



INSIDE



2022 KINGS FAIR
PG. 4



PEST PREVENTION
STRATEGY PG. 5



DISTRICT 5 DAIRY
PRINCESS PG. 7

Local agencies' Groundwater Sustainability Plans found insufficient

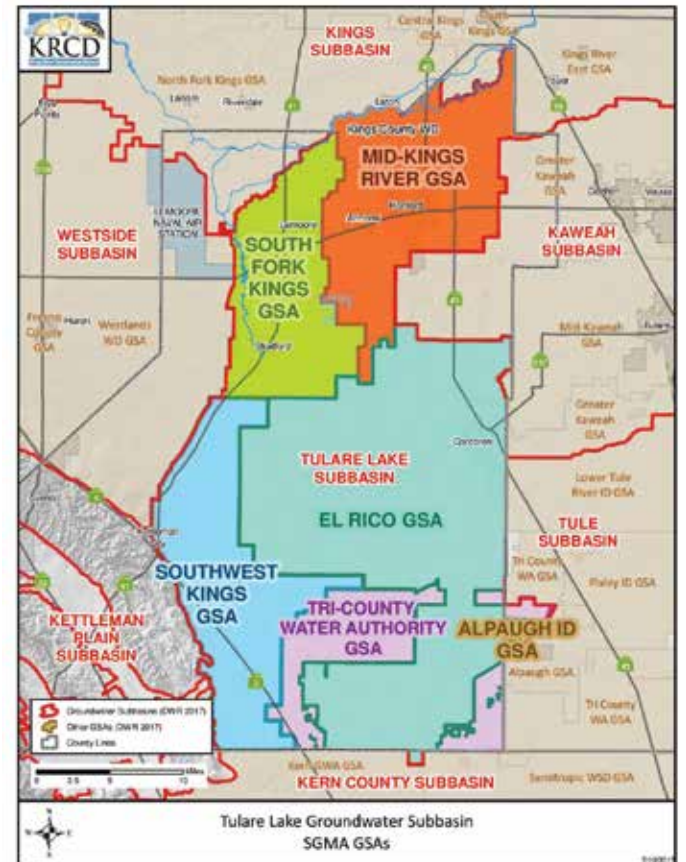
By Dusty Ference, Executive Director

This month, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Valley must resubmit Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) after the original GSPs were deemed insufficient by California's Department of Water Resources (DWR) in January. DWR's decision not to accept plans affected nearly every GSP submitted for critically over-drafted sub-basins in California, including all the southern San Joaquin Valley.

Until the introduction of the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), California was the only state in the nation without groundwater pumping regulations. The law classified groundwater sub-basins and prioritized them as either high, medium, low, or very low priority basins. Additionally, many high-priority basins were deemed critically overdrafted, requiring GSP creation and submittal to DWR by Jan. 31, 2020. The entire southern San Joaquin Valley is considered critically overdrafted.

Written to allow 20 years to achieve sustainability and slight decreases in groundwater levels, SGMA allowed for GSPs to ease into corrective action, such as restricting groundwater pumping, which was the plan for most. However, DWR's interpretation of the law and the main reason GSPs are considered unacceptable claims that after Jan. 31, 2020, GSAs

"Groundwater" continued on page 2



This map breaks down how Kings County and the surrounding areas are divided into Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs). Courtesy of Kings River Conservation District

What Cal/OSHA's proposed "permanent" COVID regulation means for employers

Courtesy of Barsamian & Moody, Attorneys at Law

Cal/OSHA has released a proposed semi-permanent COVID standard which is expected to be enacted later this year to replace Cal/OSHA's most recent revisions to the COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard (May 2022 ETS). The May 2022 ETS is effective from May 6, 2022 until Dec. 31, 2022. The semi-permanent standard is expected to take effect on Jan. 1, 2023 and all of its provisions are slated to stay in effect for two years. While this replacement rule follows the May 2022 ETS in many areas, there are some significant changes employers should be aware of.

The definition of "close contact" will be expanded in accordance with a recent California Department of Public Health (CDPH) definition update. While previously, any employee within six feet of the COVID-19 positive individual for 15 minutes in a 24-hour period was considered to have close contact, the new rule will define close contact as "sharing the same indoor airspace as a COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over the 24-hour period during the COVID-19 case's infectious period." This expansion of close contact, by removing the six feet provision, has the potential to significantly increase requirements for contact tracing and administration of testing.

