



INSIDE



WATER FORUM PG. 4



ELECTRIC VEHICLE FUELING PG. 5



HEAT & SMOKE PROTECTION PG. 7

District 5 Dairy Princess candidates announced

Two young women will compete for the prestigious title of Dairy Princess during the District 5 Central Dairy Princess contest on Friday, June 24 at the Raven Barn in Selma.

This year's contestants are Jocelyn Fagundes and Caitlin Mendes, both of Hanford.

Jocelyn Fagundes is the daughter of Nilda and Manny Fagundes, who is a large animal veterinarian. She is a senior at Sierra Pacific High School and plans to initially attend the College of the Sequoias. She plans to transfer to either California State University, Fresno or California State University, Long Beach to pursue a degree in psychology. She would like to become a correctional counselor at a prison.

Fagundes is an active member of the Hanford FFA Chapter as well as the Sierra Pacific High Cheer Team, Yearbook, and Ski Club. She has received her Greenhand, Chapter and State Farmer Degrees. In addition to being a member of California Scholarship Federation, Fagundes has received academic awards for maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or higher throughout her high school career. She is a member of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Laton.

Caitlin Mendes is the daughter of Monica and Joe Mendes, and grew up on her family's dairy farm. She is a sophomore at Central Valley Christian High School, and plans to attend Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and pursue a degree in agricultural business.

As an active member of the Central Valley Christian FFA Chapter, Mendes shows dairy heifers bred on her family's dairy, is a member of the Cattle Evaluation Judging Team, Meats Judging Team, as well as participating in numerous



Jocelyn Fagundes



Caitlin Mendes

"Dairy Princess" continued on page 2

Gov. Newsom announces additional minimum wage increase in 2023

Contributed by Barsamian & Moody, Attorneys at Law

One of the key points of interest when the state adopted its march to a \$15 per hour minimum wage was that the minimum wage would also be impacted by inflation. As we are all aware, inflation is front and center these days. Therefore, when Gov. Newsom announced his \$18.1 billion Inflation Relief Package on May 12, 2022, it included a minimum wage increase. As a result, California's minimum wage will be \$15.50 per hour for employers of all size beginning Jan. 1, 2023.

As background, in 2016, Senate Bill 3 passed with yearly increases in the minimum wage beginning in 2017 based on employer size (26 or more/25 or fewer). As of Jan. 1, 2022, large employers with 26 or more employees are mandated to pay \$15 per hour while small employers with 25 or fewer employees were expected to phase into \$15 minimum wage rate on Jan. 1, 2023.

Gov. Newsom's accelerated increase will require all employers to pay \$15.50 starting Jan. 1, 2023. The minimum wage increase is required by a provision of the state's minimum wage law when inflation exceeds seven percent. In his announcement, Gov. Newsom indicated that "[t]his inflation relief package will help offset the higher costs that Californians are facing right now and provide support to those still recovering from the pandemic."

While this change will go into effect Jan. 1, 2023, there is also a ballot initiative pending which seeks to implement a

"Minimum Wage" 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

KCFB's board of directors invests in the organization's future to better serve its members

By Dusty Ference, Executive Director



Dusty Ference

Early this year, KCFB's board of directors decided to undergo strategic planning. The board and stakeholders were surveyed as the first step in the process. After that data was collected, the board spent two four-hour long sessions reviewing the input, identifying organizational priorities, and assigning strategic order and focus.

The process was enlightening, challenging and exciting, and the work we've done thus far is just the beginning. The board will tackle some significant areas of concern from now through the end of the year, focusing only on short-term goals, many of which will be the most extensive lift.

As a member, you should notice small changes later this summer. Many of them won't seem significant at first, but rest assured, much thought has gone into those updates. KCFB is looking at agriculture advocacy differently, and it is encouraging.

