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Nonprofit leader Osborne aims for council

FOCUS ON THE COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Third in a series profiling candidates for the Shafter City Council, to be elected Tuesday, Nov. 5. Other articles can be found on TheShafterPress.com.

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

James Osborne is originally from Nashville, Tenn., and came to Shafter in 2019. Along with his wife, Cur'Neisha, he runs a nonprofit called Villagers Inc., which serves underprivileged youth by offering educational study trips, life skills training, leadership development, and food and home resources to the parents.

Osborne is running for one of three

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seats to be filled on the Shafter City Council, against incumbents Mayor Chad Givens, Gilberto Alvarado and Pete Espinoza, and Rafael Zamudio.

"Through Villagers Inc., we have partnerships with Toys for Tots, Ikea Furniture, Burlington Coat Factory and Good360. Through these partnerships, we are able to offer toys, furniture, clothing, household supplies, school supplies, and pretty much anything that a family would need. We also have a partnership with CAPK, where we get our food from them, which we distribute as well. We service the communities of Shafter, Wasco, Bakersfield, Arvin and

Lamont. We do an annual toy giveaway in all five of those cities, where we go to neighborhoods, honk our horn and pass out toys."

In Shafter, he works with the Shafter Youth Center. "For them, we do 'Operation Letters for Santa.' We had a mailbox designed with Santa on it that we placed in the center. Teachers have kids write letters to Santa, and then we get and fulfill the letters. It's something the kids look forward to."

Also, in Shafter, he hosts the Gossamer Grove Trunk or Treat. "We design it, run it and do the whole nine yards. Our first one was in 2020. We started with about 50 kids, and this past year, in 2023, we did just over 200 kids. What I enjoy most about it is the

See **NONPROFIT** Page 8



The Osborne Family Christmas photo 2023: James Osborne, wife Cur'Neisha Osborne, 10-year-old daughter Khori Sawyer, godson Messiah Carrillo and infant daughter Arabella Salazar.



The Lions Club's vision to promote police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie came to life at the Shafter National Night Out.

Law enforcement connects with Shafter community

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

The Shafter community came together Tuesday evening to celebrate National Night Out, an event designed to foster stronger connections between law enforcement agencies and residents. Hosted by the Shafter Lions Club and the Shafter Police Department, the gathering offered a chance for community members to interact with officers in a relaxed, friendly setting, with the goal of promoting trust and collaboration.

"It was a team effort between me and the Lions Club," Councilmember Gilbert Alvarado, president of the Shafter Lions Club, said. "We reached out to the chief of police and city manager to see what they thought about the Lions Club doing a National Night Out. They agreed to do it, and we said we would work with the PD and chief on the project."

"The concept behind it was we did it years back, but it was just our agency. We had about five officers, a police car, cornhole games and a canopy for giveaways. That was the extent of the National Night Out. So now the vision for the Lions Club was to have what you see today, for a small town to experience a National Night Out like a big city such as Bakersfield or the county would have."

Among the agencies represent-



Sandra Cabrera with Arvin Police Department Sergeant Brandon Snyder and his K9 partner.

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ed at the event were the Shafter Police, Delano Police, McFarland Police, Arvin Police, Kern County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad, California Highway Patrol, Kern County Sheriff Crime Prevention Unit, CDCR SWAT & K9, the Federal DEA, Kern County Probation Department, Kern High School District Police, California

Department of Fish & Game, Kern County EMS, ABC, Kern County Fire Department, Kern County District Attorney, CDCR Wasco State Prison, Hall Ambulance and Kern County Park Rangers.

Shafter Police Department Chief Randy Milligan shared, "This is a national event that promotes our community to our law enforcement officers. This event is

See **LAW** Page 6

Aviation team guides student in emergency

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

An emergency was averted by the Wonderful Aviation team at Meadows Field on Friday when a pilot on a King Air 90 flight from Henderson, Nev., to Monterey Bay, became unconscious. A student pilot found herself flying the aircraft alone for the first time. Wonderful Aviation's pilots played a crucial role in guiding the student pilot — who had zero experience — through the crisis, helping her safely land the plane in Bakersfield.