Once a positive case in the work-environment is identified, all employees sharing the same indoor airspace with the COVID-19 employee will need to be tested and excluded where required under the rule. This proposed rule does not

"COVID Regulations" continued on page 6



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #1831
West Sacramento, CA
95691



Purpose

Protect, preserve and enhance agriculture in Kings County

Vision

Ensure that every farmer has the right to farm and protect their heritage

Values

Our Members | Proactive Representative
Reliable | Trusted Resource

Officers

President: Kevin Robertson
Vice President: Shane Bickner
Secretary/Treasurer: Garrett Gilcrease

Directors

John Ellis	Brian Medeiros
Todd Fukuda	Michael Miya
Jon Garcia	Brian Potter
Dino Giacomazzi	Brandon Sargent
Keith Grabow	Jared Silveira
Pete Hanse	Helen Sullivan
Monty Hoggard	Frank Zonneveld
Jared Little	

Executive Director

Dusty Ference
dusty.ference@kcfb.org

Farm Life Editorial

Amy Fienen
afienen@kcfb.org

Farm Life Advertising

Dusty Ference
kcfb@kcfb.org
(559) 584-3557

Farm Life Designer

Beth Greene

KCFB District Representative

Brian Medeiros

Contact

870 Greenfield Ave., Hanford, CA 93230
Phone: (559) 584-3557
www.kcfb.org



Kings County Farm Bureau



@KingsFarmBureau



@KingsFarmBureau

Kings County Farm Bureau's "FarmLife" does not accept responsibility for statements by advertisers or for products advertised in "FarmLife," nor does Farm Bureau accept responsibility for statements or expressions of opinion other than content showing authorship by an officer, director, or employee of Farm Bureau or its affiliates.

© Kings County Farm Bureau, 2022

WATER NEWS

you can use

WHAT SGMA MEANS TO YOU

Since SGMA's passage in 2014, "Farm Life" has brought our readers countless articles about how this new era in water management will affect them. And yet our staff and board members constantly speak with farmers and ag industry professionals who don't know the first thing about the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. We understand that SGMA is a complicated issue, but it's not one that should be ignored.

Because of the importance of being educated about SGMA and its implementation, we will be bringing you a series of SGMA-related articles in "Farm Life," starting with this month's article that begins on page 1. If this is the first you're reading about SGMA, here are some fast facts to give you some background information and to help you understand what SGMA means to you.

- The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was passed in 2014. The need to regulate California's groundwater became apparent after four years of drought led to a halt in surface water deliveries to farmers. This zero-percent allocation forced the majority of farmers to rely solely on groundwater to irrigate their crops, further depleting a supply that has only been further exhausted as drought conditions seem to be the Valley's new norm.
- The over-pumping of groundwater led to subsidence (ground sinking) in a number of areas across the Valley. Now, eight years later, farmers continue to face zero-percent water allocations and are being forced to fallow thousands of acres.
- The purpose of SGMA is to balance groundwater basins by 2040. The Valley's various groundwater basins are managed by local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), which are currently going through the process of submitting Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for managing their groundwater. See the map on page 1 to help locate your GSA.
- SGMA is a long-term plan, but farmers will start seeing significant changes to their irrigation practices in the coming years. They may include pumping restrictions and limitations as to the types of crops and number of acres that can be planted in areas with no groundwater. 🌱

"Groundwater" continued from page 1

are responsible for mitigating domestic wells where the groundwater level drops below the depth of a well between now and reaching a sustainable groundwater level.

Understanding that DWR is not likely to budge on mitigation measures, GSAs have agreed to address DWR's concerns. For now, GSP updates are not finalized, so plan details are forthcoming. GSAs expect DWR to review plan updates and deliver an opinion by the end of this year.

Should the unthinkable happen and DWR not accept plans again, it is unclear what steps DWR will take next. However, the State Water Resources Control Board would be involved in that situation. DWR will likely accept GSP updates, and growers won't notice this change and should only be looking for GSP implementation steps determined by your GSA.

For much of Kings County, pumping restrictions are not an immediate part of the plan. Just know that over time, you are likely to be restricted. In the meantime, many GSAs are focusing on building infrastructure to capture surface water, particularly flood releases, and maximize surface water deliveries. Some GSAs are working to minimize the number of planted acres in the service area by incentivizing growers not to grow or by purchasing ground and not planting.

If you do not know what GSA your farm or farms are in, visit sgma.water.ca.gov and find the GSA map viewer. From there, become familiar with your GSA. Add your email address to the interested parties list, and you'll receive meeting notices and agendas. Talk with the manager and board members of your GSA to better understand what changes are coming your way. Undoubtedly, SGMA will change how you and everyone in the Central Valley farms. 🌱

IRS increases mileage rate for remainder of 2022

Courtesy of Barsamian & Moody, Attorneys at Law

The IRS has announced an increase in the standard mileage rate used to calculate employee mileage reimbursement for the remainder of 2022. The IRS normally updates the mileage rates once a year for the next calendar year and midyear rate changes like this are rare, but the IRS has authority to make such changes when it sees fit. The IRS identified the "recent increases in the price of fuel" as the reason for this update.

