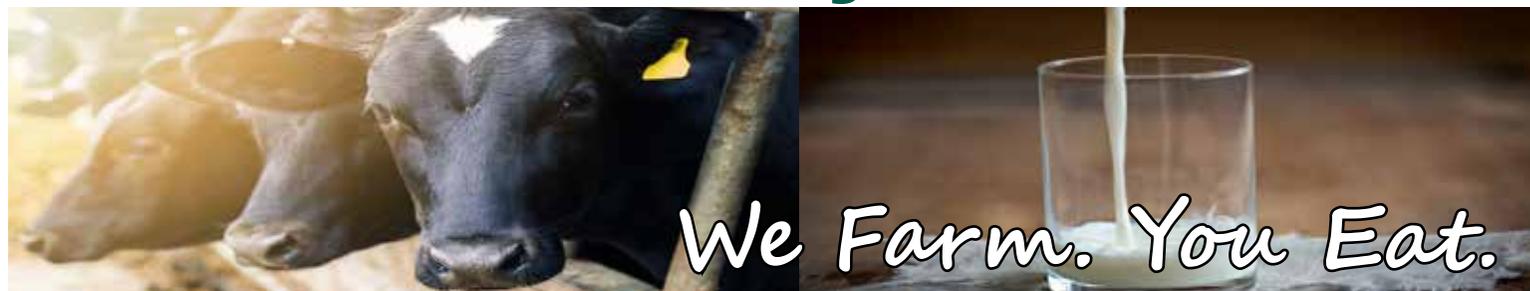


Merced County Farm News



Commentary: Don't be fooled by ballot measure on 'split-roll' tax

By Robert Spiegel, CFBF

Among the pressures facing California farms, ranches and agricultural businesses—economic upheaval from the pandemic, water shortages, trade uncertainty and more—you can add another: a measure headed for the November ballot that would raise taxes on California farmers.

Proponents call the measure the "Schools and Communities First" initiative, and it officially qualified for the ballot last week. If approved by voters, it would raise taxes up to \$12.5 billion annually on commercial and industrial property—including California farms, ranches and dairies.

The initiative would create a "split-roll" tax, essentially splitting the property tax roll between business and residential properties.

Commercial and industrial properties would be reassessed at current market value at least every three years, while residential properties would retain the full benefit of the 1978 Proposition 13 property tax measure, being reassessed only when sold or when improvements are made.

Proponents of the initiative include California teacher and public-employee unions. They say it's needed to help fund schools and local government. Proponents also claim the initiative explicitly exempts California farms and ranches, meaning that the same constitutional protections afforded to farmers by Proposition 13 would remain unchanged.

The proponents believed farmers and ranchers would read about an "exemption" of agricultural lands and would be confident

they'd remain unharmed by the initiative. Fortunately, California farmers and ranchers have a better understanding of our tax protections and liabilities than the proponents have given us credit for. Now, the proponents are tirelessly attempting to discredit this state's farming and ranching families, saying we've misinterpreted the initiative even though they never reached out to understand how agricultural taxation works.

But, read the initiative. As defined, "real property used for commercial agricultural production means land that is used for producing commercial agricultural commodities." The language is cleverly deceptive because "real property," as currently defined elsewhere, consists of three elements: land, improvements and fixtures.

This initiative, however, only exempts land—not any improvements or fixtures attached to that land. Improvements include all buildings, structures, fences and all fruit- and nut-bearing trees and vines not naturally growing. According to the proponents' own agricultural land fact sheet, agricultural properties such as dairy barns, food processing facilities and wineries would be reassessed at fair-market value, as they would be classified commercial and industrial. Since when is a farmer's barn or a dairy not considered an agricultural property?

To the farming community, the impacts of the initiative would be severe.