Chief Pilot Nick McLean said it was a matter of being in the right place at the right time. "Air traffic control had called the Wonderful Aviation office because they knew we flew a similar aircraft. Wonderful Aviation is at the Bakersfield Meadows Field Airport and operates many flights every day. Once I received the phone call, I knew we had to jump in and help because, at the company, one of our core values is being a Wonderful Neighbor. My personal value is to do to others what you want done to you. I thought, what if that was someone I knew in the airplane? I would want someone to jump into action and help as well."

He explained that to prepare mentally for the tense situation, "The first thing I did was grab two other pilots from our department with years of aviation experience and who train other pilots as instructors. The next thought was, how do you explain years of training and experience in flying in minutes of radio transmissions to someone with no experience? It was then off to getting ourselves to air traffic control and being prepared for anything."

The operation was a team effort by Chief Pilot Nick McLean, Assistant Chief Pilot John Hess and experienced pilot Del Kienholz.

"It helped that another aircraft in the area had gotten on the same frequency as the plane in danger and was

See **WONDERFUL** Page 7

Alexia Ramirez named Homecoming Queen



Alexia Ramirez Friday night. (SEE STORY PAGE 6)

A disco mystery at Ford tickets on sale



The Shafter Ford Theater Young Adults Program actors from the 2023 murder mystery show, "Romanian Uranium." (Photo courtesy of Joshua Cooley)

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

The Young Adults Theater of Shafter will perform "Drop Dead Disco," a captivating murder mystery dinner with audience participation that showcases the talent of its actors.

The event will raise funds for the Shafter Children's Summer Theater and Young Adults Theater of Shafter productions, said Joshua Cooley, the show's director.

The evening promises to be packed with entertainment, with dinner and desserts served while a sibling trio gains ownership of a discotheque. Mysteriously, one of the siblings is murdered, and the audience is left to figure out who did it. Cooley said the night will be filled with mystery, mayhem, melodrama and plenty of ex-

SHAFTER

citement, all set to the best '70s disco hits. The actors will be dressed in '70s-inspired fashion, and guests are highly encouraged to join the fun by dressing in theme.

"Dust off your '70s wardrobe – a deadly case of boogie fever is about to hit Shafter!" Cooley said. "Our actors have been training hard for this show, and we're excited to keep the audience on the edge of their seats, guessing if they can solve the murder."

"Drop Dead Disco" plays Saturday, Oct. 26, at 5:30 p.m. at the Shafter Ford Theater, 1101 E. Lerdo Hwy. Tickets are \$55 per plate or \$300 for a table of six. Tickets can be purchased online at shafterfordtheater.com or by calling 661-630-4059. For updates, visit the Young Adults Theater Program's Instagram page @YAT_Shafter.

Strata to celebrate past and present

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

Strata Credit Union will celebrate Día de los Muertos with a member appreciation event, on Friday, Nov. 1, at their Wasco branch. The gathering will include activities such as face painting, pastries, exciting raffles and giveaways, including a chance to take home a limited-edition tumbler.

"We established the Día de los Muertos Member Appreciation Event to celebrate and honor both past and present family members, embodying the rich cultural traditions that resonate deeply within our community," explained Nicolas Caver, marketing officer for the credit union. "This gathering not only allows us to pay tribute to those we've lost but also creates a warm space for members to come together in love and remembrance, celebrating the bonds that unite us all."

Caver emphasized the credit union's commitment to community engagement. "We also wanted to do this because we feel that there are too many people that are underserved and underbanked within this community. We care about the community and its members. We attend some events here and there, but we don't host many events at our branch, so people may not always know where to find us other than through our billboards. That's why we saw this as a great opportunity to con-



The Strata Credit Union Wasco branch team of Gary Gonzalez, Flor Arreola, Leslie Rodriguez, Elizabeth Lagunas, Samantha Bravo, Beatriz Rosas Cadena and Paulina Raya Puente.

WASCO

nect with people in Wasco and reach out to the broader community."

Community Outreach Specialist Jai

Gutierrez outlined the credit union's mission: "Our key goal is to empower our community with the essential tools for financial success. We understand that individuals from lower socioeconomic groups

often face challenges such as lower credit scores, higher debt and limited savings. By addressing these issues head-on, we aim to create a supportive environment that fosters financial literacy and resilience, helping everyone achieve their financial dreams."

