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# Wasco Tribune

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Vol. 42 No. 16 • Wasco, California • Thursday, October 17, 2019



Laser Tag was a popular game for many.



Rep. TJ Cox was surrounded Wasco Rose Queen Elisa Flores, her court and Mayor Alex Garcia.

## City's festival of fun

**TONI DEROSA**  
 Wasco Tribune

The second part of this year's Wasco Festival kicked off Saturday morning in downtown Wasco, with floats, marching bands, motor vehicles of all sorts and sizes, horses, and even a mule.

elementary school district bands, high school band, churches, equestrian groups, floats and a lot of walkers. Onlookers lined the parade route from D Street to 7th to Poplar, finishing at Barker Park, where the festival was already underway. Grand Marshals Ken and Tina Newman rode through the parade in a buggy drawn

by a mule The crowd got a big laugh watching the mule. "The donkey was funny," young Jose Garcia said. 2019 Rose Queen Elisa Flores and her court rode on a shiny float. Also riding close to the beginning of the parade were Grand Marshals Danny and Petra Rueda in the Rueda's vehicle.

The Glennville rodeo queens on their horses were highlighted by one with roses around its neck, while another had a small drape of colorful flowers. In the middle of the parade, several members of the City Council rode in Engine #1, greeting and waving to the crowded sidewalks.

See CITY'S Page 6



The Wasco Rose Queen Elisa Flores and her court on a parade float.



Wasco Vaquero took 1st place in the equestrian portion of the parade.



Students were enthusiastic during the Homecoming rally prior to Friday's victory by the Tigers, 24-17, over Chavez. Story on Page 3; game story, Page 7.

## Report: Decline in absenteeism at WUESD

**TONI DEROSA**  
 Wasco Tribune

The Wasco Union Elementary School District received good news with the 2017-2018 Attention 2 Attendance report. The district ranked first out of four local school districts who also utilize the Attention 2 Attendance software program to track chronic absenteeism. At the board's meeting on Oct. 8, Assistant Superintendent Brad Maberry stated that the district has made attendance a high priority in order to minimize student ab-

sences. "This is not a state-mandated report," Maberry said. "Several school districts subscribe to this program to track their absenteeism. At this time, I'm not sure all the districts which use the system." District Title I teachers Jennifer Fendrick and Teri Acosta presented the A2A report to the board and attendees. After the board meeting, Maberry provided additional information on attendance tracking for Kern County and the state by

See REPORT 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NEW:** Dia De Los Muertos – Fourth annual event Friday, Nov. 1, 6-10 p.m. Downtown 7th Street. Indo/vending opportunities at downtownwasco@gmail.com

**Wasco Animal Shelter** — Donations are welcomed: Dog/cat beds, stainless steel buckets, dog/cat food and pet toys. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. At 5409 7th St. Wasco. Information, 661-758-7240.

**Wasco Clean Up** — Saturday, Oct. 26, at Barker Park beginning at 9 a.m. Wasco will be providing bulky item pick-up service for the first 30 residents who have no means of transporting bulky items to the park. No hazardous liquids or substances, green waste or trash will be accepted. For questions, to register or to volunteer, call Code Compliance at 661-758-7216 or 661-758-7213.

**Job Fair** -- Kern County Department of Human Services will hold job fair on Thursday, Oct. 17, from 9 a.m. in the community center at Barker Park, Wasco.

**Free rides for students** -- Kern Transit will be offering free rides to all enrolled in Bakersfield College with valid student ID. Through finals week, Saturday, Dec. 24.

**Class of 1969** — Wasco High School Class of 1969 is looking for members for its 50th reunion. The classes of 1966-1972 also are invited. Contact Earl Grizzell or email grizzell@comcast.net or 550-300-4410.

## ONGOING

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

## MONDAY

**NEW:** Color Me Happy! — Family edition Oct. 21, 1 p.m., at the Wasco Branch Library.

**UPDATED:** Movie – Oct. 21, 3:30 p.m. at the Wasco Branch Library.

**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 Alex Garcia 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.

**Fishes & Loaves** -- Free dinner every first Monday 5-7 p.m. at 408 Griffith Ave.

## 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:** An old manual sewing machine from the Historical Society's collection.