Under Proposition 13, property taxes for residential, business and agricultural property is based on
See 'Split-Roll', Page 7

MCFB Fair News: Op-ed

By Teresa Burrola, CEO, Merced County Fair



The decision to cancel the 2020 Merced County Fair was incredibly difficult. It meant a loss for our local commercial vendors and food concessionaires, our fair family of entertainers and our carnival operator who rely on our annual event for their livelihood. It meant a loss for our community – an annual tradition they look forward to, compete in and create memories at with their friends and family. As the third local fair to cancel due

to COVID-19, it was another big blow to our community but it was unavoidable and necessary for the health and safety of our community.

Prior to making the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Merced County Fair, our Board of Directors challenged us to put a plan in place to be sure we took care of our 4-H and FFA exhibitors who had already made the investment of time and money for their animal projects. Our team rose to that challenge, sourced the online sales platform and moved forward

See Fair, Page 5

Address

INSIDE:

4 State should protect essential businesses from frivolous and predatory lawsuits

8 Legislation Seeks to Address San Joaquin Valley Canals

9 PG&E readies \$11-billion jumbo debt deal

12 CFBF Legislative Review



from the
President's Corner
Eric Harcksen

Your board is actively paying close attention to high speed rail, Prop 13 (also known as the split roll measure), and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board.

Breanne has been attending multiple meetings regarding the high speed rail and always has the farmers in her best interest. MCFB board would like everyone to understand that we are diligently working together to keep

things running smoothly.

There are a few upcoming activities that you should be aware of in the upcoming weeks. California Farm Bureau will be holding their Issue Advisory Committee meetings in Sacramento on June 15-16. I, along with five other board members, will be participating in these meetings. This allows us the opportunity to come together as a state organization and develop the policy for the coming year. The Merced County Fair Virtual Livestock Sale will take place starting June 11th 8

a.m. thru June 13th at 8 p.m. You can join the action by signing up at StockShowAuction.com (SSA). Our typical FARM2U Day will be altered to a virtual format for local students. Classes that select to sign up will be given the opportunity to use our videos and class material on their terms and in their classrooms. Our board and staff did not want to completely cancel this year's program as we have developed the program for the last eight years. I hope the kids are still able to enjoy, learn and appreciate where their food comes from.

Hello Merced County Farm Bureau members. I hope everyone is enjoying the warm weather we are having and you are gearing up for what looks to be like a bountiful harvest.



from the
Director's Desk
Breanne Ramos

individuals in those areas. This has now evolved to water kiosks that the impacted residents can visit. As an example, think of this as a water dispenser located inside or outside of a grocery store.

The California State Resources Water Control Board (SWB) has now issued letters to waste discharge permit holders that they must develop management plans to offset poor water quality. To better clarify, waste discharge permits are issued to those such as the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (IRLP) coalitions, dairy producers, food processors and wineries. In this case, dairies will receive letters directly addressed to them while IRLP coalitions will receive an all-encompassing letter for their membership due to their permit.

This program is currently isolated as the SWB has developed a pilot project to move this forward. The pilot consists of subbasins

that are considered Tier 1 and are isolated to the Modesto, Turlock and Chowchilla Subbasins. Industry leaders have been brought together to determine what the best mode of action will be for all involved as there is a 270-day timeline to report back to the state. Merced and Madera Subbasins have been issued Tier 2 orders and will not receive letters to comply for 1-2 years. I do foresee this being another cost to the members of each of these organizations as this program develops.

Following with more unwanted news is the effort by animal activists that continue to harm animal agriculture. As Novel Coronavirus (COVID) started to shut down our economy, individuals were told if their jobs were essential or non-essential and all of us waded through the latest regulations, activists continued to decry that animal agriculture was at

fault. They have continued to call for action in asking their members to target livestock producers by virtual means, heightening their efforts on social media accounts.