California Labor Code section 2802 requires employers to reimburse employees "for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee" in the discharge of his or her duties, or at the direction of the employer. This includes reimbursing employees for required use of their personal vehicle for business purposes. Use of the IRS mileage rate is optional, but the California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement and California courts have stated that the IRS mileage rate satisfies the employer's obligation for

reimbursement.

The revised standard mileage rates apply to the allowances or reimbursements paid (1) to an employee on or after July 1, 2022, and (2) for transportation expenses paid or incurred by the employee on or after July 1, 2022.

The adjusted rates are as follows:

IRS MILEAGE RATE CHANGES			IRS.GOV
Purpose	Rates 1/1 through 6/30/2022	Rates 7/1 through 12/31/2022	
Business	58.5	62.5	
Medical/Moving	18	22	
Charitable	14	14	

What this means for employers:

While this rate is used for computing deductible automobile operating costs for businesses, the rate is also approved

"IRS Mileage Rate" continued on page 5

Pesticide disposal event scheduled for Sept. 19

The Kings County Department of Agricultural and Measurement Standards is partnering with the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner in hosting a Pesticide Disposal Event scheduled for Monday, Sept. 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event will be held at the Tulare Agricultural Commissioners main office (4437 South Laspina St., Tulare).

Before containers, jugs and drums can be accepted for recycling, they must be residue-free, rinsed and dry, and should not contain a cap. Non-HDPE parts like caps, metal handles and rubber linings should be removed, along with booklets, sleeves and any removable paper. Fifty-five gallon drums must be cut into quarters lengthwise.

Allowed containers are HDPE 55-gallon and smaller containers that previously held product used for EPA-registered ag use crop protection, pest control, animal health, turf and ornamental, vegetation management, nursery and greenhouse, forestry, aquatics, and public health.

Prohibited containers include those constructed of anything other than HDPE, rotationally molded containers, mini-bulk or intermediate bulk containers, and all containers that held products used for consumer garden and pest control, swimming pool maintenance and veterinary products.

This event is for Kings and Tulare permittees only, and no appointment is necessary.

For more information, please call the Kings County Ag Commissioner at (559) 852-2830. 📞



Why Wait?

- Top operators are already adding solar. Why aren't you?
- Solar can save Agribusiness owners 70-75% on their power bill.
- In most cases, Ag solutions currently have a 3-5 year payback.
- Solar provides between a 20-35% return on investment.
- Ag solutions generate between \$40,000-\$50,000 annually per acre.

Make Life Better! Save More. Enjoy More.
If you're considering solar, go with the leader—Renewable Solar. We're the local leader with fully staffed teams (no outsourcing), bringing skill, scale and best-in-class solutions to maximize your Return-On-Investment. Call today.

559-410-8640 • www.RSI.SOLAR

RENEWABLE SOLAR

Exceptional People. Exceptional Performance.™

BILLINGSLEY TIRE INC
6 WEST D STREET
LEMOORE CA 93245
(559) 924-3481
www.billingsleytireinc.com

Snapshots from the 2022 Kings Fair livestock barn

Photos by Feinstein Foto

After COVID forced the cancellation of the Kings Fair and led to the livestock auction being held virtually the past two years, the fair and livestock auction returned with record-setting attendance in June. This summer's Kings Fair celebrated the county's agricultural bounty, and nothing represents local ag better than the livestock barn. As it is every year, the livestock barn was a highlight of the fair for young and old alike, allowing visitors to get up close and personal with cows, sheep, pigs, goats and poultry. Here, we highlight the local FFA and 4-H members that worked so hard on the livestock projects they raised for this year's fair. 🐾



Lic. Class A & C57
#826935

Kaweah Pump, Inc.

General Engineering Contractor

SERVING:
AGRICULTURE • DAIRY • MUNICIPALITIES
INDUSTRIAL • DOMESTIC

559.747.0755

Visit: Kaweahpumpinc.com
Email: info@kaweahpump.com

DEVELOPMENT & REHABILITATION SERVICES

- Well Video Surveys
- Well Development & Yield Testing
- Up to 1000HP Development Pumps
- Well Swaging • Swabbing • Brushing
- Acid Wash & Other Chemical Treatments
- Fishing Services • Well Abandonment

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

- Agricultural Concrete Pads
- Custom Pump Facilities

MACHINE SHOP SERVICES

- Full Service Centrifugal Pump Machine Shop
- Custom Short Couple Lift Pump Fabrication
- Discharge Fabrication • Mid-Stretch Fabrication
- In-Field Welding, Pipe Repair & Fabrication

