanca Romo.

# OneSight shares its vision

**TONI DEROSA**  
Wasco Tribune

Migrant family members who need eye-wear were treated to a unique experience this week.

OneSight, an independent nonprofit providing eye care for those in need, visited migrant families in order to provide a free pair of glasses for those who need them.

Kids were given eye exams Tuesday at the Migrant Center, across the street from Clemons Elementary School, and those that needed glasses were given them on the spot.

Onesight expects to do the same for other rural communities in the county, including McFarland, Delano, Shafter and Lost Hills.

On this visit, OneSight focused on the migrant families in the area.

"Appointments for today in Wasco were all prescheduled," Dawn Yager, program manager for clinic operations, said. "We had 600 registered, saw 93 and only 13 did not need glasses."

The organization provided free eye exams, dilation and a free pair of glasses. For many, this was the first time they had ever had an exam and a pair of glasses.

"We hold clinics all over and just completed one in Kansas City," Yager said. "We are headed to Vista, Calif., after we leave Wasco."

OneSight produces lenses, and works with major frame manufacturers to get frames.

OneSight brings eye exams and permanent vision centers to individuals and plac-

es that need eye care the most. "I can take what I know in the optical field and make someone's life better," Yager said.

OneSight started in 1988 with an idea to give away 25 pairs of glasses to local kids who couldn't afford them. It has snowballed into serving thousands of people.

Lead Coordinator Drew Tembeek believes OneSight brings people together.

"Being a volunteer on the OneSight project is an honor," Yager said. "There are 77,000 employees in Luxottica [the parent organization of OneSight] and only 1,300 of them are invited to be on the OneSight nonprofit."

As an optical company, Luxottica has partnered with Chanel, Oakley, Dolce and Gabana and Ray Ban.

Tembeek stated that his favorite part about the program is the diversity and how the volunteers become one big family.

She states there is an unmet need for those who require glasses. Either there is no local optometrist in the area or glasses are unaffordable.

"In 2017, we were in Bakersfield holding a clinic and served 2,400 kids. We had 12 doctors with us and 72 people on a team," Yager said. "Eighty-nine percent of them needed glasses."

Yager has traveled to Chile and Nicaragua for clinics. "I love being in a school setting," she added.

Several students, all from McFarland, said they were happy with their new glasses and those who didn't require glasses were happy to be getting their eyes checked.



An optical illusion on the side of the OneSight truck.

## Success for WUESD students at County History Day



Eighth-grade Champion Madison Martinez, who wrote about Nancy Ward.



Madeline Licea wrote about Comedian El Chavo del Ocho in her Champion historical paper.

From Page 1

harder and that made him a stronger person."

Another Champion individual exhibit in the junior division from was "Max Fleischer: Breaking Barriers in Animation" by TJ's Alex Mendoza and Steven Curbelo.

Their display had an abundance of cartoon characters' pictures that Fleischer created, such as Popeye and Betty Boop.

Fleischer broke the barrier of animation by making the first animation with sound, inventing the rotoscope -- a technique that animators use to trace over motion picture footage, frame by frame, to produce realistic action. This technique helped animation grow.

"Every time we researched deeper into the life of Max Fleischer, we learned new things," Alex and Steven said.

"We were able to conduct an interview by email with two of Max Fleischer's granddaughters and a great-granddaughter," the two students said. "They

provided us with some very detailed information."

Another Champion was Madeline Licea, also from TJ, who presented a paper on El Chavo del Ocho ("How Roberto Gomez Bolanos Broke Barriers in Comedy").

Bolanos was a Mexican screenwriter, comedian, actor, songwriter and director.

He presented messages about social values by using comedy through his character El Chavo del Ocho.

Additionally, he broke a barrier with the creation of his hero character El Chapulin Colorado, Madeline said.

His show became a cultural phenomenon, and many generations of comedians across Latin America consider him the king of the region.

Another Champion from Palm Avenue School in the junior division was the group exhibit about a noted Mexican-American doctor.

"We wanted to do research on Dr. Hector P. Garcia because we wanted to learn more about our Mexi-

See SUCCESS Page 8



Popeye as he appeared in earlier cartoons.



Competitor Emilie Garza.

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# FOCUS ON LOCAL BUSINESS

## Hitchcock's nearing 100 years in business

Wide variety of parts serves all types of needs

**JAMIE STEWART**  
The Shafter Press /  
Wasco Tribune

Hitchcock's has been serving the residents of Shafter and all of Kern County for over 96 years, and according to owner Jesse Escobedo, the business is going strong and will have no problem getting to its centennial celebration.