While we have continued our outreach to those that we know are member producers, we ask that if possible, please update your records with us. We ask this so we can better communicate with you moving forward. It is completely understood that you have a lot on your plate and 2020 continues to be a record year, however it is necessary that you remain vigilant and talk with your employees about these issues. Should you have an unknown individual on your property, please remember the following:

- Ask them for their information – name, driver's license, license plate, who they are with and what

See Director, Page 4

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Merced County Farm Bureau's Mission Statement

Merced County Farm Bureau is an independent, non-governmental, grassroots organization that advocates for the men and women who provide food, fiber, and nursery products for our community, state, and nation.

Merced County Farm Bureau exists for the purpose of improving the ability of individuals engaged in production agriculture to utilize California resources to produce food and fiber in the most profitable, efficient and responsible manner possible, guaranteeing our nation a domestic food supply.

Merced County Farm Bureau supports policies and legislation that promote and protect our Country's number one industry - agriculture for future generations and the security of our nation.



from the
Editor's Notes

Denelle Flake

CDC guideline of no events larger than 10 people. We also do ask that attendees wear masks to our trainings. Please pay ahead of time, if possible, to limit our staff from having to do transactions the day of as we will be limited to 1 staff member at each training site. We are partnering with Nationwide to host an English & Spanish HAM certification course on June 17th in both Merced and Los Banos. While this instructor will be via a webinar, it is still mandatory to attend in-person for testing purposes. There are spots still available, so call to reserve yours today! On June 24th (Spanish) and June 30th (English) we are hosting pesticide workshops for both handlers and fieldworkers. Please see page 11, for more information on upcoming trainings.

See Editor, Page 4

Happy National Dairy Month to all of our dairymen! We appreciate all your hard work that goes into providing consumers with delicious milk, cheese, ice cream and more! We are now back in the office full time and open to the public. With that being said, we do still ask that you still respect all Merced County and Center for Disease Control's (CDC) guidelines when visiting us.

We finally have some in-person trainings coming up! At the moment, we must limit attendees to 9 per session to follow the

Merced County Farm News

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Merced County Farm Bureau
Phone (209) 723-3001
Fax (209) 521-9938
646 S, Hwy 59, Merced CA 95341
Email: dflake@mercedfarmbureau.org
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11-13

Merced County Fair Virtual Livestock Auctions

16

Nationwide - Long-term Care Webinar

UC IPM Label Reading Webinar (English)

17

HAM Certification Courses @ MCFB & Spring Fair

8:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. (English)
11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (Spanish)
2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. (Spanish)

23

UC IPM Pesticides in Water Webinar (Spanish)

24

MCFB Pesticide Trainings (Spanish)

Handlers: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Fieldworkers: 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

30

UC IPM Label reading Webinar (Spanish)

MCFB Pesticide Trainings (English)

Handlers: 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Fieldworkers: 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

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from the
Intern's Perspective

Tabitha Xavier

My name is Tabitha Xavier; I am currently a student at California State University, Fresno majoring in Agricultural Business. I have grown up having a tie to the agricultural industry with my parents owning and operating a farm servicing company, being a 4-H member to being heavily involved in my high school FFA program at Hilmar, to working on the Dairy Unit milking hospital cows during my first year at Fresno State. Growing up I spent a lot of time working and helping out with the family business on the

bookwork side of things and have come to develop an interest. Over the years I have become much more knowledgeable about the industry itself through my different involvements.

I hope to graduate from Fresno State with a Bachelors Degree in Agricultural Business and pursue a career in the industry with an emphasis in the sales and marketing aspect. I have not really finalized what I want to do in the future but I do know that my involvement in different areas will only lead my closer to knowing what I want to do. I plan to spend my summers

doing internships with different companies and businesses within the agriculture industry.

I am currently interning at Merced County Farm Bureau. I am very thankful and excited for the opportunity to be able to spend a summer learning so much about the different aspects of agriculture that I have not really ever learned much about. I think that it is very important to get work experience in different areas so that I can figure out where I do and don't want to go with my degree in the future. I am very open to new things and can't wait to see where this takes me!