ELECTRICAL SERVICES

- Complete Pump Electrical Services
- Power Company Management
- Variable Frequency Drives
- Power Relocation to New Well • Electrical Panels
- Transformer Pads • New Services • Upgrades

Serving the entire
San Joaquin Valley and
San Luis Obispo County

PUMP SERVICES

- In-House Pump Designs
- Deep Well Vertical Turbines - All Makes & Models
- Deep Well Submersible Turbines - All Makes & Models
- Custom Built Lift Pumps
- Booster Pumps • Fertilizer Injection Pumps • Domestic Pumps

County certifies June 7 primary election results

Kings County has certified the results of the June 7 statewide primary election, which left some, but not all local elections decided. On Nov. 8, the top two finishers for federal, statewide and legislative seats will face off in California's general election.

While most Kings County-level elections have been decided, the winning candidate must receive at least 50 percent of the vote. In the District 1 Kings County Supervisors race, incumbent Joe Neves secured

49.79 percent of the vote, so there will be a runoff between Neves and Martin Chavez in November.

Also facing off in November will be Congressman David Valadao (R-21) and Assemblymember Rudy Salas (D-32) for the newly drawn 22nd District.

U.S. Representative, District 20

Kevin McCarthy	62.26%
Marisa Wood	20.38%

U.S. Representative, District 22

David Valadao	25.11%
Rudy Salas	36.97%

California State Assembly, District 33

Devon Mathis	67.92%
Jose Sigala	17.21%

California State Senate, District 16

Melissa Hurtado	22.24%
David Shepard	49.53%

Kings County Supervisor, District 1

Martin Chavez	29.67%
Joe Neves	47.79%

Kings County Supervisor, District 3 Doug Verboon

Kings County Supervisor, District 4 Rusty Robinson

Kings County District Attorney Sarah Hacker 🐾

1-877-TRACTOR
www.gartontractor.com

Brett Garcia
Sales

4780 S. "K" Street
P.O. Box 87 • Tulare, CA 93275
(559) 686-0054 • Fax (559) 686-3718
Mobile (559) 331-3239
bgarcia@gartontractor.com

Ag Commissioner's Compliance Report



Jimmy Hook,
Agricultural
Commissioner/Sealer

California's Pest Prevention Strategy

Contributed by Lynda Schrupf, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

The Kings County Department of Agriculture plays a key role in the statewide strategy to protect California's food supply from the devastating impacts of exotic pests, while proactively protecting the environment and natural resources by heading off the need for additional pesticide use. This also includes shielding the public from exotic pests that pose human health threats.

Pest Exclusion

Pest exclusion is a program that provides the first line of defense for California agriculture. Inspections provide protection from introduction of insect, vertebrate and disease pests that may be introduced into the state through the movement of plants and plant products, as well as other items through normal channels of trade. The Kings County Ag Commissioner is notified by California Department of Food & Agricultural (CDFA) inspectors at the border stations of any goods that could not be inspected at the border so that County Ag Inspectors can meet the shipments when they arrive in Kings County for inspection. Common inspections are moving vans coming from high risk areas such as the east coast, southern states and Hawaii. Shipments of bee hives coming from anywhere outside of California are inspected upon arrival in Kings County, quarantined pests such as Red Imported Fire Ant and American Foulbrood disease are just a couple of the concerns. Packages and cargo planes including Amazon, UPS and FedEx coming into California are inspected by County Ag Inspectors, often using detection dogs. High risk pathways are parcel (UPS, USPS, FedEx, air freight) and nursery stock.

Pest Detection

Pest detection is a proactive program that provides the second line of defense against exotic pests through the early detection of new introductions before they become widely established. This program functions as an alliance between three cooperating agencies: the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC). Kings County's participation in these pest detection programs play a vital role in assuring that our growers that wish to export their products are able to do so with less restrictions to more countries.

Over 1,300 insect traps are monitored throughout Kings County for the presence of exotic pests. These include fruit flies (Mediterranean, Mexican, Caribbean, Oriental and Western cherry), Gypsy Moth, Cotton Seed Bug, Japanese Beetle, European Pine Shoot Moth, European Corn Borer, European Grape Vine Moth, Asian Citrus Psyllid and Khapra Beetle. These pests are specific in their preferred hosts and traps are placed accordingly. Most traps are maintained on a seasonal basis (April through October), while a few are maintained all year. Each trap is serviced on a scheduled frequency, amounting to nearly 9,000 trap inspections annually.

