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THE WASCO Tribune

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Valentin Medina appointed new mayor

VERONICA JACUINDE

Wasco Tribune

In a rare packed house, the Wasco City Council has appointed former Mayor Pro Tem Valentin Medina as the next mayor, with Councilmember Eddie Saldaña taking over as mayor pro tem. This transition

New Wasco City Mayor Valentin Medina

comes in the wake of the controversial resignation of Mayor Alex Garcia, who stepped down following allegations involving an alleged meeting with a minor.

Medina said Tuesday night, "It's an honor to

serve as mayor of Wasco. This is not how I saw myself becoming mayor, but it is crucial to continue pushing forward with the city council and leave this city in a better place. I hope to accomplish unity within our council and community."

"We need to continue engaging with the community, and I invite them to be

WASCO

active participants in matters that are important to them by attending City Council meetings, which take place on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6 p.m. at the City Council chambers."

"I am really excited for the future of the City of Wasco with the appointment of our new mayor and mayor pro tem. Mayor Medina and Mayor Pro Tem Saldaña are both great people who care about the City of Wasco," Councilmember Vincent Martinez said. "I look forward to them bringing new ideas and perspectives to our council." Sandra Castañón of the Young Democrat Leaders of Kern County voiced her criticism about the Garcia debacle. "First and foremost, the accusations against Mayor Garcia are despicable acts and

See VALENTIN Page 4

Mayor Garcia resigns amid allegations, public outcry

VERONICA JACUINDE

Wasco Tribune

With new information being revealed over the days surrounding an alleged meeting in Bakersfield with two men portraying one as a minor, Mayor Alex Garcia resigned as Wasco mayor and councilmember early Thursday

In a statement, he said he has "been healing following my recent assault; I am now finally able to speak with you to announce, with a heavy heart and profound regret, my resignation.

"I want to assure you that the accu-

sations made against me are mischaracterized and inaccurate and certainly do not reflect who I am or what I stand

Davonn Bradley, who, along with a longtime friend he calls his "brother," Wess, posed as the minor, said, "He did the right thing by stepping down, as it

See MAYOR Page 4



The Shafter Police Department and Shafter Lions Club had their bus at the event.

First Friday brings fun to Shafter downtown

JAMIE STEWART

The Shafter Press

The city of Shafter held its First Friday event on Friday August 2, in downtown Shafter, drawing a crowd for an eve-SHAFTER

ning of fun. The event is a continuing series of events that the city started last

year to great success. The brainchild of Mayor Chad Givens, the latest in the series had

good food, music, games for the kids and a lot of vendors displaying a variety of items. There was jewelry, clothing and

information booths, as well as organizations promoting an array of services.

The Shafter Recreation Department provided activities for the kids to do, and one of the main objectives of this month's event was to give a head start to the Shafter Lions Club Stuff the Bus event that



Rockamole provided the entertainment.

was held on Saturday,. The bus was parked downtown, and organizers and volunteers were collecting donations of backpacks and school supplies that will go to students in the Richland School District.

The First Friday events are aimed at creating fun things to do for the entire family in Shafter. "We are providing an alternative for families to have something fun to do right here, without having to take themselves and their dollars out of town, keeping them right here in Shafter," Givens said.

There also were a number of classic cars on display at the event, as well as police vehicles and a display from Minter Field Air Muse-

There First Friday this year, on Friday Sept. 6

"I just love these First Friday events. There is something for everyone here. It is so much better to come right here in town instead of heading to Bakersfield, or someplace else," said Katie Munghan, who was there with her two daugh-

ters, Kellie and Karrie. "I wouldn't

mind if they had one of these every

month year round."



The City Council discusses Gabriel Gonzalez's proposed contract amendment.

Council OKs buyout for manager

JAMIE STEWART The Shafter Press

The Shafter City Council voted to approve a buyout option for the employment contract between the City of Shafter and its City Man-SHAFTER

ager Gabriel Gonzalez. Gonzalez, who began with the city in 2020, has a contract that expires in March 2025. Gonzalez has announced to the council that he plans to retire at the end of his contract. Gonzalez also said that he would be willing to accept a buyout of his current contract if the city

finds a replacement before the expiration of his contract. In the terms of the buyout proposal, the city would pay Gonzalez the lesser of two options. The first option is to pay him six months base salary, plus his cell phone expenses. The cost of six months of base salary for Gonzalez is approximately \$114,000. The other option would be to pay Gonzalez the remaining months left on his contract, which would include his base salary and cell phone, which ever option would be the lesser of the two, depending on when and if

they find a replacement before the expiration of the contract. The city, with either option, would also keep paying his health insurance premiums until the end of the contract in March 2025, unless Gonzalez finds employment before that time and it includes paid health insurance.

The council approved the resolution, which would

take effect if a replacement is found before March 2025. In other action, the council approved $\,$ a plan to move forward with a project that would result in a roundabout located at the intersection of Seventh Standard Road. This project includes an initial widening of Seventh Standard Road. The project involves the participation of the city of Bakersfield, Kern County and the city of Shafter. Members agreed that this roundabout would help all three agencies and would be beneficial for the future connection of Seventh Standard Road to Interstate 5. The project is at a cost of over \$4 million, which is approximately \$1.5 million per agency.

The Wonderful Company has offered to pay the city of Shafter's portion of the cost, in return for future traffic impact fee credits for future development at the Wonderful Industrial Park, in an amount equal to its contribution to the project. An agreement between the city and the Wonderful Company to finalize this arrangement still needs to be developed and brought before the council for consideration.

Community Calendar

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Waste collection event -Kern County Public Works will be hosting a drive up and drop off hazardous waste free of charge Saturday, Aug. 10, at the Shafter-Wasco Recycling and Sanitary Landfill, 17621 Scofield Ave., 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Wasco cooling center – A cooling center is now open at the Old Court House, 810 8th St., 1-7 p.m. when temperatures hit 105 and above. Residents who are registered to the city system will be notified a minimum of two days in advance by text and a phone call when the center will be open. Call the city clerk's office at 661-758-7215 for information on how to register.

Shafter cooling center – A cooling center will be open 1-8 p.m. at the Walker Senior Center in Shafter when temperatures reach 105 and approved by the county. For more information, call Shafter Parks and Recreation, 661-746-3303.

Kids summer program – Free registration at Shafter Youth Center. Full or half days available Monday, June 3-Friday, Aug. 2, ages 6 and older. For more information, call 661-746-8235 or register online at capk.org.

Downtown Shafter Summer Fun Series -First Fridays Aug. 2, Sept. 6 and Oct. 4. 5-9 p.m. Live music, vendors and more.

Farmers Market — Downtown Shafter Square, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., every Saturday, until

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

THURSDAY

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

Meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Hall at Barker Park. Food distribution - Shafter Recreation

and the Gleaners have food distribution every first and third Thursday of each month at the W.C. Walker Senior Center, 505 Sunset Free farmers 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 resi-

SATURDAY

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

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

Minter Field Air Museum - Open Fridays and Saturdays 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 fea-

JULY 31

Mystery history



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@The Shafter-Press.com. Winners will be revealed here next week. LAST WEEK: Richland Upper Grades 7th grade 1963 class with current resident Susan Grisham in the last row, third from last.





Here's this week's challenge, courtesy of the Wasco Historical Society. If you know the location, circumstances, exact or rough date and/ or people in the photo, send your educated (or semieducated) guess to the Tribune, 455 Kern St., Suite E, Shafter, CA 93263, or e-mail it to mysteryphoto@WascoTrib.com. Winners will be revealed here next week. LAST WEEK: The Wasco Garage in 1924 was located at the end of 7th Street, between F and E streets.



As reported by the Shafter

Police Department **JULY 26**

Misty Michelle Barrios, 42, of Shafter, was arrested in the 700 block of South Shafter Avenue for possession of unlawful paraphernalia and violating a domestic court order.

JULY 27

Peter Beltran Lerichi, 41, of Shafter, was arrested in the 300 block of Pacific Avenue for disorderly con-

duct: alcohol.

Miguel Angel Ortega Franco, 41, of Shafter, was arrested in the 100 block of East Orange Avenue on a bench warrant/failure to appear on a misdemeanor charge.