Actively planning for the future with input from leadership, stakeholders and the community being served is hard work that requires dedication. It is also the only way KCFB can ensure it will be here for the next 100 years, working to better serve Kings County agriculture. 🙌



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.™

.....
"Dairy Princess" continued from page 1

speech contests. She recently won Junior Champion at the Western Classic Dairy Show. She is a member of the Central Valley Christian High School soccer and volleyball Teams, Club Volleyball, and the California Scholarship Federation. She is a volunteer for St. Aloysius Vacation Bible School and Life Teen Youth Group and is a member of the St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church.

The contestant crowned as District 5 Central Dairy Princess will represent the dairy industry in Kings County. She will serve the area as an ambassador for the dairy industry and will speak to primarily elementary school age children about the importance of a healthy diet, including dairy products. The newly selected Dairy Princess and the Alternate Dairy Princess will participate in a mandatory training, provided by the California Milk Advisory Board (CMAB), where they will receive professional development coaching.

The contest will be held at the Raven Barn in Selma, and is sponsored by the District 5 Central Dairy Princess committee and the CMAB. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Jackie Giacomazzi at (559) 816-0707. 🙌

Member to Member *People, Products, Prosperity*

Dias Law Firm By Amy D. Fienen

Michael Dias founded Dias Law Firm in 1996, but even though he spends much of his time behind a desk, he's still active in the industry that raised



DIAS LAW FIRM, INC.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

him: agriculture. Along with practicing law, he farms walnuts, almonds and grapes and owns a custom harvesting business.

"I've never left my roots," Dias said. Those roots were planted in Hanford, where he's been content to stay. He was raised on the family dairy, and worked in the family farming business until he decided to change direction at the age of 28 and pursue his life-long dream of becoming an attorney. With the support of his wife, Germaine, and two young daughters, he attended COS and Fresno State, then San Joaquin College of Law. He clerked at a law firm during the day and attended law school at night.

"It was a very significant challenge because I was doing something I'd never done before," Dias said.

When he founded Dias Law Firm in 1996, he did so with a clear vision.

"I wanted to build a different type of firm," he said. "We work hard Monday through Friday, and we spend time with our families and doing other activities on the weekends. We have a healthy balance here."

Having a work/life balance is not the industry standard, and the biggest complaint in the legal field is burnout, Dias said. Changing that dynamic was important to him, and it's a philosophy that's helped grow the firm from a one-man operation to 10 attorneys, half of which are women, and 15 support staff.

Dias credits the firm's success to his team's vast knowledge that spans many specialties. As a general practice firm, they do a lot of work in business and agricultural law, in addition to wills, estate planning and succession planning.

"We're responsive, dedicated and our

work quality is second to none," Dias said.

Because many of the firm's staff were born and raised in the Valley and have direct ties to the ag

industry, they understand the unique challenges their clients face. Issues like water rights, eminent domain and succession planning are personal to them.

"We don't just talk about it; we're living it," Dias said. "We understand that a lot of things happen in family and business dynamics. The team we've developed here is an amazing team of men and women helping others in our community."

That help extends beyond the walls of their office on Grangeville with a commitment to supporting a number of local non-profits, schools, churches and ag organizations like 4-H, FFA and Farm Bureau. Dias Law Firm is a gold-level Friend of Farm Bureau sponsor for Kings County Farm Bureau.

"Farm Bureau is one of the last connections we have collectively as a group of agriculturalists to help get our message across to the consumer and the world," Dias said. "We need to let the consumer know that we provide a safe, clean, reliable product, and the Farm Bureau is all that we have left promoting that for us at the state and federal levels."

Dias Law Firm is located at 502 W. Grangeville Blvd. in Hanford. They can be reached at (559) 585-7330, or visit them online at diaslaw.com.