"Business is really good right now," Escobedo said recently. In addition to his loyal customers, there's plenty of individuals who saw their grandparents shop in Hitchcock's through the years. "Yeah, it seems funny when I have a customer who will

tell me, 'Hey I used to come in here with my grandpa!'"

This business can help no matter if you are a farmer who needs a part for his equipment, a person restoring a car or just someone needing a part for your truck. They have a variety of parts, supplies, cleaners and accessories that will take care of your needs.

Escobedo mentioned that he services some big accounts from the businesses at Lerdo Highway and Highway 99, as well as businesses at the Wonderful Logistics Park.

"We were able to get some big corpo-



Jose Sanchez, owner Jesse Escobedo and David Velez are here to help you with parts needs.

rate accounts from some of the businesses out there. It has been really good."

Anyone who knows Escobedo knows that in addition to running

a successful business, he also does much to give back to the community. He never advertises his generosity, but he doesn't hesitate when

there is a need in the community. They support sports teams, children's organizations and local clubs.

Hitchcock's has a skilled staff including Jose Sanchez and David Velez, who will get most any part that you need, be it in stock or ordering it from their warehouse, which is

and loves the community of Shafter.

Escobedo loves talking about an old saying that was on the paperwork back when Chuck Hitchcock ran the place: "Every time we make a friend, we grow a little."

Escobedo said that he was kind of embarrassed and reluctant

to use the saying, because it was really Chuck's. "But even today, it is a great saying. Every time we make a friend, or take great care of a customer, we grow a little."

With the way Hitchcock's treats their customers, it looks like they will keep growing every day.

Anyone who knows owner Jesse Escobedo knows that in addition to running a successful business, he also does much to give back to the community.



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# A high price for attacks on WHS animals



Pigs in the pen.



Clyde is a favorite goat on the farm.

## From Page 1

said. "Our show season starts in June, and we are here all summer long taking care of our animals."

Wankum said that the students feed, groom, provide medicine if needed, and do their best to protect the animals from predators.

Student Haley Parten lost her Black Dorper sheep in a recent incident.

"We had a total of four goats when the school year started," Haley Parten said. "Now we have a total of one breeder goat remaining."

"The dogs attacked our breeders and hopefully we will be able to get some more," Haley said.

The cost of replacing the animals could be as high as \$3,650 for those lost just this year.

The students spend early mornings, late afternoon and many times evenings tending to their animals. In addition to feeding and grooming their animals, they also exercise them every day.

The students expressed their fear that another dog attack will happen again -- soon.

"The district put up a new light in the ag yard," instructor Anthony Faroa said. "It's helpful at night when it's so dark out here."

The animals graze in a field of grass in moderate weather; however, since the last attack, they spend most of their time inside a tin enclosure to protect them from prey.

Ag instructor Anthony Faroa said that the ag farm has a school farm manager who monitors the area. "Leo Medina resides on the farm. He keeps a close eye on the animals when no one is around."

In addition to the animals, including pigs, there are several crops raised on the property, such as lemons, blood oranges, almonds and pistachios.

Parent Arthur Lee

mentioned he had recently had a telephone conversation with Assistant Superintendent Rob Cobb about the recent deaths and the staff and parents' hopes for a fence around the property to protect the animals. "Mr. Cobb said he was looking into the incident," Lee said.

Lee understands that the students' responsibilities don't end when school gets out in June. For them, taking care of the everyday tasks during the summer months, school vacations and holidays is similar to a daily job.

Lee is uncomfortable with his daughter coming out to the farm alone during the summer evenings when everyone is gone.

Advisor Faroa and Lee -- along with other staff and parents -- support a fence surrounding the ag farm to protect not only the animals

but also the students who tend the animals.

## Amelia B. Reyna



Hello my sleeping beauty  
Been awhile since we have seen you.

Hope to see you soon.  
Hope you are doing well.

We all love you and miss you.

Happy Birthday

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all your grandkids

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**Wasco Tribune**  
SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1980  
Vol. 40 No. 30 • Wasco, California • Thursday, March 8, 2018

**Rail project moving along**

Citizens attending update from the High Speed Rail Authority and California Rail Builders get answers to questions at meeting.

**Housing, jobs, Little League benefiting**

**JAMIE STEWART**  
WASCO TRIBUNE

The High Speed Rail Authority wasco recently at the Wasco Veterans Hall to update citizens on the project and answer questions.