JULY 29

Beverly Jolene Noguez, 48, of Shafter, was arrested in the 700 block of South Grant Street on a bench warrant/failure to appear on a misdemeanor charge. **JULY 30**

Pedro Moreno Garza,

57, of Shafter, was arrested in the 400 block of East Lerdo Highway on a bench warrant/failure to appear on a misdemeanor charge and for possession of a controlled substance.

Leonel Gonzalez Jr, 41, of Shafter, was arrested at West Fresno Avenue and Central Valley Highway on a bench warrant/failure to appear on a misdemeanor charge.

AUG. 1 Fausto East Cebadilla Street in Wasco on five Ibarrola, 43, of Shafter, was felony warrants and three arrested in the 300 block misdemeanor of Kern Street for inflict-

ing corporal injury on a

spouse/cohabitant. AUG. 2

Lenin Cervantesrendon, 37, of Shafter, was arrested in the 3300 block of Whispering Brook Lane for burglary in the first degree.

AUG. 3

Omar Chavez, 34, of Shafter, was arrested in the 100 block of West Orange Avenue for obstruction, destroying/concealing evidence, trespassing on property and possession of a controlled substance.

Antonio Diaz Lopez, 32, of Shafter, was arrested in the 200 block of Central Avenue for disorderly conduct: alcohol and possession of an opener container.

AUG. 4

Daniel Eugene Dale Holder, 43, of Shafter, was arrested in the 30300 block of Riverside Street on a bench warrant/failure to appear on a felony/misdemeanor charge and for possession of a controlled BUTTONWILLOW

As reported by the Kern

County Sheriff's Office, Buttonwillow substation: **JULY 30**

Mintzie Monserat Sanchez, 38, of Wasco, was arrested in the 900 block of Birch Street in Wasco on

a misdemeanor warrant. She was cited and released at the scene. Michael Thomas King, 63, of Wasco, was arrested in the 900 block of Birch

ARREST REPORT

He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Alejandro Meneses, 29, of McFarland, was arrested at the intersection of Wildwood Road and Highway 46 in Wasco on a felony warrant. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.
WASCO

As reported by the Wasco Police Department: **JULY 29**

Pamela Elaine Figueroa, 42, was arrested in the 1500 block of 11th Street on a misdemeanor bench warrant. She was cited and released at the scene.

Jaime Lopez Bravo, 35, was arrested in the 800 block of Pineapple Court for second-degree robbery and vandalism. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

JULY 30

Victor Adame, 21, was arrested in the 1600 block of Highway 46 on a misdemeanor bench warrant, He was cited and released at

Martin Torres, 43, was arrested in the 700 block of Birch Avenue on a felony arrest warrant and a misdemeanor arrest warrant. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

JULY 31

Elois Rachelle Thomas, 43, was arrested in the 1200 block of 16th Street on a felony bench warrant. She was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Leonel Angel Vargas, 35, was arrested int the 1900 block of 4th Street for possession of unlawful paraphernalia. He was cited and released at the scene.

Luis Antonio Mendez Jr., 38, was arrested in the 2300 block of Poso Drive on a felony bench warrant and a misdemeanor bench warrant. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Fa-

AUG. 02

Anthony Steve Larue, 61, was arrested in the 500 block of D Street on a felony arrest warrant and a misdemeanor arrest warrant. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

See ARREST Page 3

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(661-292-5100; vjacuinde@wascotrib.com)

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Editor: Jamie Stewart

(661-292-5100; jstewart@TheShafterPress.com) Office Manager / Distribution Coordinator: Erica Soriano

(661-292-5100; esoriano@TheShafterPress.com) Contact The Shafter Press at P.O. Box 789, Shafter. CA

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Fostering community connections and building strong relationships is a top priority for Wasco Police Department Lieutenant Alecio Mora and Chief of Police Charles Fivecoat. MIDDLE: The Gomez family enjoyed a fun day with Sergeant Lloyd Galutira and Officer Maria Rocha at "Chill with a Cop." RIGHT: Wasco resident Blasa Valencia, who attended the event with her granddaughter Samantha, said it was an excellent opportunity to gain valuable insights into safety issues.

WPD event builds bonds, gains trust

VERONICA JACUINDE

Wasco Tribune

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

Held in a relaxed setting with ice cream in hand, the event provided a unique opportunity for residents to connect with the men and women who serve and protect their city.

For grandmother Blasa Valencia, it was a chance to thank the WPD, "Because they're consistent about patrolling in my

WASCO

neighborhood. I live in a 'hot' zone, and they drive by often. It's a lot more tranquil now. When we call them, they respond quickly."

"It's good to communicate with our Police Department," Wasco resident Israel Garza said. "The people are saying they are doing a great job. Here, you can meet with the officers and get to know them, and that is what it should be: for the community to have a good relationship with our Police Department and support them."

The event was geared towards children, and parent Juan Moncada said, "It's wonderful for them to ask questions and spend time with the officers. So, they can overcome any fear and understand that the police are here for the people."

Another parent, Ruth Medina, agreed. "It's good exposure for the kids to trust the police. Having these types of events builds a sense of community. They should have more."

Sergeant Lloyd Galutira spearheaded the event. "So many kids came up to us just wanting to talk to us about anything and to take pictures. I think we made a positive impact for sure."

Officer Maria Rocha commented on the event's focus on involving youth and children: "They'll see if they ever need anything, we are here for them. We want them to feel comfortable with us."

She is currently working on an anti-tobacco grant. At the event, she distributed educational materials to raise awareness about the dangers of smoking and vaping. Additionally, she handed out free stickers, pencils, erasers, coloring books, crayons and notebooks.

Eight-year-old Jose Peña, Jr., said, "I like the police." He shared that he liked the school supplies and ice cream. "I learned that if I smoke, I can get into trouble, and it's very bad for me."

MV AutoWorks, Grocery Outlet, Walmart and the Brazilian Wax Boutique of Bakersfield generously sponsored the

Grocery Outlet owner Amor Regis said, "We like to support the WPD and engage with the community. I think events like this are important because they give people security and safety now that the

Tin Cup celebrates 7th anniversary



pleasantly surprised by the great turnout.

JAMIE STEWART

The Shafter Press

Tin Cup of Shafter recently celebrated seven years in business with an event that included vendors, raffles, live music, coffees and drinks.

Manager Shakira Willis said that she was pleasantly surprised with the response on Thursday. "I wondered what kind of crowd there would be because of the event being in the morning during the week, but it has been really great."

Willis and her staff were busy selling their signature sandwiches and drinks, giving customers raffle tickets. They gave away prizes, products featured in the Tin Cup store, including items made by local small businesses. The shelves were

SHAFTER

stocked with soaps and accessories by Pompa's Small Shop, products by Jenny the Almond Girl, jewelry and a variety of breads and baked goods from Haley Plaza.

At the event, there was also tasty cotton candy made on site by Spin Bliss, a local company that caters to parties, company events, anniversaries and school functions.

David Bloemhof and his jazz trio entertained the crowd.

Willis said that it has been a great seven years and hopes that there will be plenty more to come. 'We are so grateful to the community of Shafter and the wonderful customers that have supported us through the years," she said.

Willis actually began work at the Lerdo

Highway location a year before Tin Cup existed. "I started at the site when it operated as Covenant Coffee. I have been here at Tin Cup from the beginning."

The store started out with some coffee drinks, teas and a few baked goods, and has grown in business as well as product, with an array of sandwiches and other items. "I just love their sandwiches and their teas," said Sharon Sandon, who was there with her sister and daughter. Another customer on Thursday was the owner of one of the businesses whose items are sold there. Michelle Pompa, who stopped by to grab a drink and try one of Haley Plaza's

The store is open a bit later on Fridays, letting the customers enjoy live music from Bloemhof and his band.

New Generation Church shows love

VERONICA JACUINDE

Wasco Tribune

On Saturday, New Generation Church hosted its 9th Annual "Loving Our City" community outreach event, designed to offer families a safe and enjoyable experience. The free event featured food, games, prizes, raffles, live music and preaching. This year, they distributed 450 backpacks.

Pastor Frank Sanchez proudly said, "We are a diverse, bilingual church. We have Anglo, Black and Hispanic families. Our church is very committed to helping the community, and to give you an idea, we have 120 volunteers today."