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

## TUESDAY

**No-cost community yoga** -- White Wolf Wellness partners with Kern Behavioral Health & Recovery Services, every other Tuesday starting at 7:15 p.m., Sept. 10, Sept. 25, Oct. 8, Oct. 22 and Nov. 5. At the Wasco Community Center, 1280 Poplar.

**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.

**Coloring** -- Color Me Happy! At the Wasco Library from 4-5:30 p.m.

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

## WEDNESDAY

**STEAM** — Scholar Club, Oct. 23, 3:30 p.m. All ages participate in academically enriching activities.

**UPDATED:** Teen Advisory Board – Tab meets Oct. 23 at 4 p.m. Come spark up ideas for teen interests and conversation at the Wasco Branch Library.

## 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

**Museum on the Move (Museo En Movimiento)** – Join in some Halloween theme activity at the Wasco Branch Library, Oct. 18, at 4 p.m.

**Storytime & 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.

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.

## PET OF THE WEEK

# Nyah is waiting for a loving home

Nyah is a young medium female shepherd mix about 4 or 5 months old and weighs about 30 pounds. She is as cute as she is friendly. She loves to play and is not shy at all. She gets along well with other animals. It would be great if she could leave the shelter and find her forever home with a loving family.

Call the shelter at 661-758-7240 or visit us at 5409 7th St.; refer to code AC19-221 for Nyah. Our hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We are closed all legal holidays and Sundays.

—Wasco Animal Control



Nyah is a female shepherd mix.

## ARREST LOG

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

### Oct. 8

Rachel Rebecca Moore, 35, of Wasco, was arrested at the intersection of D Street and 14th Street on an active misdemeanor warrant. She was booked into the Kern County Jail.

### Oct. 10

Vincenzo Osuna, 29, of Wasco, was arrested at the intersection of 6th and G streets for possession of controlled substance paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance, destroying/concealing evidence and failing to ride a bicycle on the right edge of the road. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Miguel Perez, 43, of Wasco, was arrested at the intersection of 10th and G street on an active misdemeanor bench warrant. He

was cited and released at the scene.

### Oct. 11

Jose Ramirez Hernandez, 40, of Wasco, was arrested at the intersection of McCombs Road and Highway 43 for driving under the influence, driving under the influence in excess of .08%, driving without a license and drinking an alcoholic beverage on a highway. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Rudolfo Lopez, 37, of Wasco, was arrested in the 300 block of D Street for violating an order to prevent domestic violence. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

### Oct. 12

Ramon Quesada Garcia, of Wasco, was arrested at the intersection of Maple

Street and Poso Drive for driving without a license and driving a vehicle without lights on at dark. He was cited and released at the scene.

Andy Magallanes, 27, of Wasco, was arrested in the 600 block of D Street on an active misdemeanor bench warrant, possession of controlled substance paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

Christopher Aaron Regalado, 28, of Wasco, was arrested at the intersection of 4th and D streets for felony violation of parole and resisting/obstructing a peace officer. He was booked into the Kern County Jail.

### Oct. 13

Eduardo Caballero, 24, of Wasco, was arrested at the intersection of F and 8th streets for driving on a suspended license, possession of an open container, possession of a controlled substance, speeding and driving a vehicle without insurance. He was cited and released at the scene.

Rodolfo Jaimes, 36, of Shafter, was arrested at the intersection of Highway 43 and Jackson Avenue for speeding, driving without a license and driving a vehicle without insurance. He was cited and released at the scene.

Elizabeth Ruiz, 23, of Wasco, was arrested in the 700 block of 4th Street for loud music. She was cited and released at the scene.

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## Wasco Tribune

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

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

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

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# WHS pumps up for Homecoming



The WHS cheerleaders performed several routines at the afternoon rally.



The senior float embraced "Toy Story."



Homecoming Queen Alynna Gonzalez was crowned by 2019 Rose Queen Elisa Flores.



The junior float embraced "The Lion King."



Boys competed to see who could get dressed up first to win the "Pageant competition."

## TONI DEROSA

Wasco Tribune

Tiger spirit was on the rise as Wasco High prepared for 2019's Homecoming festivities.

The annual street rally this year was held on Palm Avenue at the entrance to the football field. The street was crowded with students and onlookers as cheerleaders performed several routines, and competition was stiff as each class vied for the title of best float of 2019 as well as best in the competitions between the classes.

The overall theme this year was Tiger Productions. Each class picked a movie theme for its float.