In addition to celebrating the cultural heritage of Día de los Muertos, the event aims to encourage community members to visit the credit union and discover the services available to them. "To encourage people in the community to come into the bank and see how great it is and learn about some of the services we have to offer. Something notable for a community like Wasco, where there are many immigrants, is that we offer ITIN lending for members who don't have a social security number. So, if they have an ITIN number, they can use the services at the bank. We'll have information on hand about that," Caver explained.

Gutierrez also highlighted the credit union's commitment to inclusivity: "In addition, we have bilingual staff to help Spanish speakers. All our staff comes highly trained. They are friendly and always willing to go above and beyond to deliver excellent customer service."

The event will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. at 2830 Hwy 46, in the Walmart shopping center. For more information, call 661-327-9461.

WHS Class of '74 celebrates 50th

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

The Wasco Union High School Class of 1974 gathered on Saturday to celebrate their milestone 50th reunion. Classmates traveled from as far as Florida, Texas, Idaho, Nevada, Washington and Arizona to reconnect with old friends, relive memories from the past and catch up on the last five decades of each other's lives.

For Jann Hill, it was a special opportunity to see John Herrick. "We were close friends in high school, and he was in my wedding. He was just north, and I stayed in California, and we lost touch."

Anita Bell Harris expressed her excitement about reuniting with old high school girlfriends, saying, "We shared a lot of memories and good times togeth-

WASCO

er, and we've been apart for a long time – 50 years since high school, as many of them moved far away. Fifty years is a big milestone. It doesn't feel like it could be 50 years."

"Some people haven't aged at all," Carol Rankin Terry said. "Some people, it takes them giving me their names, and then I recognize them. It's nice to see so many people that look so healthy and great. I saw my friend Carol, whom I've known since 4th grade, and Janet, with whom I went to kindergarten. It's just incredible happiness and very joyful to be here."

Dirk Craig made the trip from Seaside, Calif. "It's good to see how everybody is doing and get back in touch. I left Wasco after I graduated. It's different to be back.

It's a lot bigger, and it's growing. Tonight, I got to see a friend I went to grade school with, and there's a few I studied with through elementary and high school."

Before the reunion reception, there was a Wasco Historical Society Museum tour, and Craig visited for the first time with his wife, Jessica. "It was interesting. I watched a video with Wasco history, and our yearbook was there."

Denise Hamlin, who spearheaded the event, said, "I'm just so happy we got the turnout we did. We have 56 graduates."

Les Laughlin praised her efforts. "Denise put in a lot of hard work and is a good organizer. It's really neat."

Penny Hall Skeels also played a role in planning. "I'm smiling. At our first pre-planning meeting, we had over twenty people. We met once a month for a year, and we're going to continue."



Penny Hall Skeels, Al Vento and Anita Bell Harris reunite as Penny and Al reminisce about working together at Nelson's Apparel during high school.

ARREST REPORT

From Page 2
and driving without a valid license. She was cited and released at the scene.

Isaac Gutierrez, 46, was arrested in the 1500 block of Highway 46 for possession of burglary tools, possession of unlawful paraphernalia, and possession of a controlled substance. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Nancy Edith Anaya, 49, was arrested in the 1500 block of Highway 46 for possession of unlawful paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance, and on a misdemeanor bench warrant. She was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Lionel Lopez, 39, was arrested in the 1500 block of

Highway 46 for participating in a criminal street gang, possession of a controlled substance for sale and possession of a controlled substance. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

OCT. 2

Richard Leroy Floyd, 58, was arrested at the intersection of Poso Drive and Birch Avenue for transporting marijuana, resisting a peace officer, and on a felony bench warrant and a misdemeanor bench warrant. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Rodney Eugene Thomas, 65, was arrested in the 1900 block of F Street on a felony arrest warrant. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

OCT. 3

Deshawn King, 41, was arrested in the 2600 block of Via Morocco Boulevard for assault with a deadly weapon, first-degree burglary and trespassing. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Brandon Velasquez, 28, was arrested at Griffith Avenue and Lily Street on a misdemeanor bench warrant. He was cited and released at the scene.