"One of the important goals of this event is not only giving back to the community but also sharing the word of God," Pastor Sanchez emphasized. "Today, I will share a message about 'Where will you spend eternity?' The Bible gives us very specific instructions about what God wants from us, and the Bible says in Ro-

WASCO

mans that He wants all of us to come to repentance."

The event drew almost 1,000 people. Attendees enjoyed music from a DJ and the church's worship team, who performed Christian songs in both English and Spanish. Funded entirely by the church, this year's event cost over \$30,000 to organize, with additional donations bringing the total closer to \$45,000.

Pastor Sanchez believes the expenditure was worthwhile. "Just seeing the families enjoy themselves without worrying about expenses is worth every penny. They can come in and have a good

"It's really family-oriented. I like it because the children have fun and interact with others from the community," said Sara Romero, who came with her 4thgrade son, Izayah Cortez. "Events like this are great because they bring us together,



snow cones to the Balderas family.

and it's all free. He took home a backpack today, which arrived at the right time,

since school starts this week." "I like it. It's something different in Wasco. It's good for the people to unite. You get to see old friends and make new ones," said Thomas Aguerria, who attended with his wife, Lorena. "I'm grateful for the church that they organize this. It's a chance to bring people into the church and save souls. There are a lot of hurting people out there, and maybe this will help them with that and give them an opportunity to be free from drug and alcohol

abuse." Volunteer Priscilla Baltazar has been a member of New Generation Church for three years. "God puts it in my heart to volunteer—to serve him and the community. This year, it's a good turnout. Some people think that 'Loving Our City' is about religion, but it's not about religion; it's about spreading a message that we are all brothers and sisters."

ARREST REPORT

From Page 2

As reported by the Wasco Police Department: AUG. 02

2300 block of Parkside

Drive on a felony bench war-

Abdalwahab Ali Awnallah, 45, was arrested in the rant. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility. AUG. 3

Brian Marshall Henry, 45, was arrested in the 1700 block of Primrose Court for violation of a court order. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Destiny Angel Rocha, 24, was arrested in the 1500 block of Greenbrier Court for disorderly conduct: alcohol. She was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility. Matthew Lee Parkhurst,

MissionBank.com

48, was arrested in the 2400 block of Highway 46 for being under the influence of drugs. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

AUG. 4

Miguel Mirandafajardo, 33, was arrested in the

(661) 237-6500

1110 E Lerdo Hwy, Shafter

1500 block of F Street on a misdemeanor bench warrant. He was cited and released at the scene,

Daniel Alejandro Martinez, 31, was arrested at the 1000 block of 7th Street for possession of a controlled substance and

possession of unlawful paraphernalia. He was cited and released at the scene.

Lionel Lopez, 39, Was arrested at the intersection of E and 6th streets on a felony arrest warrant. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Wolfgang H. Renken OD Inc 1301 Seventh Street, Wasco, CA 93280

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Valentin Medina appointed new mayor

From Page 1

deem him a public threat. I thank members Gilbert Reyna and Vincent Martinez for their promptness in addressing and denouncing his actions."

"However, unbeknownst to me, members Eddie Saldaña and Valentin Medina have yet to make a public statement. Likewise, I have yet to see the city itself release a statement. As a community member, I would like to know what is going on in my community. And I'd like to remind the gentlemen of the council that your position of power does not absolve you from accountability and responsibility to protect the youth and community of Wasco."

Lucia Lara has lived in Wasco for over 50 years. About the former Mayor Garcia, she said, "For me, it was a shame that he resigned because he was the only person who supported and listened to me. When one of the water meter covers was broken, I called the city to inform them about the broken cover, but no one came. Weeks passed until Mr. Garcia responded. He came, took a photo, and the very next day, early in the morning, a new cover was installed."

"I don't agree with what is being said about what happened with him. I can't be sure because I don't have any proof of anything, but it makes me very sad because he was always the one who helped and listened to me."

Garcia resigned effective Aug. 1, making the District 5 council position vacant. Council members were tasked with decid-



entin Medina and Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Saldaña taking charge.

ing whether to fill the vacancy through an appointment or a special election.

With an appointment, there would be minimal financial impact, primarily for advertising costs. However, should the council choose to hold a special election, it would have a significant, unbudgeted cost and require substantial staff resources to accomplish with short notice.

The council decided to proceed with filling the vacancy through an appointment and approved guidelines on how to do so. City Manager Scott Hurlbert said, "There will be an application and interview process, and ultimately, the council members will appoint an individual to that vacant seat."

Frank Almanza expressed interest in filling the position. "I'm a business owner and concerned citizen. I also work at the prison. I want to make sure every single citizen is represented correctly."

The council also reorganized City Council committee assignments due to the vacancy caused by Garcia's resignation. The new committee assignments were as follows:

-Interviewers for the recruitment of the boards and commissions: Martinez

Committee to review and advise in relation to real estate transactions: Medina

-Kern Council of Governments Alternate: Saldaña

-City Selection Committee alternate:

-San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Special City Selection Committee member: Martinez

-Kern Economic Development Corporation: Valentin Medina

The council chamber was standing-room only, and several media outlets were in attendance. During the meeting's public comments portion, Lara shared her frustrations, "I do not come to judge because everyone is their own person. The only thing I can say is that this council ignores all of us and does nothing for the town. Besides, in such a small town, we have division.

"The gentlemen on the council will never leave. We will always have the same people here. We are ignored in the town. They do what they want and are uninterested in the town, including Mr. Gilberto Reyna.

"Others and I have spoken with him about the alley on Sharon Court because it has serious problems. We have asked to close the alley. Many people have been killed in the alley – one right in front of my house. I have had a gun pulled on me. That man came through the alley. Students from a nearby school hold fights there.

"It's been years since Mr. Reyna said the problem would be fixed, but it has yet to be resolved. Councilmembers have come and gone, but Mr. Reyna is the one who has remained. I am not attacking him at all, as he said at the meeting.

"I am asking what is happening, why we haven't received a response, and why nothing has ever been done. If he tells us that it will be fixed and it isn't, he should instead tell us no, and that's it. Simply put, neither he nor anyone else can take away my freedom of speech."

Councilmember Gilberto Reyna remarked, "In response to Mrs. Lucia Lara's concerns, I have actively addressed her request to close a walkthrough alley near her home. After careful consideration, our city staff determined that closing the walkthrough was not feasible.

"However, we have collaborated with the elementary school officials and Wasco PD to ensure that the area remains free of loiterers. While I understand that this may not be the solution Mrs. Lara had hoped for, I want to assure her and all Wasco residents that I am committed to addressing their concerns. I empathize with Mrs. Lara's frustration and wish my and the staff's efforts yielded a different result."

Mayor Garcia resigns amid allegations

From Page 1

was what the public demanded. The evidence is overwhelming: he went to meet with the 15-year-old boy and brought drugs. He has no business in public office. People like him don't stop unless they're brought to justice. All we wanted to do was protect kids from predators like him."

"We're relieved that he finally resigned. His actions were a betrayal of the public's trust and a danger to our community. Our main goal has always been to safeguard our children, and we hope this serves as a warning to others who might consider preying on minors."

Councilmember Vincent Martinez, who called for the mayor's resignation on Tuesday, encouraged interested individuals to participate more in public life. "I encourage everyone to be more involved with their city government. Anyone interested in running for the vacant council seat or any of the three seats up for election this year, including mine, should reach out to City Hall for more information."

Councilmember Gilberto Reyna, who also expressed his indignation earlier in the week by demanding Garcia step down, said, "The mayor's resignation has removed the negative attention and divisions brought about by his actions. It will allow our community to embark on the healing journey and seize the opportunity to continue improving our city. I invite all of you to take part in the process."

Mayor Pro Tem Valentin Medina said

given the gravity of the allegations. "The community spoke loud and clear about what needed to happen, and that was for Alex to resign from office. This step is essential to restoring the public's trust and ensuring accountability in our local government. We need to continue pushing Wasco forward without distraction. I invite our community to stay informed and engage on important issues by attending City Council meetings held every first and third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the council chambers."

"Leadership is not just about holding a position; it's about making decisions that serve the community's best interest. The mayor's resignation marks a new chapter for our city, filled with opportunities for growth and change," Councilmember Eddie Saldaña said.