The "Member to Member" feature is our way of promoting the members that help make our work possible through their financial support. Please consider doing business with companies who show their commitment to the local ag industry through their support of Farm Bureau. 🙌

Firestone
IN-FIELD SERVICE
WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

We are specially trained and fully equipped to meet your on-farm, in-field tire service and replacement needs
Call us for on-farm deliveries and on-the-spot tire repair

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

CARVER
PUMP SERVICE
Serving The Central Valley

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

CELEBRATING OVER 40 YEARS

24-Hour Service

Lic #547257

(855)622-7837 TOLL FREE

DOMESTIC & IRRIGATION PUMPS • SALES • REPAIRS

VISA SINCE 1976 MasterCard

www.carver-pump.com

Local solutions central to water forum

Facing a third year of drought, leadership from county Farm Bureaus, spanning all regions of California, gathered in Sacramento last month to engage with state water officials about all things water.

A changing climate, shrinking snowpack, water rights, aging infrastructure, groundwater regulations and solutions to the state's water crisis were among the topics discussed at the California Farm Bureau Water Forum. The event brought together state water officials and county Farm Bureau leaders from the Mountain, North Coast, Central Valley, Central Coast and Southern California regions.

California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson said drought is one of myriad issues facing farmers, along with rising costs, trade impacts and remaining challenges of the pandemic.

"We're seeing a confluence of issues around the globe right now that are just going to compound what we know will be a severe and painful drought session," Johansson said. "It is going to be a very challenging year."

State and county Farm Bureaus, he said, have proposed many solutions to help solve the state's water crisis such as more water storage, conveyance and infrastructure improvements, groundwater recharge, temperature controls, adaptive management and stormwater capture. "But we have faced roadblocks every step of the way," Johansson said.

"We can have a state that serves the needs of farmers, consumers, as well as the environment," he said. "But farmers have to know that you want agriculture in this state. Know that we want to be part of the

By Christine Souza, Ag Alert
Courtesy of California Farm Bureau Federation

solution."

California Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth discussed urgent climate challenges for California, saying, "The world is definitely changing around us, and we've got a lot of work to do."

Addressing the audience, she said, "It's the people in this room that have the most ingenuity of any sector in California. That gives me a lot of confidence that if we work together and focus on solutions, we'll be able to do that. One thing we need to understand is we are very much in the era of extreme hydrology."

State Water Resources Control Board Chairman E. Joaquin Esquivel discussed California's water rights system, which sets it apart from other Western states that he said curtail water rights more often.

"It is how the water right system was built to make sure that we can manage when things come down to such scarce resources," he said.

To avoid drastic cuts, he said, interest groups for local watersheds are discussing development of cooperative agreements as a more comprehensive approach to managing water during times of scarcity.

Esquivel said "being able to start to really dig into the water right system for the first time ever in an active way" is a key step. He said "just even looking at what's hydrologically available, saying what water rights could support it and actively curtailing to that has been really important."

Imperial County farmer Ronnie Leimgruber said renegotiating water rights is a huge concern for agriculture.

"Senior water rights (holders) gave concessions to allow junior water right holders access to excess flows, and that agreement was negotiated in good faith, and they realized in times of shortage they would be cut off first," Leimgruber said. "Now people want to renegotiate."

Conversation at the forum also focused on California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Local agencies must adopt plans that show how they intend to achieve groundwater sustainability by the 2040s. Johansson said Farm Bureau opposed SGMA, but once it became law, county Farm Bureaus and farmers participated in the process to form agencies and develop plans.

"What we know now about our local groundwater is light years ahead of where we were in 2015 when this bill passed. We're getting there," Johansson said.

In answering a question about a lack of agricultural representation on SGMA agencies, Nemeth said, "We are hearing this issue crop up in different parts of the state. I would put this in the category of something that's not working, but there are some improvements we need to make, and we can make those as we propagate regulations."

Some county Farm Bureaus weighed in on a plan to improve water quality for salmon and native fish in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Voluntary agreements unveiled in late March by the Newsom administration are an alternative to the regulatory regime of the Bay-Delta water quality control plan by the state water board. Signatories include U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, DWR and water districts in the Sacramento Valley and south of the delta.

Merced County Farm Bureau Executive Director Breanne Vandenberg asked water officials about the status of the effort as it relates to Merced River stakeholders. Nemeth and Esquivel said their agencies are open to working with Merced Irrigation District.