Christopher Martinez, 29, was arrested in the 700 block of F Street on a misdemeanor bench warrant. He was cited and released at the scene.

OCT. 4

Michael C James Smith, 34, was arrested in the 1500 block of G Street for possession of a controlled substance, and on a felony bench warrant and a misdemeanor bench warrant. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Epifanio Fierro Rodriguez, 54, was arrested at the

intersection of 7th Street and Palm Avenue for possession of a controlled substance while armed and loaded, possession of a controlled substance, altering or removing identification marks on a firearm, possession of a large capacity magazine, carrying a concealed weapon in a vehicle and carrying a loaded firearm on person. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

OCT. 5

Isidro Larralde Jr, 28, was arrested at 16th Street and Highway 43 for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Ervey Guerra Martinez, 37, was arrested in the 1300

block of Palm Avenue for obstructing or resisting a peace officer and carrying a concealed dirk or dagger. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

OCT. 6

Gerardo Osorio Antonio, 27, was arrested at the intersection of D and 12th streets for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was booked into the Lerdo Justice Facility.

Francisco Javier Martinez, 42, was arrested at the intersection of Palm Avenue and Highway 46 for driving at an unsafe speed, reckless driving and transporting a child without proper seat restraint. He was cited and released at the scene.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING | Shafter Library and Learning Center

SLLC welcomes new Community Services Supervisor Rebecca Bernal

BILL WOLFE

For the Shafter Library and Learning Center

The Shafter Library & Learning Center is pleased to welcome the new community services supervisor, Rebecca Bernal. The position has been redesignated from SLLC manager because in addition to leading the team at the SLLC, Bernal will be involved in planning and organizing the city's downtown events. Her first day was Sept. 23.

Bernal is returning to work in Shafter after a few years with the Wonderful Company's College Prep Academy in Delano and Lost Hills. She graduated from Shafter High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in economics at UCLA. While in college, she was a peer learning facilitator for the Academic Advancement Program, leading small group discussions to support students in their economics courses. During the summers, she returned to Shafter for an internship in the City Services Department.

"After I graduated, I returned to Shafter and became a substitute teacher, working for the Kern High School District, primarily here at Shafter High, as well as at Wasco High School. Sorry!" she says, laughing about teaching at Shafter High's archrival.

Most recently, she was a manager for the GEAR UP program at Wonderful College Prep Academy. "My position allowed me to lead our teams in Delano and Lost Hills as we followed a cohort of current 9th and 10th grade students and helped prepare students and their families for postsecondary education." GEAR UP is an acronym for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, a federally funded program.

Bernal was intrigued when she learned of the Community Services Supervisor job opening. "I decided to apply to this position because it was the perfect opportunity to utilize the program management skills I gained from my previous position and tie it into my knowledge about our community. Growing up in Shafter, as well as my internship with the city, has given me personal insight into how the city government operates and the resources avail-



Rebecca Bernal, right and SLLC staff member Estrella Ramirez.

able to our community. I'm excited to be able to utilize those skills, as well as some of my economics background, as we continue to improve our efforts at expanding community resources."

Bernal knows the SLLC well and believes it's an invaluable part of the city's resources and culture. "I think the SLLC is incredibly special to our community. It's important to invest in our community and allow everyone to receive enriching educational opportunities. The SLLC has evolved a great deal from when I was a student. One of the projects in the junior high summer program I participated in was to design the Learning Center! I also remember utilizing this space as we prepared for AP exams in high school."

"I am most excited to be back in Shafter and to work alongside a great team," she says in her usual enthusiastic manner. "There are a lot of new projects in the works, and I am excited to be able to brainstorm and continue reviewing community feedback on how we can best improve."

In her free time, Bernal enjoys reading thrillers and dystopian novels, but she also loves a good rom-com (romantic comedy). "Unfortunately, I have not been as on top of my reading as I would like to be, so I hope to receive some great recommendations from the librarians here at the SLLC!"

of its service. After the flags are collected, the Lions Club will be working with veterans groups to handle their retirement.



"Greetings from Shafter" postcards are for sale at the library.