With homeowners' cooperation, a majority of traps are placed throughout



A Kings County Department of Agriculture pest detection aide places a med fly trap. Contributed photo

local urban areas, which are the most common points of introduction. Some traps contain specific insect pheromones, while others use a food or color attractant to lure the target pest if it is present in the surrounding neighborhood. It is extremely important to find invasive pests before they become established and do serious damage. The most important component of the successful Pest Detection Trapping Program is the partnership and cooperation of homeowners in granting permission to host insect traps on private property.

Pest Eradication

Pest eradication is the third line of defense for California agriculture, and is often conducted following the discovery of an introduced pest species. Often these projects are partially or completely under the jurisdiction of the CDFA. However, the CAC is often involved as the liaison to local government. Examples of current programs: Pink Bollworm, Asian Citrus Psyllid, Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter, Red Imported Fire Ant.

Pest Management

Pest management is the fourth and final line of defense for California agriculture. The County Agricultural Commissioner is charged with the responsibility of managing nuisance pests of agricultural and human health. Many of these pests are recently introduced species that have become established despite the best efforts of commissioners to keep them out of California. An example would be the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter that is under intensive control efforts in several southern counties, while eradication efforts continue in counties further north. Others are common pests such as ground squirrels, voles, gophers and noxious invasive weeds that can be serious pests of agriculture and urban areas alike.

With recent detections of Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) in northeast Tulare County, Kings County inspectors and growers are determined to continue implementing the pest exclusion and detection protocols as prescribed by the CDFA. For the most current information on ACP throughout California, visit citrusinsider.org. For more information about California's Pest Prevention Strategy, visit cdfa.ca.gov/plant.

For more information or should you have any questions, please contact the Kings County Department of Agriculture, agstaff@co.kings.ca.us, (559) 852-2830. 🌿

IRS Mileage continued from page 2

as an optional rate for reimbursing employees for mileage incurred for business purposes as required under California law. Employers must ensure that starting July 1, 2022 they use the new updated mileage rate for calculating mileage reimbursement for employees who use their vehicle for business purposes. 🌿

“COVID Regulations” continued from page 1

define “indoor airspace” and it is possible Cal/OSHA, or the CDPH, may revise this proposed language to define or alter this term prior to it taking effect next year.

Additionally, there is a proposed change from the May 2022 ETS definition of “infectious period” allowing for a shortened infectious period under certain circumstances. Cal/OSHA

will likely make revisions to this as they get feedback from the industries and as things progress throughout the year.

The proposed rule has eliminated exclusion pay completely. Unlike the May 2022 ETS, the proposed rule makes no mention of exclusion pay, meaning employers are not required to offer exclusion pay once this rule takes effect next year. Again, this could change significantly before the rule is finalized.

COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP) requirements are greatly relaxed. While the May 2022 ETS required employers to include numerous elements in their CPP or integrated into their Illness and Injury Prevention Program (IIPP), the proposed rule relaxes those elements in lieu of general requirements that:

- (1) Employees “receive training regarding COVID-19” consistent with Cal/OSHA’s existing Injury and Illness Prevention program training requirements;
- (2) Employers develop, implement and maintain effective policies to prevent transmission of COVID-19 by persons who had close contacts;
- (3) Employers determine the date and time a COVID-19 case/diagnosis/symptom was last present; and identify/respond to person with COVID-19 symptoms at the workplace.

There is also a proposed addition of record keeping requirements. Under the proposed rule, employers must maintain a record of COVID-19 cases and close contacts, including employee name and other specific information for two years or more where specified. Employers must also maintain a copy of the COVID Notice provided to employees and their representatives, which we have recommended from the start.

What this means for employers:

Do not throw out your COVID policies and CPP just yet. The changes discussed in this article are just some of the requirements of the proposed semi-permanent COVID rule and these changes may be revised up until the rule is finalized and enacted, which is expected later this year. Employers are encouraged to review the full text of the proposed rule. As of the writing of this article, no hearing dates for this proposed regulation have been scheduled, so there is no indication as to when the agency will finalize this rule. It is important to remember that the May 2022 ETS will stay in effect until Dec. 31, 2022, and the proposed rule is still subject to change. Employers should maintain their policies consistent with the May 2022 ETS, subject to any updates from Cal/OSHA or the CDPH. 🗣️



DIAS LAW FIRM, INC.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

502 W. Grangeville Blvd.
Hanford, California 93230
Telephone (559) 585-7330
Facsimile (559) 585-7335
www.diaslaw.com

Michael A. Dias • Jonette M. Montgomery
Sarah M. Hacker • Steven E. Alfieris
Ella Floresca • David M. Lange

Attorneys at Law

Jimmy J. Rodriguez • Alicia D. Wrest
Of Counsel



Providing accounting and payroll services to save your business time and money.

559.924.1225
bresslercompany.com

OUTSOURCE YOUR ACCOUNTING TO SAVE TIME AND MONEY.