Councilmembers will appoint a mayor on Tuesday at their regular meeting and will consider the details of filling the seat.

"The rules of filling a vacant council position are very specific based on how much time is between the resignation and the next regular election," City Manager Scott Hurlbert said. "We must ensure we follow those rules before I can comment on the city's next steps."

Garcia ended his resignation statement by saying he was deeply sorry that his term ended under these circumstances and added, "I am looking forward to witnessing the future of Wasco, and all the new council will have to offer, and I will continue to root for and support this city



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The Apple Market team: Bottom row, from left, is Kennia Escobedo, Angeles Chavez and Yesica Vazquez. Back row, from, left, is Arnulfo Perez Contreras, Jose Da Ramon, Alejandro Ortega, Jose Luis Madrigal, Richee Ovadi, Maria Brambila, Jennifer De la Cruz, Jimena Tejeda and Silvia Davila. Explore the world of fresh produce and quality products at Apple Market's fully stocked aisles.

Downtown Wasco welcomes Apple

VERONICA JACUINDE

Wasco Tribune

Fisel "Carlos" Obaid, who began his journey in the grocery business at just 16, celebrated a significant milestone on Saturday with the grand opening of Apple Market downtown. He also revealed plans to open a second location on Highway 46, promising an even better shopping experience for the residents of Wasco.

"The highlight was that the whole street was full of people waiting to get into the store after the ribbon was cut. That was the most beautiful moment," Obaid said. "We're blessed to be in the city of Wasco with great people, in a great community."

Guests enjoyed complimentary food, drinks and prizes, including swing sets, BBQ grills, big-screen TVs, bikes, Chris Brown concert tickets and Magic Mountain tickets. A mechanical bull added to the festivities.

Obaid acknowledged the effort behind the grand opening. "There was a lot of work to launch the store. I had a team working morning and night to get the store up and running. Thank God I had a great team that knows what they are do-

Raised in Shafter and now 30, Obaid grew up in a family-owned grocery business, developing a passion for the industry early on. He opened an Apple Market in Shafter in 2020 and another in Porterville in 2023. His brother-in-law and partner, Ali, operates over 20 locations in the Central Valley under the State Food Supermarkets name.

"We're expanding into other cities with

WASCO

three more locations coming soon. We're still finalizing properties, but details will be announced soon." Obaid believes the expansion will be smoother with Ali's extensive experience.

His vision for the future of Apple Market is one of continued success, and he plans to achieve this by providing only the

"Our mission is to offer the highest quality products at the lowest prices with excellent customer service and care. The focus is on choice and prime meats, and our vegetables and fruits are fresh and sourced locally. We have friendly customer service, and most of our employees are bilingual." Apple Market also caters to Wasco's

large Latino community, with a wide selection of Mexican products, including traditional ingredients, snacks and bever-Store manager Richee Ovadi com-

mented, "It's a nice store, and a lot of people are excited. It's great that we are downtown; it's convenient for our shoppers." Ovadi shares Obaid's commitment to customer satisfaction. "I'm not saying

we're the best, but we are going to try our best to be the best. We'll let the people decide, focusing on customer service, prices, cleanliness and the quality of our meat, produce, frozen foods and dairy prod-

Obaid will be hands-on at the Wasco location, which replaced the former Fiesta Latina market. . "I will be here daily to check in and ensure that everything is



Fisel "Carlos" Obaid, owner of Apple Market, cuts the ribbon at the grand opening ceremony alongside Miss Wasco Rose Queen Esmeralda Rodriguez, Councilmember Gilberto Reyna and Mayor Pro Tem Valentin Medina.

running smoothly, and that our employees and managers are taking care of every single customer."

Apple Market, 1220 7th St., is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. For more information, call 661-240-5161.

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Bains, were at Stuff the Bus to support the effort.

Community stuffs a bus to support youth

JAMIE STEWART The Shafter Press

The Shafter Lions Club, along with their partners and sponsors, held a Stuff the Bus event on Saturday, collecting a busload of school supplies for the students of Shafter. Gilbert Alvarado of the Shafter Lions Club said that it was thanks to the support of the entire community that the event was a success.

In addition to the Shafter Lions Club, the Shafter Family Resource Center and Kern County Child Support Services, as well as Acelerados Off Road, were on hand to help with the event. Members of the Shafter Police Department also helped out.

All of the items donated will be distributed to the students who attend Richland schools. As in years past, the event also was

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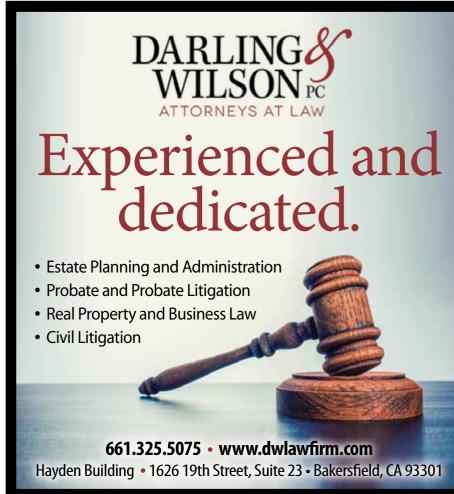
attended by representatives of local government. A representative of Assemblymember Jasmeet Bains was there to support the event. The drive was held in the parking lot of the Dollar General Store on Lerdo Highway.

The event helps students who don't have necessary supplies to prepare for the school year. "These events are really cool. It especially helps out those of us who may need a little help when it comes to all of the necessary things that the kids need for school, like backpacks, paper, pencils, stuff that some people just take for granted," said Myra Jenhold, who stopped by the event

and was so happy to see so many people

there. "It really makes you believe that there

are some great people in our community."







Basketball team takes honors in Vegas

JAMIE STEWART

The Shafter Press

Salvation Training Ground ended their fourth season with a third place basketball team in the West Coast Nationals tournament, held in Las Vegas.

Head Coach Fabian Jimenez said that he is very proud of the girls for representing Shafter in such a great way. The team competed against top teams from Utah, New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada, as well as some of California's best.

Shafter teams had competed in the Regionals in Anaheim, moving on to the Jam On It West Coast Nationals, where the girls 12U team took third.

Jimenez and his staff of volunteers began the program to help local the kids get proper training, as well as helping them off the court. The faith-based program teaches responsibility and teamwork, as well as self-confidence.

The program has seven basketball teams, with different age groups, and two

SHAFTER

volleyball teams. "We had a starter season this past year for volleyball, testing to see if we could fill a need in the community, and it was a big success," said Jimenez.

Similar to the early days of the STG in basketball, the volleyball program began with a trial year, focusing on local tournaments. "There was major growth in the athletes, and we hope to build on it and move them in the same direction as the basketball program."

The basketball program includes boys and girls teams in 10U, 12U, and 14U divisions, as well as a high-school-age boys

Jimenez is hoping that the program will keep growing and is actively working with the local coaches from the junior high and high school to create a positive channel in which the boys and girls can keep working and improving all the way through high school cohesively.

Jimenez reflected on the program's



The Girls 10U team had an outstanding season.

mission and the reason that it was born in athletes and good kids who want to excel the first place. "Our goal is to produce elite

in whatever they pursue in life."

Shafter Boxing hosts USA Boxing event



Six belt winners from the Shafter Boxing Club.

JAMIE STEWART

The Shafter Press

The Shafter Boxing Club, along with the Shafter Lions Club, held their annual USA Boxing event in Shafter at the Shafter Veterans Hall on Saturday, putting on a total of 30 bouts. The boxers ranged in age from 8 to 30 years old.

About 400 people were at the event, including boxers representing cllubs from Los Angeles, Nevada and Arizona, as well as Bakersfield and around Kern County. The event is a USA Boxing style event, vith three two-minute rounds in each bout. Eight out of the 10 boxers from the Shafter Boxing Club won bouts at the event, including "Fast Eddie" Rodriguez, 17, who won in the 119 lb. division. Rodriguez has won multiple regional, state and national titles in his career.