Friends of Library offering postcards and stickers of "Greetings from Shafter" mural

By Katie Wiebe, Friends of Shafter Library president

The Friends of the Shafter Library are very excited that we now have postcards and stickers of our vintage postcard mural available for purchase at the Shafter Library and Learning Center! The "Greetings from Shafter" postcards are 5.25" x 4" and the stickers are 3.5" x 2". We are also offering a "My Hometown" postcard featuring Shafter landmarks (5.5" x 8.5") drawn by Deanna Nelson.

These items can be purchased at the library desk for \$1 each, or six for \$5.

When the Friends of the Shafter Library group began to think about a mural for the GAF classroom wall that faces the parking lot, we knew we wanted to create something that we could use on promotional items to raise funds and spread the word about our wonderful Shafter community, and of course, our beloved library. Similar vintage postcard designs are popular across the country and are often used to promote cities and to build pride of place in those locations. We thought this would be the perfect inspiration for our mural project.

Happily, local muralist Lorena Castillo was up for the challenge and created a stunning mural that celebrates our town and the wonderful things going on here. Our postcard mural has provided countless photo opportunities for those in Shafter. It is also a welcoming and inviting sight to those who drive by the library.

SHAFTER



A special box for flags ready for retirement.

Lions Club donates flag retirement box to SLLC

By David Franz

The Lions Club of Shafter has purchased a flag retirement box and is lending it to the SLLC so that we can help educate the public about how to retire U.S. flags. We are honored by this opportunity and happy to help residents learn about respect for the flag and what it represents.

The U.S. Flag Code states that when an American flag is worn, torn, faded or badly soiled, it should be retired with dignity. Proper disposal ensures our national symbol is treated with respect even at the end

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Canvas to community: A Chicana artist

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

Irma Ceja is a Chicana artist and muralist. She paints anime characters on tote bags, clothing, and shoes, which she sells online, at pop-ups, special events and galleries. Her artwork often depicts females, such as the Virgin Mary and other feminine influences. She is currently working on a large scale, colorful mosaic mural commissioned by the Urbanist Collective, representing the rich agricultural community of Delano.

"I love that my art can be used to help beautify a community and unite other artists to work towards social change," Ceja said in an interview last week. "That is something I want to be a part of."

She describes her artistic style as bold, colorful, imaginative and very bright. "It leaves a different impression on each audience – some may find it sad, while others see it as almost unrealistic or somewhat surreal."

Irma said that she has always loved to paint and that her artwork reflects her culture and childhood. "Everything I've loved—my childhood memories, favorite colors, and sources of inspiration—comes through in my work. The colors I choose and how I bring my imagination to life are all part of my creative process. What I love most about being an artist is bringing my



Artist Irma Ceja with her painting of the Virgen de Guadalupe, a collaborative art piece with her fiancé, Johnny Garza.

REGIONAL

imagination into existence and sharing it with others. My work is also a way of holding onto the joy and wonder of childhood. In essence, I've never let go of my inner child. My art is a nostalgic experience, blending who I was as a child with who I am today."

As for becoming an artist, she initially wanted to be an animator. "Cartoons and anime were a big part of my childhood.

I spent weekends watching them at my grandparents', and I dreamed of working for Disney or Pixar one day. That dream really sparked my passion for art."

She is a self-taught artist and believes she inherited that gift from her father. "My father, especially, was a hands-on learner who would figure things out by doing them over and over until he mastered them – that's how he was able to start his own business. That mentality definitely influenced me."

A daughter of immigrants, she saw the sacrifices her parents made chasing the American dream, hoping for a better life. "They worked in the fields and held multiple jobs, always striving to improve things for our family. Even though my dad owned his own business, we went through a lot of struggles as immigrants because there weren't many opportunities. Watching them work so hard, no matter how tedious the jobs, really shaped my drive and hustle to pursue a better future."

It's that drive that has sparked a profound force within her to create. She finds joy in the process. "Everything I've learned and taught myself is reflected in my paintings. Just like my dad, I'm a visual learner. To this day, I'm still figuring things out, constantly learning something new as an artist over time."