"We want to continue to work with Merced," Nemeth said. "I do think there is a solution. VAs (voluntary agreements) always work better when we can include brick and mortar projects that help the system work better. There's water investments, infrastructure investments that the state can partner with Merced to make a more complete package."

In response to questions from Butte, Del Norte and Solano counties about the status of water infrastructure projects such as the proposed Sites Reservoir,



California Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth, right, talks to, from left, Danny Merkley, California Farm Bureau director of water resources, California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson and State Water Resources Control Board Chairman E. Joaquin Esquivel, during the Farm Bureau Water Forum last month. Photo by Christine Souza

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

continued on page 5

Ag Commissioner's Compliance Report



Jimmy Hook,
Agricultural
Commissioner/Sealer

California's transition into electric vehicle fueling systems

Contributed by Mario Gutierrez, Deputy Ag Commissioner/Sealer

By 2035, an executive order will require all new cars and passenger trucks sold in California be zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs). The zero-emission requirement will require the deployment of fueling and charging options for vehicles. California's effective date for regulatory oversight of the ZEV chargers by California weights and measure officials is Jan. 1, 2023.



California is at the beginning of a massive transformation from internal combustion to zero-emission vehicles. Following the signing of Executive Order N 79-20 by Gov. Newsom, the California Air Resource Board will develop regulations to mandate that 100 percent of in-state sales of new passenger cars and trucks are zero-emission by 2035; in addition, medium and heavy-duty vehicles shall be zero-emission by 2045. California joins other countries that have already committed to phasing out gasoline-powered cars and the governor signed an MOU with other states to advance and accelerate the market for electric vehicles. The move is intended to power the market and push to zero-emission vehicle innovation, driving down cost of ownership. Plug-in Electric Vehicles (PEVs) new passenger car sales continue to increase. PEV sales exceeded 5% of all new passenger car sales in California in 2017 and approximately 12.5% of sales as of February 2022. As the cost of ZEVs decrease and possibly become better than traditional fossil powered cars, the cost of owning a ZEV, both maintenance and the cost to power could be less than a fossil fuel burning vehicle. To provide for broad accessibility for all Californians, the order also requires support of new and used ZEV markets.

To ensure California has the needed infrastructure to support ZEVs, the order requires state agencies, in partnership with the private sector, to accelerate deployment of affordable fueling and charging stations. California's electric vehicle charging station permit streamlining law, AB 1236, establishes a permitting process and communication requirements for cities and counties to speed the process for electric vehicle charging station providers. To support the five million

ZEVs in California by 2030 goal, the state is prioritizing the development of infrastructure in the form of plug-in electric vehicle charging stations and hydrogen fueling stations.



A recent search of the fuel station locator indicates there are 36,380 public chargers in California. This includes 28,891 electric vehicle charger ports at 12,497 Level 2 sites (12-17 miles of range per hour), and 7,271 DC Fast charger ports at 1,672 station locations (3-20 miles of range per minute). California has established ambitious ZEV infrastructure and vehicle targets for the state, a 250,000 PEV charger goal, including 10,000 direct current fast chargers (DCFS) and 200 hydrogen stations by 2025. It's a target that could support five million ZEVs by 2030.

California's electric vehicle fueling systems (EVFS) regulation for direct current fueling chargers (DCFC) for newly installed commercial DCFC EVFS subject to regulatory oversight is Jan. 1, 2023. Under the regulations, charging devices put into service for commercial purposes after Jan. 1, 2023 must be issued a California Type Evaluation Program Certificate of Approval (CTEP COA) by the California Department of Food and Agriculture Division of Measurement Standards. Many manufactures are actively seeking type approval for their DCFC EVFS designs. The California Energy Commission administers funding programs that many DCFC manufactures have been awarded to support California's infrastructure build-out over the next several years to meet the state's transportation electrification goals. California weights and measures officials will apply their normal device registration process for newly installed commercial devices to DCFC EVFS beginning Jan. 1, 2023. Kings County weights and measures inspectors will cooperate with public charging site operators as they transition into enforcement of type evaluation and device accuracy requirements of newly installed commercial DCFC EVFS until issuance of a CTEP COA. Weights and measures inspectors will work with businesses to prevent significant interruptions and maintain momentum of the state's transportation goals. A map of chargers is available through the federal Alternative Fuels Data Center Station Locator tool. <https://afdc.energy.gov/stations/#/find/nearest>.