Representatives from the High-Speed Rail Authority and from California Rail Builders, the design builder, gave residents information on the different phases of the project and the timetable to expect.

The segment under construction stretches 22 miles across Tulare and Kern counties -- from a mile north of Kern County to a mile north of Shafter at Poplar Avenue.

Gina Torres, public information officer and liaison based in Wasco, said that the project has been a great collaboration of the CRB and the City of

Wasco. Late in 2017, the city and authority agreed on a plan that given the city a new housing development. Wasco's labor camp was located next to the railroad tracks, separating the housing from the rest of the city. With the HSR, the city suggested relocating the labor camp from the housing development instead. The authority pledged \$10 million toward the relocated project. Completion is expected by April.

Torres also said that the CRB is helping the youth of Wasco. "We have donated funds to get the Wasco Little League Park improved on. There will be a new backstop, and also a new scoreboard. They will be ready by the time the league season begins."

Nearly a third of the jobs on the project must come from the local labor pool,

and Diana Gomez, regional director, said the project is nearing that requirement. "For the Central Valley segment, there were over 1,400 jobs created. 223 of those jobs belong to workers from Kern County," Gomez explained.

CRB chief executive Antonio Cade businesses have had on the project. "There is a requirement that we must use 30 percent local labor and supplies for the project. We have surpassed that goal."

Completion of the 22-mile segment is set for 2020, with the entire project finished by 2025. Construction has already begun on certain stretches of Gages Highway, evidenced by a few recent road closures. More details are planned as the project moves its way north.

For more information, go to the high-speed rail project web site, [hsr.ca.gov](http://hsr.ca.gov).

**Vanguard's very grand opening**

**JAMIE STEWART**  
WASCO TRIBUNE

Vanguard Medical Corp. celebrated the opening of its newest location with a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony at 845 Seventh Street.

Several local dignitaries on hand to help the Vanguard team celebrate, including Gilberto Reyna and City Councilmember Tito Cortez, among others.

Just Garcia of Assemblyman Rudy Salas' office presented an Assembly proclamation for the group.

Mrs. Wasco Vanessa Madrigal cut the ribbon, and hours of the facility were given to the public.

Chief executive Chas Park, M.D., shared his enthusiasm about the expansion.

"We are pleased to welcome everyone and are excited to be a part of the City of Wasco, joining our fine facility in Shafter," Park said, referring to the offices opened in 2014. "Vanguard for Wasco, healthcare for everyone."

The facility will start with two doctors on duty. There are 10 exam rooms, providing space for three doctors if needed.

Radio Lobo broadcast from the event, and

**Wasco deputies make arrest after pursuit**

**JAMIE STEWART**  
WASCO TRIBUNE

Wasco sheriff's deputies arrested a Wasco man on a bicycle after they chased him down on foot.

On March 4, at about 5:23 p.m., Wasco City Substation deputies attempted to stop 29-year-old Joseph Gonzalez at the intersection of D Street and Post Avenue to conduct a probation search of his person. Gonzalez immediately fled from deputies on a bicycle.

Deputies pursued Gonzalez on foot and managed to apprehend him without using any physical force. Deputies searched Gonzalez and found he was in possession of heroin. A records check revealed Gonzalez had a misdemeanor arrest warrant for narcotics possession. Deputies faced the public Gonzalez took when he fled from them and located a loaded .38-caliber special revolver on his person.

Gonzalez was arrested and booked into the sheriff's Custodial Receiving Facility for multiple weapons charges, resisting/delaying/obstructing a peace officer, possession of heroin and participating in a criminal street gang, as well as his misdemeanor warrant. Anyone with additional information regarding this investigation are asked to contact the Kern County Sheriff's Office at 661-861-3110 or the Secret Witness Hot Line at 661-222-8441.

A couple of issues that are concerning local residents that Gomez said would be addressed in the near future are the continuing right-of-way acquisitions and the site of a heavy equipment facility. The right-of-way acquisitions are primarily owned land parcels being purchased by the HSR. Owners are compensated for their property for any necessary relocation of facilities and equipment related to locating the rail train route through their property.

The heavy-equipment facility will be used to service and repair trains and equipment.

"As the project goes on, we will have more meetings such as this, to keep the public informed about the progress of the project and to keep everyone involved in this exciting venture," Gomez said.

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# TJ selects February Students of the Month

The Cougar of the Month Award is designed to spotlight students who best show "Respect the PAW" (Perseverance, Attitude and Wise Choices) at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. The following students were selected for the month of February.