#FINANCIALFUTURE

HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

Mental wellness resources for farmers and farmworkers

The California agricultural community has been hit hard by COVID-19, job loss, and the ongoing drought. The effects of these and many other factors can weigh heavily on your mental and emotional health.

Whether you’re a farmer, farmworker, or a member of the agricultural community, the California Farmer and Farmworker Stress Assistance Network is here to help. We offer access to free resources to manage stress, protect your mental health, and improve your wellness.

Find the help you need today at: [GrowMentalWellness.org](https://www.GrowMentalWellness.org)



This work is supported by Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) [grant no. 2021-70035-35573] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Caitlin Mendes crowned District 5 Dairy Princess Contributed by Jackie Giacomazzi



Caitlin Mendes (left), the new District 5 Central Dairy Princess, with outgoing Dairy Princess Ericka Simas (center) and Alternate Dairy Princess Jocelyn Fagundes (right).

The District 5 Central Dairy Princess Contest was held on Friday, June 24 at the Raven Barn in Selma. Family and friends were in attendance to watch Caitlin Mendes crowned District 5 Central Dairy Princess by outgoing District 7 Dairy Princess Ericka Simas. Jocelyn Fagundes was crowned Alternate District 5 Central Dairy Princess for the 2022-23 term.

Caitlin Mendes is the 16-year-old daughter of Joe and Monica Mendes of Hanford. She will be a junior at Central Valley Christian High School in Visalia. After graduation, Mendes wishes to attend college and major in agricultural marketing and communications. She is a member of FFA, participating on the dairy cattle and meats judging teams and showing dairy cattle at local fairs. She is a member of the California Scholarship Federation, and plays soccer as well as club volleyball. Mendes is also a member of the Lady of Fatima festa in Tulare.

The 18-year-old daughter of Nilda and Manuel Fagundes, Jocelyn Fagundes recently graduated from Sierra Pacific High School in Hanford. She plans to attend College of the Sequoias and major in psychology, with a career goal of becoming a counselor. While at Sierra Pacific, Fagundes was a member of FFA (being awarded her State Degree), California Scholarship Federation, yearbook staff, ski club, and was the captain of her cheerleading squad. Jocelyn is a

member of the Lady of Fatima festa. Currently, Fagundes is a barista at Starbucks in Hanford.

The District 5 Central Dairy Princess Contest is sponsored by the California Milk Advisory Board as well as the local Dairy Princess Committee and the Kings County Dairywomen. 🌾

KINGS COUNTY FARM BUREAU
Annual
HARVEST CLASSIC presented by
LANSDOWNE
Professional
October 17th, Kings Country Club
HOLE IN ONE WINS \$10,000 CASH
Sponsored by STIFEL INVESTMENT SERVICES
Investment Services Since 1890 • Sandra Hedstrom
Registration Deadline: September 30th
For more information, contact KCFB (559) 584-3557

Environmental Oversight Committee Scholarship awarded to Bishop Martinez

Kings County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce Bishop Martinez as the winner of the 2022 Environmental Oversight Committee Scholarship. This scholarship, which is sponsored by KCFB and Kings County Citizens for a Healthy Environment, was originally funded by G.W.F. Power Systems. This scholarship, which has supported Valley students for several decades, is being awarded for the final time this year, as funds have been exhausted.

This \$16,000 scholarship, which is awarded at \$4,000 per year for four years, will help fund Martinez's dream of attending Stanford University, where he plans to study biomedical engineering.

The valedictorian of his Corcoran High School class, Martinez was dual-enrolled at College of the Sequoias, and was the first student at his school to be a full-time college student while still in high school. He maintained a 4.45 high school GPA and a 3.97 GPA at COS while being involved in extracurricular activities that included serving as student body vice president, Academic Decathlon, MEChA, and the soccer and track teams. Additionally, he volunteered at community events and worked at Starbucks. 🌾

PACIFIC AG
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.
License # 0C84245
Allow us to utilize our background, knowledge, and expertise to go to work for you...
Commercial | Farm | Workers' Compensation | Tribal | Life & Health | Employee Benefits | Home | Auto & More
Hanford 559.584.3391 Corcoran 559.992.1245 Chowchilla 559.665.3434



Saving Water and Money

More than ever, it's critical your irrigation system is running at peak performance

Follow this simple checklist to ensure your system is running the way it was intended

At the Pump:

- Check Pump Flow Rate & Pressure
- Repair Leaks at Pump Station
- Service Pumps & Oilers
- Service Pump Electrical Panel
- Review & Verify Filter Controller Flush Times
- Service Filters for Leaks & Media Condition

In the Field:

- Flush Main & Submains
- Flush Irrigation Laterals & Hoses
- Service Air Vents
- Repair Leaking Riser Tee's
- Spot Check Irrigation Line Pressures
- Replace Broken or Worn Sprinkler Nozzles & Spaghetti Hose

Visit Almonds.com/Irrigation to view other grower-friendly resources

Scan this QR code to hear a presentation from Almond Board irrigation expert, Tom Devol, on Irrigation System Maintenance: "Saving Water and Money"



FRIENDS *of* FARM BUREAU

DIAMOND



Nationwide[®]
is on your side



Platinum



Gold

All Valley Printing
Bacome Insurance Agency
Daniel C. Salas Custom Harvesting
Dias Law Firm Inc.
J.C. Lansdowne Inc.