Should you have any questions please contact our office or Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer Mario Gutierrez.

continued from page 4

Nemeth said, "I share that frustration. Infrastructure is hugely important," adding that the state should take advantage of building water infrastructure during dry periods to have for times of drought.

Representatives from several counties asked for help in streamlining the permitting process to complete groundwater recharge projects and help with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. San

Diego County Farm Bureau President Mary Matava described the order as "really complex" and suggested making it simpler for smaller farms.

Kevin Merrill, a winegrape grower in Santa Barbara County, said complying with various water requirements "is tough. I've spent a lot of time on this and a tremendous amount of money." He asked officials to help with more grant funding, for which they noted there is state and federal grant funding available.

Several county representatives, including Amador County winegrape grower Jim Spinetta, called for improving forest man-

agement. Spinetta said practicing better forest management will help conserve water supplies.

In discussing drought and the future, Tulare County dairy farmer Joey Airoso said, "This is everybody's problem including—and I'm part of it—the 40 million people who live in this state.

"We try not to waste water because we're trying to preserve our ground for the next generation," Airoso said. "Most farms have been in our families for a long time and we love this state, but we're getting tired of being kicked, and we need some support."




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


bressler & company

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



Safety Alert

Anyone hauling commodities needs to be aware of temporary weight restrictions that have been imposed on this Kings County bridge. Bridge number 45C0118 is located at 16th Avenue, 0.3 mile north of Nevada Avenue, and crosses over the Tulare Lake Canal. The wooden bridge was built in the 1940s and is scheduled to be replaced in 2023. Until the bridge is replaced, the following weight restrictions are in place:



- Maximum 20 tons per truck
- Maximum 31 tons per truck and semi-trailer
- Maximum 38 tons per truck and full trailer
- No permit loads

“Minimum Wage” continued from page 1

phased-in minimum wage increase to \$18 per hour by Jan. 1, 2026.

What this means for employers

Employers, and especially small businesses, have been hit hard the past few years with the pandemic, reduced straight time hours in agriculture, the Great Resignation and supply chain shortages. Unfortunately, there appears to be no end in sight to the attack on California businesses. Employers should begin gearing up to make the minimum wage changes beginning Jan. 1, 2023, which for small employers will result in a significant bump up in payroll expenses. 🙌

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.

Protect employees from heat and smoke as summer arrives

Courtesy of Farm Employer Labor Services

As summer officially begins this month, it's time to prepare for hot temperatures, un-acclimatized employees, and what some are predicting will be a severe wildfire season.

Agricultural employers should be prepared to protect outdoor workers and to be in full compliance with the heat illness prevention and wildfire smoke standards.

HEAT ILLNESS PREVENTION REMINDERS:

- Be sure shade is available on demand when the temperature is below 80 degrees F, shade must be provided at all times when the temperature exceeds 80 degrees F, as close as practicable to where employees are working;
- Shade must be provided to all employees on a rest or meal break, except those who choose to take a meal break elsewhere
- Fresh, pure, and suitably cool water must be made available in sufficient quantities (replenishment is permissible) to allow each employee to drink one quart per hour;
- Water is to be provided as close as practicable to location of work;
- Employees must be trained about heat illness and the Cal/OSHA Heat Illness Prevention (HIP) Standard before they work in conditions where they might be exposed to heat;
- Supervisors must be additionally trained in HIP compliance procedures, emergency responses, and ensuring effective communication to facilitate emergency response.
- A written copy of your HIP program in English and the language understood by the majority of the employees and be available to employees and Cal/OSHA inspectors on request -- this is the most frequently-cited part of the HIP standard -- and probably the most easily-avoided HIP citation!
- Remember: When temperatures exceed 95 degrees, employers must implement "high heat" procedures, including a mandatory 10-minute break every two hours (meal and rest periods can serve as these breaks, but if employees work beyond eight hours or waive meal or rest periods, you must still ensure the mandatory rest break occurs).