SHAFTER

Also winning on Saturday from the Shafter Boxing Club were Jaden Cole, 19, at 132 lb., Lysander Vergara, 15, at 165 lb., Aleberto DeLeon, 13, at 95 lb., James Rodriguez, 13, at 100 lb., Zaden Morales, 11, at 70 lb., and Adan DeLeon, 10, at 60 lb.

Alberto DeLeon was one of three Shafter boxers who won a medal in Wichita, Kan., last month at the U.S. Junior Olympics. DeLeon won a silver medal at the event, adding to his growing assortment of titles and medals.

The local club, led by Coach Mike Ayon, has been growing its program for over 10 years and has built a nationally known reputation for producing elite boxers, especially coming from a small city competing against much larger boxing

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE SUMMONS (Family Law) CITACIÓN (Derecho familiar) NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Name): **AVISO AL DEMANDADO** (Nombre):

Angel Emilio Ponce You have been sued. Read the

information below and on the next page Lo han demandado. Lea la

información a continuación y en la página siguiente. Petitioner's name is: Nombre del demandante:

Karen Clara Ponce Dominguez CASO) SFL-24-000134

You have 30 calendar days after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response (form FL-120) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter, phone call, or court appearance will not protect you.

time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs.

If you do not file your Response on

For legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. Get help finding a lawyer at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www. courts.ca.gov/selfhelp),

the California Legal website (www.lawhelpca.org), or by contacting your local bar association. NOTICE--Restraining orders are on

page 2: These restraining orders are effective against both spouses or domestic partners until the petition is dismissed, a judgment is entered, or the court makes further orders. They are enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement officer who has received or seen a copy of them.

FEE WAIVER: If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form. The court may order you to pay back all or part of the fees and costs that the court waived for you or the other party. Tiene 30 dias de calendario después de haber recibido la entrega legal de esta Citación y Petición para presentar una Respuesta (formulario FL-120) ante la corte y efectuar la entrega legal de una copia al demandante. Una carta o llamada telefónica o una audiencia de la corte no basta para

Si no presenta su Respuesta a tiempo, la corte puede dar órdenas que afecten su matrimonio o pareja de hecho, sus bienes y la custodia de sus hijos. La corte también le puede ordenar que pague manutención, y honorarios y costos legales.

Para asesoramiento legal, póngase en contacto de inmediato con un abogado. Puede obtener información para encontrar un abogado en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www. sucorte.ca.gov), en el sitio web de los Servicios Legales de California (www.lawhelpca.org), o poniéndose en contacto con el colegio de abogados de su condado.

AVISO--Las órdenes de restricción se encuentran en la pagina 2: Las órdenes de restricción están en vigencia en cuanto a ambos cónyuges o miembros de la pareja de hecho hasta que se despida la petición, se emita un fallo o la corte dé otras órdenes. Cualquier agencia del orden público que haya recibido o visto una copia de estas órdenes puede hacerlas acatar en cualquier lugar de California. CUOTAS: Si EXENCIÓN DE

no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario un formulario de exención de cuotas. La corte puede ordenar que usted pague, ya sea en parte o por completo, las cuotas y costos de la corte previamente exentos a petición de usted o de la otra parte. The name and address of the court are: (El nombre y dirección de la corte son:)

Superior Court of California, County

325 Central Valley Hwy

Shafter, CA 93263 North Division The name, address, and telephone number of petitioner's attorney, or petitioner without an attorney, are: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante o del demandante si no tiene abogado, son:) Karen Clara Ponce Dominguez 1943 2nd St Wasco, CA 93280

Date (Fecha): 6/12/2024 3:22PM Clerk, by (Secretario, por) Tara Leal Deputy (Asistente) Erica Bravo Publish Wasco Tribune July 18, 25, August 1, 8, 2024 **PUBLIC NOTICE**

661-370-5556

Notice of Petition to Administer Estate of: Mary A. Trujillo aka Mary Agnes Trujillo Case Number: BPB-24-002938

1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Mary A. Trujillo aka Mary Agnes Trujillo. 2. A Petition for Probate has been

filed by: Heriberto 'TJ' Trujillo Jr in the Superior Court of California, County of: Kern 3. The Petition for Probate

requests that: Heriberto 'TJ' Trujillo Jr be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. 5. The petition requests authority

to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. 6. A hearing on the petition will be

held in this court as follows: a. Date: 9-05-2024 Time: 8:30a.m.

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

7. If you object to the granting of the petition you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. 8. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in

9. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court 10. Attorney for petitioner:

Sugeyri (Susie) Coons 1601 New Stine Road, Ste 222 Bakersfield, CA 93309 661-383-0800 Publish Wasco Tribune August 8, 15,

PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF KERN SUMMARY OF ENACTED ORDINANCE On July 30, 2024, the Kern County

Supervisors enacted Franchise Ordinance F-705. Ordinance ("Amendment") amended CalBioGas Buttonwillow LLC's ("Grantee") Ordinance F-664, which granted

a 20-year non-exclusive franchise

to construct, install, maintain,

inspect, operate, repair, renew and

remove non-public utility pipelines together with the appurtenances and equipment necessary or convenient for operation thereof. The actual external diameter of the pipeline, including casing, rounded to the closest inch, shall not exceed thirteen (13) inches. The principal purpose of the franchise is the transport of natural gas. The franchise covers all areas in and under any and all public highways, public roads or rights of way now or hereafter dedicated to public use for roadway purposes and expressly accepted and/or declared public highways by the County (including, but not limited to, the Kern County right of way for Scofield Avenue, Riverside Street, Magnolia Avenue, Seventh Standard Road, and Brandt Road), which are within the County of Kern, and within Sections 13 and 24, Township 28 South, Range 23 East, M.D.B.M., Sections 28, 29, and 33, Township 27 South, Range 24 East, M.D.B.M., Sections 4, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 27, and 34, Township 28 South, Range 24 East, M.D.B.M., and Sections 2, 3, 4, 10 and 11, Township 29 South, Range 24 East, M.D.B.M., but not included

The Amendment modifies Section 2 of Ordinance F-664 to increase the franchise area for the further transport of natural gas within the following land sections: Sections 16, 17, 21, 28 and 33, Township 26 South, Range 23 East, M.D.B.M., Sections 2, 3, 4, 11, 14, 23, 25, 26 and 36, Township 27 South, Range 23 East, M.D.B.M., Sections 1, 12, 25 and 36, Township 28 South, Range 23 East, M.D.B.M., and Sections 7, 31 and 32, Township 28 South, Range 24 East,

within the limits of an incorporated

The amendment application of CalBioGas Buttonwillow the enacted franchise ordinance and related documents are on file with the Clerk of the Board

Supervisors, Kern County Administrative Center, where they may be examined during normal business hours. Effective date of the Amendment is

August 30, 2024.

AYES: Flores, Couch, Perez

NOES: None ABSENT: Peters, Scrivner Dated: July 30, 2024 KATHLEEN KRAUSE Clerk of the Board of Supervisors /s/Megan Simpson, Deputy Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE Fictitious Business Name Statement Kern Geeks Electronics Repair Service

2024-B4500

Publish Wasco Tribune August 8,

906 Main St Delano, CA 93215 County: Kern 2035 Lupine St Delano, CA 93215 Carmen Herrera 2035 Lupine St Delano, CA 93215 The business is conducted by: Individual Date the business commenced: 07/01/2024 /s/Carmen Herrera Date Statement Filed: 07/19/2024 Date Statement Expires: 07/19/2029 Aimee X. Espinoza

Publish Wasco Tribune July 25, August 1, 8, 15, 2024 **PUBLIC NOTICE Fictitious Business**

Auditor-Controller-County Clerk

By: M Torralba

Name Statement **Un Cafecito** 2024-B4326 2224 Via Calibria

Delano, CA 93215 County: Kern 2224 Via Calibria Delano, CA 93215 Tomas Ayon 2224 Via Calibria Delano, CA 93215 The business is conducted by: Individual Date the business commenced: N/A /s/Tomas Ayon Date Statement Filed: 07/11/2024 Date Statement Expires: 07/11/2029 Aimee X. Espinoza Auditor-Controller-County Clerk Publish Wasco Tribune July 18, 25,