Her aspiration is to continue honing her craft to inspire the next generation of artists and create more opportunities for them in smaller communities. "I want to see my community grow through the beautification process, with art playing a central role. My ultimate goal is to open doors for aspiring artists, allowing creativity to flow freely and encouraging them to explore their full potential."

To learn more, follow her on Facebook @ I.C Illustrations and Instagram #art-by-ic. For questions or inquiries, email: ic_illustration@yahoo.com.

Elks car show salutes Blaine Willard

VERONICA JACUINDE
The Press and Tribune

The annual Blaine Willard Memorial Car Show, held on Saturday and presented by the Wasco Elks Lodge #2419, drew a record crowd of car enthusiasts. The event was a tribute to Blaine Willard, who served the lodge and the community for many years. The large turnout demonstrated just how much Blaine was admired, with attendees coming from near and far to honor his memory.

Linda Ballengee thought it was a great show. Her husband, Mark Ballengee, brought his 1933 Victory, and she liked seeing the other cars. The best part for her was reconnecting with old friends. Speaking about Willard, she said, "He was an awesome guy, a friend to everyone. If you needed anything, he was always there to help. This event is a fitting tribute to him because he loved the Elks. Everyone knew he was a huge part of it."

Mark, a member for over 20 years, added, "I met him in my teens. He was a tough guy, but he had the softest heart around. Blaine was a Buttonwillow Lions Club member and later joined the Elks, where he spent a lot of time. He loved coming to the Elks Club and playing cards. He was a close friend. Attending this car show brings back good memories, and it's a way to continue supporting his family. His daughter, Cindy, is still



Jerry McGuire, Randy Poe and Kenny Oliver hold trophies celebrating Oliver's stand-out vehicles from the show.

WASCO

very close to us."

Friends traveled from afar to attend the annual event. Another Elks member of 40 years, Geary Anderson, came from Pismo Beach. "Blaine was a good guy. He'd give you the shirt off his back if he liked you. I was sad to see him go when he passed. He was a good friend and supported every club event. If it wasn't monetarily, it was physically. He participated in events, setting up—he did everything. He always had a smile on his face. He had a passion for cars, which is why this car show is so fitting. It was his dream."

Jessica Smart visited from Bakersfield. "I think it's such a small town that rallies together, and everyone is so close-knit. They

have each other's backs, and you can tell from age 13 all the way up to 75. That is what is so special – everyone is so close, you can't tell the difference, that they're not family. They are extremely kind and hospitable. I didn't mind the day trip to hang out with good people and see beautiful cars."

There were many stunning vehicles, and Kenny Oliver took 1st place for his 1965 Chevrolet and 1st place for his 2021 Challenger Hellcat Widebody SRT. "It's pretty cool to come back and get recognized with all the other great cars here with my Wasco friends. It's always great with the Elks."

Brian Enns won 1st place for his 1955 Pontiac Chieftain. "I've worked on it for the last six years and

am still working. I've won 1st for the second year in a row. It feels good because it's a big accomplishment – starting out as nothing, being able to build something and being able to drive it. I enjoyed the show. There are a lot of nice cars out here and a lot of work."



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START 09.00 AM

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Aaron Jimenez brings down a runner for a loss. RIGHT: Christopher Espinoza crosses the goal line for a TD.

Generals tame the Wildcats, 28-0

JAMIE STEWART
For The Shafter Press

SHAFTER

The Shafter High Generals football team didn't play their best game on Friday night, but they played well enough to take a 28-0 win over the Taft Wildcats on Homecoming night for the locals.

Mariyon Sloan, at quarterback, accounted for three of the Generals' four scores on the night.

The first score for Shafter was a 34-yard run by Sloan, giving the Generals a 7-0 lead. The Generals' defense kept the Wildcats' offense out of the red zone for the majority of the game.

Sloan ended the game with 206 yards rushing and three touchdowns. Sloan was joined by teammate Christopher Espinoza, who gained over 100 yards rushing on the night, on only 11 carries.

For the third game this season, the Generals generated over 300 yards on the ground. Shafter's defense, in addition to stopping the Wildcats for most of the game, also gave the Shafter offense the ball in good field position when Aaron Jimenez picked off a Taft pass and ran it the other way for a good gain, leading to one of the Generals' touchdowns.