WILDFIRE SMOKE STANDARDS REMINDERS:

Employers are required to protect employees from exposure to smoke from wildfires that might lead to injury or illness. The regulation requires employers to do the following if he or she reasonably expects employees may be exposed to wildfire smoke and the Air Quality Index (AQI) is 151 or greater (unhealthy) because of the presence of very fine particles called PM2.5.

- When it applies, the regulation requires employers to:
- Check the AQI before and periodically during each shift.
 - Provide training to employees.
 - Lower employee exposures.
 - Provide N95 respirators and encourage their use. 🦺

GARTON TRACTOR INC.
Since 1954

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

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



california
almonds
Almond Board of California

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

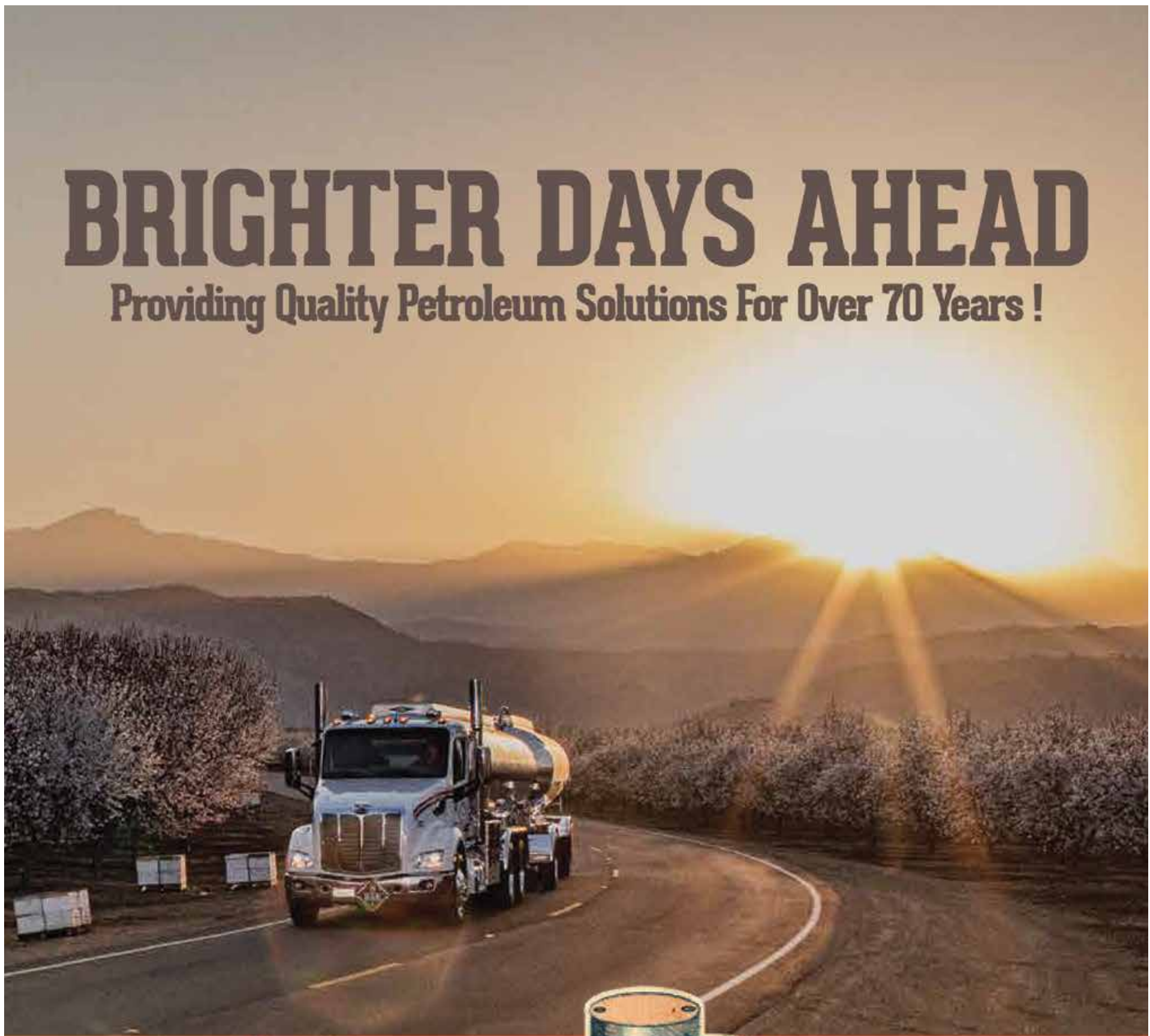
Granger Water Specialties
JP Honey Farms
Keller Motors
Kings Dairy Supply Inc.
Laguna Irrigation District