August 1, 8, 2024

PASTOR'S CORNER

The downcast soul

PASTOR SPENCER CARPENTER

First Southern Baptist Church, Shafter

The Word of God is rich with truth that speaks into our souls when they become downcast. "Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?" (Psalms 42:5) The Psalms alone have around fifty laments expressing grief, sorrow, fear, anger, contempt, shame and guilt as prayers to God, requesting and receiving solace and deliverance (Psalms 13, 42, 43, 77, 88). The Bible is full of examples and situations of suffering and loss leading to despair (Job, Jeremiah, Jesus Christ). Anyone can develop a downcast or depressed soul. A downcast soul describes feelings of

despondency and dejection because of trouble resulting in a hopeless outlook, disinterest in regular activities and even self-destructive and sinful behaviors. Even mature believers can find themselves in a deep dark hole of spiritual despair where there appears to be no possibility of a situation improving and feelings of being distant from God (Psalm 22:1, 2 Corinthians



Our emotional and spiritual difficulties truly are insurmountable without the strength, grace, encouragement and comfort of God (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). Drawing close to Christ and opening God's Word are the first steps to finding restored joy and hope. God perfectly understands your anxieties, sadness and despair perfectly in comparison to fallen and fallible human counselors (Psalms 139:23-24). Help from God is the answer that is always found in the Bible (Psalms 46, 121). God is truly big enough to keep us from sinking further and further into depression (Psalms 32:5-8, Isaiah 43:1-2). The light of hope is also extreme-

ly bright in the Bible, driving away any darkness our souls may experience. Hope in the Bible is not mere optimism or the general but uncertain expectation that circumstances will improve as time goes on. Biblical hope is the certain and assured expectation that God will fulfill His promises for our good in the future (Titus 1:2-3, Hebrews 10:23). In order to endure and persevere in this fallen world, Christian hope redirects our attention to what is eternally important: salvation and everlasting life, future resurrection and glorification, the return of Jesus Christ and being with the Lord forever, the kingdom of Jesus Christ, and the New Heavens and the New Earth (Isaiah 9:6-7, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Phillipians 3:21, Titus 2:11-14, Revelations 21:1-2).

One of the most hopeful messages from the Bible is that trials, tribulations and times of suffering are purposeful and meaningful with an unwavering hope in the future. The Bible directly says God uses trials to draw us closer to Him in humble dependance, to produce perseverance, wisdom, Christ-like maturity, and proven character, to make us long for heaven and to press us to find our joy and peace in Christ that we can share to the world (Romans 5:3-5; Phillipians 4:4, 6-7; James 1:2-3; Revelations 21:4).

Sadness, grief and downcast souls have their place in our lives as Christians, but they are supposed to drive us to impassioned appeals and laments to God, where we find hope and faith in the end. Depression reminds us of the goodness, grace and promises of God to uplift our souls during low points and to give hopeful light during spiritually dark times (Lamentations 3:20-26). As one Bible teacher put it, "Hope meets fear with faith, counteracts worry with worship, responds to problems with prayer and patience, and replaces stressful pressure with peace."

HEADLINES IN HISTORY



The front page, Aug. 15, 1984.

From the archives of The Shafter Press **40 years ago:** Aug. 15, 1984

Shafter High teacher and local artist Joaquin Patino

was invited to the Plaza De La Raza Art Festival in Los Angeles. The MEChA adisor sold all 125 pieces of his Mexican cultural artwork. **10 years ago:** Aug. 6, 2014

After 40 years, Insect Lore founder Carlos White de-

cided to close his Entomology Museum. The museum brought visitors from all over to share the knowledge of

-Compiled by Erica Soriano

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Violette and let her steal your heart

Meet Violette, a sweet and playful 9-month-old German shepherd who came into the Wasco Animal Shelter as a stray. She is a joy to be around and gets along wonderfully with our staff and other dogs. While we don't know if she's house/crate trained, her loving personality shines through every day. Violette's interactions

with children are unknown as we haven't tested her behavior around them. However, she's sure to bring happiness to any home ready to give her a chance! She will be available for adoption on Thursday, Aug. 8, and fees will be waived. Don't miss out on bringing this

adorable pup into your life! 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 transporta-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.

-Wasco Animal Shelter



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PUBLIC NOTICE

AN INTERIM URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHAFTER, CALIFORNIA, ENACTED PURSUANT CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65858 PROHIBITING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SMOKE HOOKAH LOUNGES AND TOBACCO STORES IN THE CITY OF SHAFTER FOR TEN (10) MONTHS AND FIFTEEN (15) DAYS PENDING STUDY AND ADOPTION OF REGULATORY AND ZONING STANDARDS WHEREAS, the City of Shafter,

California ("City") is a municipal corporation, duly organized as a Charter City under the constitution and laws of the State of California; WHEREAS, Article 11, Section of the California Constitution

authorizes the City of Shafter to

make and enforce within its limits

all ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws; and WHEREAS, the unregulated development of Smoke Shops, Hookah Lounges and Tobacco Stores, as defined in this Urgency Ordinance, presents an immediate threat to the public health, safety

and welfare for the following

reasons: · The City does not have specific regulations in its Municipal Code governing the establishment of Smoke Shops, Tobacco Stores or Hookah Lounges. Specifically, there are no detailed regulations regarding the development, operation or location standards for these uses;

 Significant concerns have been raised regarding the lack of current regulations to address Smoke Shops, Tobacco Stores and Hookah Lounges and the noise, safety, health, and other impacts of these uses on the community including on minors and sensitive land uses as well as their use as commercial cannabis stores; and

Many state laws have been

adopted, which acknowledge the public health impacts of tobacco, especially flavored and specifically its products, effect on minors. For example, state law prohibits public school students from smoking or using tobacco products while on campus, while attending school sponsored activities, or while under the supervision or control of school district employees. State law also prohibits smoking in playgrounds. State law also prohibits smoking within 20 feet of the main entrances and exits of public buildings; and

In recent years, e-cigarettes and other vape pens have become a popular alternative to traditional smoking. Further, current research indicates that chemicals contained in such products may be harmful to persons, especially minors, and that vaping releases contents of e-cigarettes into the air. Further, e-cigarettes are made to mimic conventional cigarettes, making enforcement of smoking and tobacco product regulation difficult and confusing; and

· It is also appropriate the review other operational impacts from locating Smoke Shops, Hookah Lounges and Tobacco Stores in areas close to locations where children gather; and

· As a result, on November 8, 2022, California voters upheld the state law (SB 793) prohibiting a tobacco retailer, or any of the tobacco retailer's agents or employees, from selling, offering for sale, or possessing with the intent to sell or offer for sale, most flavored tobacco products including flavored e-cigarettes and menthol cigarettes, as well as tobacco product flavor enhancers in retail locations; and

Newsom signed into law AB 935, strengthening the enforcement of the flavored tobacco retail law and broadening the definition of a retail location; and

· On October 7, 2023, Governor

 Cities still retain the authority to draft and enforce local flavored tobacco bans for products that were exempted by state law; and

Smoke Shops, Hookah Lounges and Tobacco Stores can also be a target for theft and vandalism and it would be prudent to study operational elements that discourage such Additionally, Smoke activities. Shops and Tobacco Stores may be affiliated with the sale of illegal cannabis products and drug paraphernalia that encourage illegal activity, which can negatively affect

the neighborhoods and surrounding

community; and

The establishment of Hookah produces Lounges smoke, far more concentrated than cigarette smoke, which can negatively affect workers, passersby, neighbors, the elderly, sick and disabled and particularly minors. Recognizing the health risks, state laws have been adopted to prohibit unlawful smoking of tobacco in hookah pipes in an enclosed place of employment as well as prohibiting

smoking of tobacco in hookah pipes by those under 18 years of age; and · Due to the lack of development, operation and location standards for these uses, the City desires to study new zoning regulations in order to provide clear, consistent, and uniform guidance to businesses and individuals regarding the citing

and operational characteristics

while also addressing significant

community concerns; and

WHEREAS, due to the health, safety, and welfare impacts of Smoke Shops, Hookah Lounges and Tobacco Stores, the City wishes to study the appropriate types of local regulations that can address their impacts; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 65858 provides that, without following the procedures otherwise required prior to the adoption of a zoning ordinance, an urgency measure in the form of an interim ordinance may be adopted by a four-fifths vote of the City Council to protect the public from a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety, or welfare resulting from a contemplated zoning proposal. Government Code Section 65868 further provides that such an urgency measure shall be effective for only 45 days following its adoption, but may be extended beyond the initial 45 day period, following compliance with that Section, for an additional 10 months and 15 days and subsequently for an additional 12 months; and