At halftime, the Shafter High Homecoming Queen and King were crowned. Alexia Ramirez, daughter of Eduardo Ramirez and Marlene Martinez, was named the Queen. Ramirez is involved in ASB, girls basketball, student advocacy, College Bound, FFA and HQT.V. She plans to leave for college and play basketball, major in psychology and minor in kinesiology, and become a sports psychologist.

Alan Fierzo Gomez, the son of Edgar Fierro and Perla Gomez, was named Shafter High's Homecoming King. Alan is in ASB, cross country, color guard, link crew, Listos, Every 15 Minutes and Col-

lege Bound. He plans to pursue a position in leadership or go explore the wonders of the world.

The juniors were the big winners in the skit competition. They gave the crowd a peek into the 1980s, complete with '80s music, hair styles and clothes.

The second half of the game featured two more scores for the Generals, who could not be stopped on offense or defense.

Shafter will have to step up their game a notch this Friday night when they travel to Delano to play the Tigers. Delano has a 4-2 record, coming off a loss to Kennedy High School. Kickoff is slated for 7:30 p.m.

Tigers rout Titans, 57-7, in SSL opener

JAMIE STEWART
For the Wasco Tribune

WASCO

The Wasco High Tigers opened their SSL schedule with a dominating win over the Chavez Titans on Friday night, 57-7.

The Tigers scored early and often in this game, having a 27-0 lead before the end of the first quarter. The star of the show was Hammie Lopez, who had four touchdowns on the night, running for

over 300 yards. Lopez ended the game with 306 yards rushing, with freshman Aiden Hulsey gaining 104 yards on the ground.

Wasco had a total of 546 yards gained for the night, making it the most productive game for the Tigers in recent history.

Wasco will try to keep their SSL record unblemished when they take on the

Thunderbirds of Kennedy High School. The game will be played in Wasco and will kickoff at 7:30 p.m. Friday night.

Kennedy has been playing better lately, with a really tough nonleague schedule leading to a couple losses to begin the season.

Head Coach Chad Martinez and the Tigers are hitting on all cylinders now and have been showing a new offense that is more productive than in previ-

ous years, giving the team more options when it comes to running and passing the ball.

This Friday's contest will go a long way to determining the champions of the SSL, with both teams still having to play the other serious contender, the Shafter Generals.

The winner of Friday's game will have a big advantage for the league championship.

Law enforcement connects with residents

From Page 1
designed to give an opportunity for our community to engage with our local of-

ficers because a safe community requires a strong relationship with its community and its officers.

"The Shafter PD already has a great relationship with its community, but it gives them an opportuni-

ty to engage with officers where they have time to listen and understand the concerns of the community. It also gives them a great opportunity to look at all the equipment that we use to protect them."

Mayor Chad Givens highlighted the significance of the event, stating, "If we can get our police officers in the public spotlight in a positive

environment, we want to do that. We want to connect our residents and our first responders and build relationships. Our first responders are here not just for our protection but to build lasting relationships that go beyond the badge."

Officer Enrique Ibarra of the Shafter Police expressed excitement about the event. "Getting the

community together and making sure that the community sees the great in law enforcement is very important, and today's event accomplishes that. I'm here with my team fingerprinting children and giving them ID cards so if they are lost, it makes it easier to identify who the child is."

The Arvin Police Department also participated, with Sergeant Brandon Snyder attending alongside his K-9. He remarked, "This event helps build trust between law enforcement and the community because it gives people the chance to ask questions they might be afraid to ask an officer on the street. Normally, when they see us, they might think we're too busy or feel intimidated. But here, they know we're here specifically for the event, and they can ask us anything. They get to see that we're just regular people who happen to work in law enforcement."

Snyder emphasized that community engagement is central to the department's mission. "It's important because we aren't there to witness many of the crimes, so we need the community to trust us and feel comfortable coming forward to share what they've seen. Solving these crimes is a partnership and a team effort."

Many community partners contributed to the evening, helping build neighborhood camaraderie. Some of the supporters included the Shafter Recreation & Parks District, Assemblymember Dr. Jasmeet Bains, California Resources Corporation, Stra-ta Credit Union, Shafter Transmission & Smog, Shafter AG Solution, and Glam Salon & Spa.