Yatzary Orpineda has been selected as Cougar of the Month for sixth grade. She is very proud of her grades and being a Cougar. Yatzary is also excited for many other reasons, she says.

"I never thought my first year at Thomas Jefferson Middle School [I would] be getting Student of the Month." She looks forward to becoming a seventh grader next year.

Excelling in all her classes, maintaining A's and B's, she has proven

herself a model for her peers in exhibiting perseverance.

The second sixth grader selected was Adam Alvizo. He was excited and surprised to be selected, and he has shown himself to be a great student who works hard to do well in all subjects. Adam makes wise choices by double checking his answers and pushing through in math class, his hardest subject. He is also very proud of all his achievements and his ability to hold a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Kierdyn Wilson has been selected as Cougar of the Month for seventh grade. This is a great accomplishment for Kierdyn, and she is excited to finish off the year knowing it will put her a step closer to her dream college.

She states she is proud of many things "but most of all, I am proud of how I never give up." Recognizing science as her toughest subject, she keeps her positive attitude to each lesson and studies hard.

Also honored was seventh-grader Pedro Trujillo Also.

"I'm most proud of my grades and trying my best by using a growth mindset," he says.

Pedro pushes himself to always reach new goals,



**February Thomas Jefferson Students of the Month: Back row, from left, Aidan Alcantar and Melissa Vargas. Front row from left, Pedro Trujillo, Kierdyn Wilson, Yatzary Orpineda and Adam Alvizo.**

even in P.E. as he struggles with his miles. He doesn't give up and does his best to reach a personal goal. Proud of himself for earning this recognition with his positive attitude, he looks forward to the end of the school year and seeing his peers accomplish their goals as well.

Melissa Vargas has been selected as Cougar of the Month for eighth grade. She hopes to finish off the school year holding her 3.8

GPA that alone will bring her happiness and make the year a success.

"I am most proud of making my mom happy about my improvements" because she has worked hard in her ELA class in order to succeed, she says.

Instead of falling behind, she chooses to push herself and ask for help, making wise choices.

Aidan Alcantar also has been selected as Cougar of the Month for eighth

grade. Over the course of the school year he has persevered through difficulties in the classroom in order to succeed.

Aidan acknowledged his struggle early on and is proud in knowing he has proven himself by picking up his grades and holding A's across the board.

With English being his toughest subject, he has not given up and works hard, earning the award with his perseverance.

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## COUCH'S CORNER

# One way to help the homeless

### SUPERVISOR DAVID COUCH

On Wednesday, Feb. 26, I joined work crews from the Bakersfield Homeless Center and Caltrans as we kicked off a program that was initiated in the District 4 office and will serve the entire county well, especially all the communities of the district.

This program is the litter abatement program on state highways in the county, utilizing the homeless and homeless-vulnerable workers employed through the county's contract we just signed this week with the Bakersfield Homeless Center.

When we try to solve the problem of homelessness, we have to understand that one important component, perhaps the most important component, is that for a person experiencing homelessness to truly get back on their feet, those that can work eventually have to start working again. This "jobs" component of the solution is the one that costs the least, gives a sense of self-worth to the recipient and accomplishes a tangible benefit.

This program is not new, as the City of Bakersfield has been doing it for some time, but it is new to the

county. It has already helped many folks from Bakersfield out of homelessness, and as your District 4 supervisor, I intend to see it help in our rural communities as well. And the beauty of this program is that while we are helping our homeless population get out of homelessness, we are beautify-

ing our communities as well.

The program is starting small, with one crew of six workers to be assigned to clean up state routes five days a week, but expect it to grow, as the state, the county and the general public will likely find additional dollars and additional projects for a program like this, where the return on investment is so great.

I'd say using the same tax dollar to get important community work performed while at the same time getting

people out of homelessness is a great way to utilize our limited resources.

We all have wondered to ourselves, when we see a homeless person on the street, how we can help. We've wondered if we give that person money, how will they use that money? With a wrap-around navigation center funded with private contributions from you in the community with a heart to give, we can increase our jobs programs, we can ensure the surrounding community is clean and safe, and we can help our homeless population get back on their feet.

To the other remaining communities in District 4, you are next. I urge you to join the Homeless

Collaborative's Rural Subcommittee as they find solutions in your communities. Already, I see folks from Wasco there and have spoken with folks from Lamont and Arvin about initiating steps in their communities.