WHEREAS, City staff requires time to gather data about the adverse impacts of Smoke Shops, Hookah Lounges and Tobacco Stores, including vape stores, and to research, study, and consider ways to possibly amend the City's Municipal Code to address the potential impacts caused by these uses; and WHEREAS, City staff and the

Shafter Police Department intend to conduct research into the possible and likely impacts of further regulating Smoke Shops, Hookah Lounges and Tobacco Stores, including vape stores, in the City in order to mitigate adverse impacts; WHEREAS, on June 18, 2024, the

City Council adopted an Urgency Ordinance imposing a forty-five (45) day moratorium on the approval of any business licenses and/or land use entitlement or permit so that the City can research and select the best course of action for the City's citizens and the community at large; WHEREAS, pursuant

Section Government Code, 65858, on July 16, 2024, the City Council issued a report of actions taken during the pendency of the moratorium; and WHEREAS, the City Council wishes

to extend the Moratorium to allow City staff to further study zoning regulations for the approval of future Smoke Shops, Hookah Lounges and

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHAFTER DOES ORDAIN AS SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

the above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference. The Shafter City Council hereby finds and determines that Smoke Shops, Hookah Lounges and Tobacco Stores constitute an immediate threat to the public health, safety and welfare. The approval of additional entitlements for Smoke Shops, Hookah Lounges and Tobacco Store establishments under the City's current regulations will further threaten public health, safety, or welfare. The adoption of this Urgency Ordinance is therefore necessary for the immediate protection of the public safety, health and welfare.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA.

The City Council finds that this Urgency Ordinance is not a project within the meaning of Section 15378 of the State of California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") Guidelines, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change in the environment, directly or indirectly. The City Council further finds, under Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, section 15061(b)(3) that this interim Urgency Ordinance is nonetheless exempt from the requirements of CEQA, because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment since it prohibits the establishment of uses.

MORATORIUM.

During the time this Ordinance is in effect, no business license or other permit or entitlement shall be issued for the establishment or operation of a Smoke Shop, Hookah Lounge and/ or Tobacco Store, as defined herein, unless this moratorium is extended or terminated by the City Council. As used in this Urgency Ordinance,

the following definitions apply: A. "Establish" or "operate" a Smoke

Shop, Hookah Lounge or Tobacco Store (as defined in this Urgency Ordinance) means and includes any of the following: (i) the opening or commencement of the operation of a Smoke Shop, Hookah Lounge or Tobacco Store; (ii) the conversion of an existing business, facility, use establishment, or location to a Smoke Shop, Hookah Lounge or Tobacco Store; and (iii) the addition of a Smoke Shop, Hookah Lounge or Tobacco Store to any other existing business, facility, use, establishment

B. "Hookah" means a glass or metal water pipe usually decorated and shaped somewhat like a bottle or small tank, with a long, flexible cord pipe, also known as shisha, nargile, hubble bubble, nag and Turkish water

PUBLIC NOTICES

C. "Hookah Lounge" means an area of a commercial establishment, enclosed. outdoor, designated specifically for the use of hookahs, but does not include private use of hookahs in personal residences if otherwise in compliance with applicable law. D. "Tobacco Paraphernalia" means

any device, product, equipment, or material of any kind that is intended or designed for use for smoking, inhaling, or ingesting notwithstanding that tobacco, the device, product, equipment, or material may also be used for smoking, inhaling, or ingesting any controlled substance. "Tobacco paraphernalia" includes, but is not limited to, all of the following: (i) Metal, ivory, wooden, acrylic, glass, stone, plastic, or ceramic pipes with or without screens, permanent screens, hashish heads, or punctured bowls; (ii) Water pipes; (iii) Bongs; (iv) Chillums; (v) Ice pipes or chillers; (vi) Cigarette papers or wrappers; (vii) Cigarette rolling machines; (viii) Blunt wraps, as defined in Section 308 of the Penal Code; (ix) Hookahs and similar devices constructed with a receptacle or container in which water or some other liquid may be placed into which smoke passes and is cooled in the process of being inhaled or ingested; and (x) any electronic device that delivers nicotine or other vaporized liquids to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, an electronic cigarette, cigar, pipe, or hookah. "Tobacco Paraphernalia" shall include any component, part, or accessory of the foregoing, whether

E. "Tobacco Product" means any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, e-cigarettes (with or without flavoring), cigars, little cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, or snuff or vaping accessories. "Tobacco Product' shall include any component, part, or accessory of the foregoing, whether or not sold separately. "Tobacco Product" does not include a product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product or for other therapeutic purposes where the product is marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose.

or not sold separately.

"Tobacco Store" or "Smoke Shop" means a retailer or wholesale business or any person that: (1) sells, offers for sale or offers to exchange for any form of consideration, Tobacco Products Tobacco Paraphernalia; and (2) has fifteen percent (15%) or more of the square feet in the establishment used for the sale or display of tobacco, Tobacco Products or

Tobacco Paraphernalia. Notwithstanding the prohibition contained in this section, the City will continue to accept and process applications for uses prohibited by this moratorium if so required by State law. Any application received and processed during the moratorium shall be processed at the applicant's sole cost and risk with the understanding that no permit, license, approval or other entitlement for a use covered by this Section may be issued while this moratorium or any extension of it is in

In addition, any person who lawfully holds an existing permit, license, and/or land use entitlement for an existing and lawfully operating Smoke Shop. Hookah Lounge and/or Tobacco Shop in the City of Shafter, as of the effective date of this Urgency Ordinance may continue to lawfully operate under that existing permit, license, and/or entitlement. Nothing herein shall limit the authority of the City to revoke or suspend any existing license, permit, and/or entitlement as authorized under existing law.

SECTION 4. ADOPTION.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 65858 and 36937, this interim urgency ordinance designed to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the City and its residents and becomes effective immediately upon adoption by a four-fifths (4/5) vote of the City Council following the notice and public hearing required by Government Code Section 65858(a). SECTION 5. TERM. This Urgency Ordinance is adopted

under the provisions of Government Code Section 65858 and 36937(b), and shall take effect immediately upon its passage by a four-fifths vote of the City Council. This Urgency Ordinance shall remain in effect for ten (10 months, fifteen (15) days from August 2, 2024 (June 17, 2025), unless earlier repealed or extended pursuant to law. SECTION 6. REPORT REQUIRED

No less than ten (10) days prior to the

scheduled expiration of this Urgency Ordinance, staff shall issue a report to the City Council on the progress of its study and on determinations for how the City should proceed, insofar as conclusions have been

SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY If any provision of this Urgency Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is

such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Urgency Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Urgency Ordinance are severable. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Urgency Ordinance irrespective of the invalidity of any particular portion thereof.

Printed certified copies of Ordinance No. 757 are available for inspection by any person at the office of the Shafter City Clerk, City Hall, 336 Pacific Avenue, Shafter, California. The ordinance was passed by the City Council on July 30, 2024, with the following vote: AYES: Alvarado, Espinoza, Givens,

Olvera, and Prout ABSENT: None ABSTAINING: None August 1, 2024, Yazmina Pallares, City Clerk Publish Shafter Press August 8, 2024

> **PUBLIC NOTICE** Fictitious Business Name Statement Sips N' Subs 2024-B4239

454 Central Valley Hwy Shafter, CA 93263 County: Kern 454 Central Valley Hwy Shafter, CA 93263 Alberto Cortes Ramos 935 Katie Ct Shafter, CA 93263 The business is conducted by: Date the business commenced: N/A /s/Alberto Cortes Ramos Date Statement Filed: 07/09/2024 Statement 07/09/2029 Aimee X. Espinoza Auditor-Controller-County Clerk By: M Cedeno Publish Shafter Press August 8, 15,

PUBLIC NOTICE Fictitious Business Name Statement **Cordero Child Care** 2024-B4759