The freshman class chose "Grease," sophomores chose "Ghostbusters," juniors chose "The Lion King" and seniors chose "Toy Story."

For the float results, the freshman took first place, seniors took second, juniors took third and sophomores took fourth.

With shouts and cheers, the homecoming king and queen candidates were introduced.

Candidates for the titles included Rodrick Scott and Daniela Ramos, Joseph Loza and Alynna Gonzalez, Javier Damian and Samantha Ochoa, Brock Derrington and Yuliana Gonzalez and Eduardo Solis and Michelle Zapien.

Once the student game competitions began, the crowd became louder as they cheered their class on to victory. The games began with boys skipping across the way, where students were waiting to put an article of pageantry finery on the skipper. The second game saw

each class select one student at a time, put a balloon between his/her legs, hop over to a hula hoop lying on the ground and attempt to drop the balloon in the hoop; however, most of the competitors popped the balloon before it could be dropped. The seniors took first place, freshman took second, juniors took third and sophomores took fourth.

Rally results were 1st place seniors, 2nd place freshman, 3rd place juniors and 4th place sophomores.

At 3 p.m., the students left the area and headed off campus.

Then came the game. There was a lot of excitement for the evening's Homecoming game. Students and guests alike were hoping for a Tiger win over the Cesar Chavez Titans.

Chavez got the first touchdown and the kick with the Tigers following shortly after. By the third quarter, the Titans were ahead 19-14, and during the fourth quarter got another touchdown to make the final score 25-14. **Full game story is on Page 7.**

Even while Wasco was behind for part of the game, the message to the Tigers was filled with support from the bleachers, sidelines and coaches.

The game began when the cheerleaders arrived on the field on the backs of Harley Davidson motorcycles. The rumbling of the bikes got the crowd revved up for the game.

The cheerleaders stood on their decorated boxes and continued to show their support for the Tigers throughout the game.

Once halftime approached, the cars carrying the king and queen candidates lined up at the east end of the field ready to drive the candidates around the track.

The winners were announced: the Homecoming Queen was Alynna Gonzalez and Homecoming King was Rodrick Scott. Gonzalez was crowned by 2019 Miss Wasco Rose Queen Elisa Flores and Scott was crowned by 2018 Homecoming King Caleb Dobbs.

With the end of the game, attendees could be heard talking about the parade and festival early that next morning.

# Decline in absenteeism at WUESD

## From Page 1

Dataquest.

The following are the results of the latest tracking data for the following districts, Kern County and the state:

- Arvin Union has a cumulative enrollment of 3,291 with a chronic absenteeism of 274 with a score of 8.5%.

- Bakersfield City has a cumulative enrollment of 33,278 students; 4,966 chronically absent students for a rate of 14.9%

- General Shafter Elementary with a cumulative

enrollment of 156 students; 19 chronically absent students for a rate of 12.3%

- WUESD has a 3,877 cumulative enrollment with 288 students chronically absent for a 7.1%.

- Wasco High School (the only high school listed on the study) has 1,965 cumulative students, a total of 271 chronically absent for a rate of 15.0%.

- Cumulative enrollment for Kern County is 199,474 students with 24,042 chronically absent for a 12.2%

- Cumulative statewide

enrollment is 6,384,619 for a chronic absenteeism count of 702,531 for an 11.1%.

Maberry stated that the district should see a drop in chronically absent from 7.1% to 6.1% for the 2019-2020 year.

Superintendent Kelly Richers explained that the Title I teachers (Fendrick and Acosta) monitor the A2A attendance report and provide updated information to the principals on a monthly basis. They also provide the student and families with assistance in getting outside agency help

for food, school supplies, housing and clothing, and whatever other assistance the families might need.

The great report stated that the WUESD received a 24.49% improvement above Tehachapi's 21.6% improvement, Norris Elementary 21.0% improvement and Greenfield Union Elementary 18.49% improvement.

The report also gave the following numbers:

- Some statistics reported included 83% of students chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade

cannot read on level by the time they are in third grade.

- Students not reading by third grade are four times more likely to eventually drop out of school and high school dropouts are more likely to be incarcerated than people with high school diplomas. Many students who obtain a General Education Diploma are in school but do not graduate for various reasons such as poor grades, incomplete classes or poor attendance.