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

The Kings County Sheriff's Office Rural Crime Task Force is currently conducting several investigations

Contributed by Detective Dakotah Fausnett



On Monday, May 16, deputies responded to 43000 block of 6th Ave regarding a burglary report at Pitman Family Farms. During the investigation, it was determined that roughly \$320,000 worth of equipment, tools and trailers were stolen, to include a \$150,000 insulation trailer. Fortunately, one of the items stolen was a Kubota side by side which was a rental from United Rentals. The Kubota was fixed with a GPS tracker that led rural crimes detectives to a house in Alpaugh where the GPS tracker last pinged. While at the residence in Alpaugh, the homeowner allowed detectives to search the property for the Kubota, which was not at the property. However, the homeowner, who was adamant that he had nothing to do with the theft, provided detectives with video surveillance from the residence to confirm his alibi. This led detectives to ask about a silver, single cab Silverado that was seen at the residence at the same time the GPS tracker last pinged. The homeowner provided only a first name of the driver and stated he lived in Allensworth.

Furthering the investigation, detectives located the Silverado at a property in Allensworth. The shoe and tire impressions matched the impressions left on scene from the suspects. The GPS tracker activated again and pinged at the same truck. It was determined the truck was stolen and was in fact used in the theft. A second stolen Silverado was also located hidden under a tarp next to the stolen suspect truck. After being towed to Kings County, the suspect truck was searched and the GPS tracker was located in the truck, as well as 1.25lbs of methamphetamine.


During the investigation, TRATT located the stolen Kubota abandoned near a residence in Delano. The residence belongs to the sister of Jose Luis Lopez. Lopez was also identified as the individual who left the stolen Silverado at a "friend's" house in Allensworth. After speaking with TRATT, Lopez was identified in a vehicle pursuit with Delano PD, as well as CHP the day prior, and is currently being looked at as a suspect in several vehicle thefts in the area by CHP and Delano PD. Lopez is currently driving around in a "cold plated" silver-ish Silverado with a license plate of 07678D2.

On Monday, May 23, Rural Crimes Task Force detectives were informed of a Hispanic male adult caught in the act of trying to steal copper wire from a well in the area of 25th and Elgin avenues. He was caught attempting to steal the wire during the middle of the day by one of the field workers. The suspect, later identified as Steven Allen Avila, from Riverdale, was caught driving a go-kart with a small trailer attached to it. He was attempting to pull wires from the well and fled on the go-kart when confronted by the worker. That same go-kart has been seen driving around areas in or around Kings County.

If anyone has seen or knows of this go-kart, please don't hesitate to contact the Rural Crimes Task Force.

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 our members and community, we may not be aware of certain 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



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



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.