277 Walnut St Shafter, CA 93263 County: Kern 277 Walnut St Shafter, CA 93263 Karla Yadira Cordero 277 Walnut St Shafter, CA 93263 The business is conducted by: Date the business commenced: N/A /s/Karla Yadira Cordero Date Statement Filed: 07/31/2024 Date Statement Expires: 07/31/2029 ilmee X. Espinoza Auditor-Controller-County Clerk Publish Shafter Press August 8, 15,

PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF KERN SUMMARY OF ENACTED **ORDINANCE**

On July 30, 2024, the Kern County Board of Supervisors enacted Franchise Ordinance F-705. Ordinance ("Amendment") amended CalBioGas Buttonwillow LLC's ("Grantee") Ordinance F-664, which granted a 20-year non-exclusive franchise to construct, install, maintain, inspect, operate, repair, renew and remove non-public utility pipelines together with the appurtenances and equipment necessary or convenient for operation thereof. The actual external diameter of the pipeline, including casing, rounded to the closest inch, shall not exceed thirteen (13) inches. The principal purpose of the franchise is the transport of natural gas. The franchise covers all areas in and under any and all public highways, public roads or rights of way now or hereafter dedicated to public use for roadway purposes and expressly accepted and/or declared public highways by the County (including, but not limited to, the Kern County right of way for Scofield Avenue, Riverside Street, Magnolia Avenue, Seventh Standard Road, and Brandt Road), which are within the County of Kern, and within Sections 13 and 24, Township 28 South, Range 23 East, M.D.B.M., Sections 28, 29, and 33, Township 27 South, Range 24 East, M.D.B.M., Sections 4, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 27, and 34, Township 28 South, Range 24 East, M.D.B.M., and Sections 2, 3, 4, 10 and 11, Township 29 South, Range 24 East, M.D.B.M., but not included

within the limits of an incorporated The Amendment modifies Section 2 of Ordinance F-664 to increase the franchise area for the further transport of natural gas within the following land sections: Sections 16, 17, 21, 28 and 33, Township 26 South, Range 23 East, M.D.B.M., Sections 2, 3, 4, 11, 14, 23, 25, 26 and 36, Township 27 South, Range 23 East, M.D.B.M., Sections 1, 12, 25 and 36, Township 28 South, Range 23 East, M.D.B.M., and Sections 7, 31 and 32,

M.D.B.M.

CalBioGas

the enacted franchise ordinance

and related documents are on

file with the Clerk of the Board

College Avenue, Bakersfield, 93305. Township 28 South, Range 24 East, The amendment application of Buttonwillow

Supervisors, Kern County Administrative Center, where they may be examined during normal business hours. Effective date of the Amendment is August 30, 2024. AYES: Flores, Couch, Perez NOES: None ABSENT: Peters, Scrivner Dated: July 30, 2024 KATHLEEN KRAUSE Clerk of the Board of Supervisors /s/Megan Simpson, Deputy Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE Fictitious Business Name Statement Clear Point Optometry 2024-B4692 12716 Stockdale Hwy Ste 400

Bakersfield, CA 93314

Publish Shafter Press August 8, 2024

County: Kern 136 Allen Rd Ste 100 #1008 Bakersfield, CA 93314 Mark Cheung, O.D., P.C. 136 Allen Rd Ste 100 #1008 Bakersfield, CA 93314 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: Date the business commenced: N/A /s/Mark Cheung, CEO Date Statement Filed: 07/29/2024 Statement 07/29/2029 Aimee X. Espinoza Auditor-Controller-County Clerk By: M Cedeno Publish Shafter Press August 8, 15,

PUBLIC NOTICE Fictitious Business Name Statement Grants For Good, LLC 2024-B4303 The Kerr Group, LLC 2024-B4304 Lisa Kerr Photography 2024-B4305 1712 19th Street, Suite 124 Bakersfield, CA 93301

4605 Buena Vista Rd. Ste 600 #727

Bakersfield, CA 93311 Grants for Good, LLC 1712 19th Street, Suite 124 Bakersfield, CA 93301 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company* Date the business commenced: 07/11/2024 /s/Lisa McKay, Manager Date Statement Filed: 07/11/2024 Date Statement Expires: 07/11/2029 Aimee X. Espinoza Auditor-Controller-County Clerk By: M Torralba Publish Shafter Press August 8, 15,

PUBLIC NOTICE iame Statement Snyder's Services 2024-B4658 804 Crystal Downs Court

Bakersfield, CA 93312

County: Kern 804 Crystal Downs Court Bakersfield, CA 93312 Yolanda Hinojosa Snyder 804 Crystal Downs Court Bakersfield, CA 93312 The business is conducted by: Date the business commenced: N/A /s/Yolanda Hinojosa Snyder Date Statement Filed: 07/25/2024 Statement 07/25/2029 Aimee X. Espinoza Auditor-Controller-County Clerk By: M Torralba Publish Shafter Press August 8, 15,

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice of Petition to Administer Estate of: **Della Louise Diamond**

22, 29, 2024

1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Della Louise Diamond 2. A Petition for Probate has been

Case Number: BPB-24-002893

filed by: Linda Victory in the Superior Court of California, County of: Kern 3. The Petition for Probate requests that: Linda Victory be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. 5. The petition requests authority

to administer the estate under

the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. 6. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:

a. Date: 08/30/2024 Time: 8:30a.m.

b. Address of court: Superior Court of California, County of Kern, 2100

7. If you object to the granting of the petition you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. 8. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal

authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in 9. You may examine the file kept

by the court. If you are a person

interested in the estate, you may file

with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court 10. Attorney for petitioner: Robert H. Brumfield, III

1810 Westwind Drive, Suite 100 Bakersfield, CA 93301 661-316-3010 Publish Shafter Press August 1, 8, 15,

PUBLIC NOTICE Fictitious Business Name Statement Shafter True Value 2024-B4530 113 Central Valley Hwy

Shafter, CA 93263 County: Kern 113 Central Valley Hwy Shafter, CA 93263 Shafter Hardware Store Inc. 113 Central Valley Hwy Shafter, CA 93263 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: Corporation* Date the business commenced: 10/22/2018 /s/Saleh Ali, CEO Date Statement Filed: 07/22/2024 Statement Expires: 07/22/2029 Aimee X. Espinoza Auditor-Controller-County Clerk By: M Torralba Publish Shafter Press August 1, 8, 15,

PUBLIC NOTICE **Fictitious Business** Name Statement La Carne Meat Market 2024-B4316

327 State Ave Shafter, CA 93263 County: Kern 422 James St Suite #11 narter, CA 93263 La Carne Meat Market 422 James St Suite #11 Shafter, CA 93263 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: Corporation* Date the business commenced: 08/19/2021 /s/Hugo Garcia, C.E.O. Date Statement Filed: 07/11/2024 Date Statement Expires: 07/11/2029 Aimee X. Espinoza Auditor-Controller-County Clerk Publish Shafter Press August 1, 8, 15,

PUBLIC NOTICE **Fictitious Business** Name Statement **Bumble Tea and Cafe** 2024-B4193

5601 California Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93309 County: Kern 5601 California Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93309 Bumble Tea and Company LLC 11407 Hyde Park Dr Bakersfield, CA 93314 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company* Date the business commenced: N/A /s/Apolinario Mendoza, Managing Date Statement Filed: 07/05/2024 Date Statement Expires: 07/05/2029

Auditor-Controller-County Clerk By: M Torralba Publish Shafter Press July 25, August 1, 8, 15, 2024 PUBLIC NOTICE

Aimee X. Espinoza

Fictitious Business Name Statement Ridgeview Agronomics 2024-B4272 Ridgeview Agricultural Resources

2024-B4273 4600 Ashe Road, Ste 316 Bakersfield, CA 93313 County: Kern 4600 Ashe Road, Ste 316 Bakersfield, CA 93313 Pine Mountain Brokerage LLC 4600 Ashe Road, Ste 316 Bakersfield, CA 93313 State of incorp. or org.: CA The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company* Date the business commenced: 12/26/2014 /s/Steven Rodriguez, Authorized Date Statement Filed: 07/10/2024 Date Statement Expires: 07/10/2029 Aimee X. Espinoza

Auditor-Controller-County Clerk

Publish Shafter Press July 18, 25,

By: M Torralba

August 1, 8, 2024