"Another part of the A2A study showed the comparison between at-

tendance before and after parent-teacher conferences with a decline in absenteeism after parents met with the teacher," Maberry said.

In additional board business, Superintendent Richers told the board members that while the district has been seeking a speech and language pathologist for the district and that position is very difficult to fill, consequently, Richers stated that the district would be using a computer system, which costs approximately the same as hiring an instructor. The program will cost \$100,000.

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# At the parade...



ABOVE LEFT: Glennville Rodeo Queens took second place in the equestrian competition. ABOVE: These four led the parade throughout Wasco. RIGHT: Members of the City Council rode in Engine #1 through the parade route. Inside are Mayor/driver Alex Garcia, Councilmembers John Pallares and Gilberto Reyna and Assembly Rudy Salas. BELOW: The WUESD combined middle school band. LEFT: Grand Marshals Ken and Tina Newman rode inside a carriage with a frisky donkey leading the way.



# At the festival...



LEFT: 2019 Festival Committee members taking a lunch break. From left are Camilo Vasquez, Tania Cordova and Stephanie Mixco. ABOVE: Featured Author Alfred "Fritz" Miller with his newly published book, "From Cows to Space with God as my Copilot." RIGHT: A Tupperware table was set up for those who needed replacements. BELOW: A colorful booth was filled with small surprises especially for youngsters.



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# Music Festival ends city's big weekend

**JAMIE STEWART**  
Wasco Tribune

The Wasco Festival came to a rocking end with a music blowout at the Babe Ruth Park on Saturday night. The festival included a parade and plenty of vendors at Barker Park, with food, games, merchandise and information booths set up for the entire family to enjoy. There also was also a big car show at the park,

with over 300 vehicles on display. Rounding out the weekend was the 3rd Annual Wasco Music Festival, with local acts performing a variety of genres, meeting every taste.

Opening the event was local band Madewell's Fireball Express. This four-man band plays authentic outlaw country with a deep southern rock vibe.

Members Marc Madewell, Mark Hokit, Mark Powell and Kelly Davis say that their influences are the artists that they grew up with, such as Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson and even some Creedence Clearwater, and Bakersfield's own Merle Haggard.

The attendees enjoyed the band and said that it really took them back to a simpler time when they were growing up. "I remember being back in school, going out on a Friday night, sitting at a bonfire, with a bunch of friends, listening to Waylon, Hank Jr., and Willie. This band really brought those memories back and sounded great," said festivalgoer Mike Caldwell.

The event also had some great food, offering a good variety including barbecue to tacos. "The food was awesome. I had a great barbecue dinner and a few cold ones. Was a fantastic time!", said Peter Martinez.



Attendees filled the dance floor throughout the night.

The fun kept coming as one of the top bands in Kern County took the stage. Mento Buru has been voted the best local band by Bakersfield Life Magazine two years running, with a number of other accolades. The seven-piece band plays a mixture of Latin alternative music, combined with Jamaican SKA, rock, funk, Latin jazz and reggae creating a maddening musical experience. What started out as just a bunch of friends jamming for backyard parties in 1992, has evolved into a cross-cultural phenomenon

all over California. Born during the ska craze and grunge era of the early 90s, Mento Buru was all about having fun playing the music they love with some of the best musicians in the area. Many of their former members have gone onto great careers on the world stage including: Keyboardist Dennis Hamm (Thundercat), Marcos Reyes (WAR), Rudy Parris (The Voice) and Mike Ransom (Adema).

A photo booth was available giving attendees a memento to take home, along with the memories of a

night out on the makeshift dance floor. A packed house spent the night dancing to the music, including some popular line dances.

The event was sponsored by the Orange Heart Foundation, which has been at the helm of many events in Wasco the past few years. Created in preparation for the Wasco High School 100th year celebration a few years ago, a few ladies who wanted to do something for the community, started the organization and it has grown into one of the most productive groups in the area.



Two of the grand marshals, Danny Rueda and his wife, Petra, with Traci Clendenon, Ruvy Ocampo, Orquidea Ocampo and Miss Wasco Elisa Flores.

## At the car show...



LEFT: Joe and Pascuala Gaïtan stand beside their 1982 Buick Regal. RIGHT: Best of Show Low Rider Jessie Hinojosa with Eddie Rodriguez, who donated the trophies. (Photo by Danny Rueda)



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