Leopoldo's Farm Service Inc.
M Green & Company LLP
Mackey & Mackey Insurance Agency
Stone Land Co.

Tachi Palace Casino Resort
The Wonderful Company
Verdegaal Brothers

Silver

Danell Custom Harvesting
Four Seasons Ag Services
Griswold, LaSalle, Cobb, Dowd & Gin LLP
Innovative Ag Services, LLC
J.G. Boswell Company Inc.
Kahn, Soares & Conway LLP

Meras Water Solutions
Morgan & Slates Manufacturing & Supplies
Olam Spices & Vegetable Ingredients
Pacific Ag Insurance
Rain for Rent
Southern California Edison

Stifel Investment Services
S&W Seed Company
Trinkle Ag Flying
Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District

Bronze

Billingsley Tire Inc.
Bressler & Company
Certified Public Accountants
CalWest Rain
Garton Tractor

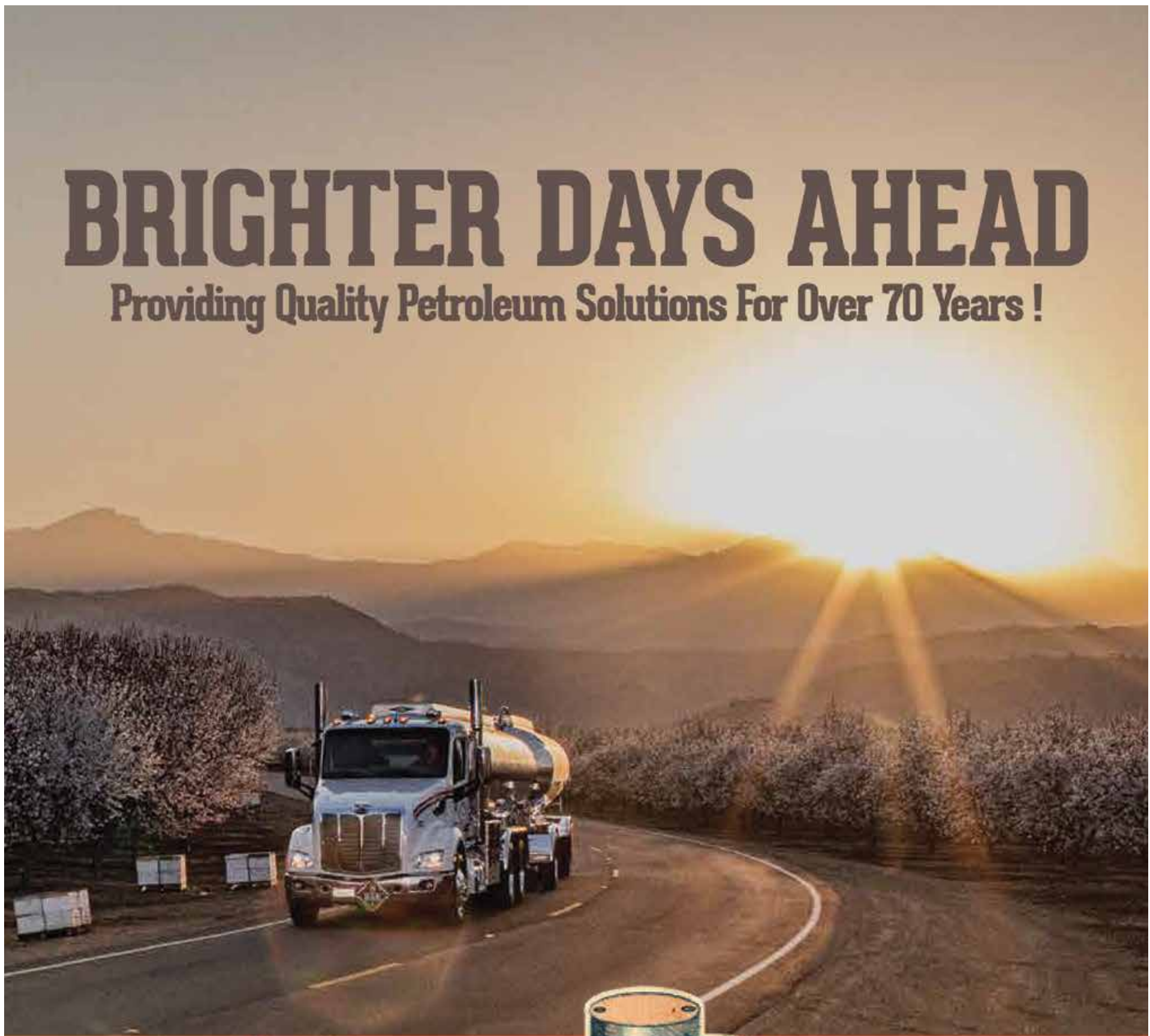
Granger Water Specialties
JP Honey Farms
Keller Motors
Kings Dairy Supply Inc.
Laguna Irrigation District