Want to know more about how you might be part of this solution? Contact the district at 661-868-3680 or email us district4@kerncounty.com.

*David Couch is Kern County supervisor, covering District 4, which covers the Shafter and Wasco areas.*



*Those that can work eventually have to start working again.*

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Clemens Feb. 7, 2020 Super Students of the Week.

## Clemens selects Super Students

Karl Clemens School selects special students every week to be recognized for improved skills. Recognized the week of Feb. 7 were, front row from left, are Zanay King, who was recognized for improving herself; Betsaida Damian, who was selected for faithfully turning in her homework; and Bryan Santos, who was selected for working hard and showing kindness toward others.

In the middle row are, from left, Issiah Garza, who was selected for his enthusiasm for learning; Nataly Velasquez, who was selected for always trying her best; and Arlene Guerra, who was selected for always participating in class, trying her best and following instructions.

In the back row, are Vice Principal Jan Hummel, left, and Principal Sam Torres.

## EDITOR'S NOTE | JAMIE STEWART

Another Colours Festival and come and gone, and it was a great time for those who appreciate the arts. There was something for such a wide variety of interests, be it music, painting, dance or theater.

It is so nice to see a small town come together to put this event on, especially when there are a lot of communities have seen their arts programs disappearing. Despite of there being plenty of studies saying the fine arts help students develop as successful students, gain self confidence and a good work ethic, the programs are either seeing their budgets cut drastically or eliminated altogether.

This is so sad. The schools and communities at large put such an emphasis on sports programs that

sometimes the arts programs get overlooked. Well, anyone who has ever met me knows I live for those Friday Night Lights moments every fall, delighting in the smell of the sod, mixed with the aroma of sweat and sometimes a little blood.

Football season is a special time of year and has done its fair share of making it possible for students to excel on the field, as well as off it. Sports teach the kids discipline, the value of hard work, the concept of working with each other to attain a goal, and giving them a confidence that seeps off the field into the classroom and their every day lives.

But, it seems that when it comes to the arts, the credit that is bestowed on sports does not lend itself in the same light.

The fine arts have helped so many kids, myself included, to express themselves, be it by creating a work of art, playing an instrument, acting in a play, or singing in a choir.

When I was in grade school, I started playing the cello. I loved the soulful, deep and rich tone of the instrument. I would get so happy when I nailed a piece of music, bringing that song to life. It also helped

me in my regular class work, having to use muscle memory, memorize chords, read the music -- just a number of skills that made me a better and happier student.

Entering my junior year, the orchestra was dropped by our school due to budget constraints. It crushed me. They did allow me to go to class in the band room for one period a day and practice my cello, which sometimes seemed worse than if they would have just kicked me and my cello out the door. Every day that I spent practicing by myself was a reminder of the importance that they placed on the orchestra program.

Fortunately, I was good enough that the local community college invited me to perform with them in their performances, which kept

me busy playing. But, for the majority that had the rug pulled out from under them, it was like a slap in the face. It essentially was the school telling you that your pas-

sion, your talent and ability were not valued enough to keep the arts alive.

I had hoped when we moved to Shafter High that they would have an orchestra program, but theirs had been eliminated as well, just leaving the band and choir programs intact.

I love the cities' band programs, as they have excellent teachers, amazing musicians and great support from the community. I just wish that this support would have been enough to keep all of the arts alive. Maybe with the success Shafter has had, and the amazing talents of the Shafter Symphony that will be visiting the schools later this week, that the passion Shafter has for the arts will result in a rebirth of a complete fine arts program.

*Jamie Stewart is editor of The Shafter Press. Opinions expressed in this column are his own, and do not necessarily reflect those of the paper or its management.*



*The fine arts have helped so many kids, myself included, to express themselves.*

## NOTICE TO ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS

The Wasco Union High School District has issued a "Request for Qualifications" seeking proposals from qualified firms interested in providing architectural services for the District regarding:

### Wasco Union High School District Agricultural Farm Improvements

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Selection of a proposal will be based upon qualifications to provide the services requested. Cost will be considered as one of several factors, but will not necessarily be determinative.