Date	Location	Time	Score
Friday, 8/23	at Exeter	7:30 p.m.	W, 22-14
Thursday, 8/29	Arvin	7:30 p.m.	W, 56-13
Friday, 9/13	at Dos Palos	7:30 p.m.	W, 41-38
Friday, 9/20	Edison	7:30 p.m.	W, 50-12
Friday, 9/27	at St. Joseph	7:30 p.m.	L, 30-28
Friday, 10/4	Taft*	7:30 p.m.	W, 28-0
Friday, 10/11	at Delano*	7:30 p.m.	
Thursday, 10/17	Kennedy*	7:30 p.m.	
Friday, 10/25	Chavez*	7:30 p.m.	
Friday, 11/1	at Wasco*	7:30 p.m.	

* League

Date	Location	Time	Score
Friday, 8/23	at Porterville	7:30 p.m.	L, 40-17
Friday, 8/30	Ridgeview	7:30 p.m.	W, 22-14
Friday, 9/6	at Morro Bay	7 p.m.	W, 32-28
Thursday, 9/12	Tehachapi	7:30 p.m.	L, 36-8
Friday, 9/27	at Tulare Western	7:30 p.m.	L, 23-15
Friday, 10/4	at Chavez*	7:30 p.m.	W, 57-7
Friday, 10/11	Kennedy*	7:30 p.m.	
Friday, 10/18	at Taft*	7:30 p.m.	
Friday, 10/25	Delano*	7:30 p.m.	
Friday, 11/1	Shafter*	7:30 p.m.	

* League



The City Council seeks public interest to serve on the Shafter Planning Commission

The Shafter City Council is seeking three individuals for appointment to each serve 4-year terms on the Shafter Planning Commission beginning January 2024.

The Shafter Planning Commission is a 5-member board appointed by the City Council whose primary objective is to review and act on matters related to planning and development such as conditional use permits, lot line adjustments, general plan, zoning, housing element, and variances.

Board meetings are held the second Tuesday monthly at 6 p.m. Planning Commissioners serve with compensation. Upon assuming office, a Disclosure Statement of Economic Interests (FPPC Form 700); Completion of a FPPC ethics training course within first year of appointment is required; and maintain residency within the City of Shafter throughout the term.

Individuals interested in being considered, must be an elector of the City of Shafter (a resident within the incorporated city limits and registered to vote upon appointment); and must submit Shafter Planning Commission Application, to the Shafter City Council, 336 Pacific Ave., Shafter CA 93263 by 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 29, 2024. Application can be found at: <https://www.shafter.com/DocumentCenter/View/6143/Planning-Commissioner-Application-FINAL-2024>. Contact City Clerk Yazmina Pallares for more information at CityClerk@shafter.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Fictitious Business Name Abandonment Statement
Alvarez Party Rental
1140 8th Place
Wasco, CA 93280
County: KERN
Mailing address of business:
1140 8th Place
Wasco, CA 93280
Belem Rodriguez
1140 8th Place
Wasco, CA 93280
Business was conducted by:
Individual
/s/Belem Rodriguez, Owner
Original FBN Statement File
Number: 2024-B4696
Original FBN Statement Filed on:

07/29/2024
This statement of Abandonment filed on: 08/26/2024
Aimee X. Espinoza
Auditor-Controller-County Clerk
By: /s/M Torralba
Publish Wasco Tribune September 26, October 3, 10, 17, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
Fictitious Business Name Statement
Qualcare IPA
2024-B5667
11612 Bolthouse Drive, Suite 210
Bakersfield, CA 93311
County: Kern
11612 Bolthouse Drive, Suite 210

Bakersfield, CA 93311
Qualcare, Inc., A Professional Medical Corporation
11612 Bolthouse Drive, Suite 210
Bakersfield, CA
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by:
Corporation*
Date the business commenced:
12/17/2023
/s/Edward Nichols, M.D. President
Date Statement Filed: 09/12/2024
Date Statement Expires:
09/12/2029
Aimee X. Espinoza
Auditor-Controller-County Clerk
By: M Cedeno
Publish Wasco Tribune September 26, October 3, 10, 17, 2024