Pearson Realty Inc.
Schuil & Associates
Sullivan Farming LLC
Torrent Resources
Tulare Lake Compost

Valley Ag Spraying
Weinberger, Fukuda, and Associates Agricultural Consulting, Inc.

BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD

Providing Quality Petroleum Solutions For Over 70 Years!



559.651.1760 Office 559.651.8156 Fax

Kings County Rural Crime Report

Criminals targeting wells in northeast Kings County Contributed by Detective Dakotah Fausnett



First and foremost, I am happy to inform you that both Jose Lopez and Allen Avila are in custody for the violations mentioned in the June report. Also, we were able to locate the insulation trailer in Allensworth and return it the rightful owner.

Throughout the month of June, the Kings County Rural Crimes Task Force was extremely busy in the northeast end of the county regarding brass valves being cut/ripped off wells in acts of vandalism and theft. Fortunately, we had trail cameras on two of the well sites and were able to capture decent still photos of the suspect and suspect vehicle. The thefts have occurred at random hours of the day and night.

Due to the angles of the pictures and distance, we were unable to get a license plate number for the vehicle. I encourage all of you to be vigilant and not hesitate to call if you see this or other suspicious vehicles around your property that you know don't belong in the area.

Copper wire is still a big-ticket item for thieves. We have had several locations vandalized and copper wire stripped. We are actively looking for better leads and evidence to hopefully identify, locate and arrest the suspects.




The rural crime unit's cameras caught this photo of a suspect and vehicle in the well-related crimes occurring in the northeast part of the county.

Recently, we were tipped off about a utility trailer stolen from the city of Hanford. The trailer was being stored at a residence near the intersection of Iona and 17th avenues. After getting a positive ID on the trailer, a search warrant was authored and served on the residence. The residence appeared to be a makeshift chop shop for quads, dirt bikes and go-karts. Although the primary suspects, Wiatt Breshears and Jay Montgomery, were not home during the service of the warrant, a DVR for their surveillance system was recovered and is currently being reviewed in the hopes we can solve other thefts from it.

We continue to investigate all ag-related thefts and encourage members to call and report all ag-related crimes. If we do not receive calls from Farm Bureau members and the community, we may not be aware of crimes occurring in your area. If you have any questions, feel free to call me or any of our unit members at any time. 🙌

Detective Dakotah Fausnett: 559-639-8704
 Detective Kody Holt: 559-362-8928
 Detective Colten Verhoeven: 559-469-6146
 Detective Grace Thomas: 559-530-1701

Detective Dakotah Fausnett: 559-639-8704
Detective Kody Holt: 559-362-8928
Detective Colten Verhoeven: 559-469-6146
Detective Grace Thomas: 559-530-1701



NEEDHAM AG SERVICES

Soil Amendments:
Gypsum, Limestone, Dolomite, Sulfur and Compost




Solution Gypsum:
Machines and Silos

Road Dust Control:
Dust Off and Road Oil: SC800, SC250 and Dust Oil

Duarte Potted Trees and Vines:
Almonds, Pistachios, Grapevines and Kiwis


Tree Stakes, Pistachio Rods and Vineyard Posts

Edward Needham
559-977-7282
Ed@NeedhamAgServices.com

Irrigation Solutions

Find out more at
NeedhamAgServices.com





“

FARM CREDIT WEST
TREATS ME AS
*an individual...
not a
transaction.*

”

DAVID PAGE
Cattle Rancher
Colorado River Reservation, AZ
Farm Credit West Customer

Who you are matters to us.

That’s why most lending decisions are made at the branch level. We take the time to get to know your business so you can get back to what matters most to you—running your operation.

DINUBA
559.591.9378

HANFORD
559.584.2681

TULARE
559.684.1478

FarmCreditWest.com



Committed. Experienced. Trusted.