For questions or to request a copy of the Request for Qualifications, contact:

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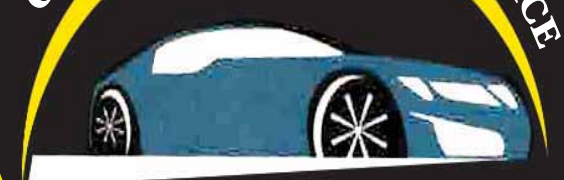
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PASTOR'S CORNER

Learn from the past, but learn to plow ahead

PASTOR JIM NEAL

"If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small." --Proverbs 24:10  
"Strength and growth come only through continuous effort and struggle." --Napoleon Hill

Have you ever come against a struggle, a roadblock or a seemingly insurmountable obstacle? Of course you have, if you have lived any length of time or tried anything considered off the beaten path. Sometimes those barriers are self-imposed; other times they are tossed in your path by a boss, a co-worker, a foe or friend. It matters not how they got there; they hurt and challenge just the same.

Dr. Albert Schweitzer once said of adversity, "One who gains strength by overcoming obstacles possesses the only strength which can overcome adversity."

The immediate action for many is to try and skirt the issue, take a detour or in some way play "ostrich" by pretending they are not there, better known as escapism. I imagine that becomes normal as we are bombarded by commercials that tell us there is a better way, a new pill for consumption or a plan that is "failproof," be they from TV, radio, Facebook or email.

However, haven't we more times than not found that once the storm has been weathered, the obstacle overcome, or the mountain of grief climbed that we stand perhaps a little battered and bruised but standing taller. We find ourselves stronger, wiser and more confident. Funny how life works, isn't it? It is the struggle that makes the victory so sweet. I do not know who said this but the nugget, "don't curse the darkness, light a candle" sure applies to my

life and to yours as well, I am sure.

Solomon in all his wisdom said, "If you faint in the time of adversity, your strength is small!" I wish I could always say that I enjoy this Proverb; however, many times I am challenged by it because I seem to find myself "fainting" in the times of adversity, at least in the beginning. Yet, I find and have found that the strength comes as I realize the basic truth that of his axiom, and that is that adversities are a part of life, period! It is when we battle through an adversity that we are once again reminded of the awesome truth of Paul's words in Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good for those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose." We cannot escape them until our bodies are laid to their final rest.

So, what is the solution? Victory

comes as we remember these three points: 1) challenges, obstacles and hurdles are a part of life, and are God-ordained -- get used to it; 2) They can either make us bitter or better, our choice -- choose wisely; and 3) Whatever we spend our time focusing on becomes the giant in our lives; so, focus on the solution, victory and the power within (Philippines 4:13) and not on the problem that lies before you. (Philippines 4:4-8)

I suppose the biggest challenge is that we live life in the gear of "drive" but we learn and grow in the gear of "reverse." Hindsight as is said is always 20/20; however, we must plow through to receive that perfect vision and thought.

Have a great week plowing ahead...

Jim Neal is pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Shafter.

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**FOOD SERVICE WORKER SUBSTITUTE**  
Positions available in Greater Bakersfield Area, Shafter and Arvin. 3 hours daily. Knowledge of basic methods of food prep, cleaning & procedures preferred, but not req'd. Training will be provided. Basic testing req'd. \$13.67/hr. Computerized register helpful. **Apply online at www.kernhigh.org by 3/13/2020.**

7 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**General Education Instructional Aide**  
5.25 hrs/day, 8:15 am - 2:15 pm  
Minimum qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent AND AA Degree or 48 semester units or a paraprofessional exam.  
To review the essential job functions and apply, visit the Richland School District website at: **www.rsdshafter.org**  
Equal Opportunity Employer

7 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Special Education Instructional Aide**  
- 2 positions: 3 hrs/day 11:15 am - 2:15 pm and 3.25 hrs/day, 8:00 am - 11:15 pm  
Minimum qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent AND AA Degree or 48 semester units or a paraprofessional exam.  
To review the essential job functions and apply, visit the Richland School District website at: **www.rsdshafter.org**  
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7 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**SRPD Seeks Summer Activity Leaders**  
Shafter Recreation seeks part-time Activity Leaders for our 2020 Summer Day Camp. Camp hours are 7:30 am - 5:30 pm, Monday thru Friday. Activity Leaders will work up to 5.25 hours a day and up to 5 days a week. Hours will be flexible to meet the needs of campers. Applicants should be at least 18 years old, experienced at working with kids from K-8th grade, flexible, enthusiastic and creative. Skills/knowledge related to one or more of these areas are a plus: fitness/sports, coding, drama, photography, weaving, music, science/math, art, Legos and/or Guitar Hero. **Interested persons can apply at 700 E Tulare Ave., Shafter. Deadline to apply is March 20th.**

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10 AÑOS.**

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