State should protect essential businesses from frivolous and predatory lawsuits

By Kyla Christoffersen Powell, Special to CalMatters

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an extremely trying situation for essential businesses, which have stepped up in amazing and heroic ways to provide the goods and services that Californians rely on daily.

But as the state eases quarantine restrictions and takes steps to reopen, essential businesses face yet another devastating threat to operations – predatory lawsuits. A wave of coming litigation capitalizing on this pandemic threatens to further burden essential businesses and greatly exacerbate economic recovery in California and across the nation.

This is why two groups of California legislators, one democratic and two bipartisan from the Central Valley and the Southland, along with the Civil Justice Association of California and a broad coalition of industry organizations, have asked Gov. Gavin Newsom to issue an

executive order protecting essential businesses against this mounting threat of litigation.

A grocery store for example may be an essential business staying open to ensure that communities have access to food. Even if a store is closely following standards set by local and state public health orders, they may still be sued. If we need businesses to serve in critical ways, we must in turn protect them.

California already protects a narrow category of private entities from civil liability who assist during times of crisis under the Emergency Services Act, unless they commit gross negligence or willful misconduct. It also requires these entities to register with the state to qualify. However, to date no state registry has been developed.

An executive order is needed to extend existing protections to all provision of goods, services and facilities by essential businesses during the state of emergency. It should also deem the list of essential industries designated by the State Public Health Officer as Essential Critical Infrastructure

Workers satisfactory of the registry requirement.

These measures are fitting and warranted given the unprecedented scale of critical workers and resources this crisis has required. As acknowledged by the state, essential businesses are helping state, local and tribal partners to protect communities and provide public health, safety and security. They should not be punished with lawsuits in return for their efforts.

California has been proactive during this pandemic, providing safety nets to the vulnerable and establishing health infrastructure to ensure we are prepared – which is why it's time that we step up on this issue. Ensuring liability protections are in place now as stay at home orders lift is crucial, because this marks the beginning of an economic recovery period.

Our businesses and the economy cannot sustain further damage. More than ever, California needs businesses, large and small, to continue to operate, produce and employ – not fight frivolous lawsuits.

Director continued from page 2

they are needing

- Call local law enforcement
- Have a protocol in place where employees direct any unknown individuals to you

The above are a some of the recommendations that we ask producers to follow. I am happy to speak with our local producers about their individual operations and the concerns they have in these situations. We are here for you and monitoring this issue daily.

Please check out some of our upcoming trainings that Denelle has detailed in her column and the flyers we have within the pages of Farm News. Welcome aboard to Tabitha and congratulations to all of the local graduates!

Editor continued from page 3

Our virtual FARM2U/ AgAdventure day is in the works! We just completed our first filming at Harcksen's Apiaries and have more scheduled in the books. Next, we will begin editing and creating lessons for our third-grade educators to use as a substitute for the in-person program. If you would like to help us with this endeavor by acting as a presenter and don't mind being on camera, please feel free to reach out for more information. We would love to include all who would like to participate to ensure we have a diverse and complete program for our students to enjoy. We are accepting donations for this program. Please see our sponsorship options on page 15.

Lastly, some of you may have received postcards from the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition stating your 2019 INMP Summary Report is outstanding. If you need assistance completing the report, please feel free to call our office at (209) 723-3001 to schedule an appointment. Stay safe and we hope to see you all soon!

THANK YOU for your continued support of Merced County Farm Bureau during these times. We know these times are tough and many of us are facing challenges, but we want to ensure you that we are here to **help** your operation through it as we continue to **advocate for agriculture**.

Merced FFA- Goes Virtual



Alyssa Loredo, owner of Wild Game Jerky business, is a state proficiency winner in the category of Agriculture Sales- Entrepreneurship

By Lauren Palumbo (2019-2020 Chapter Reporter) and Genevie Villanueva (2020-2021 Chapter Reporter)

April 20th, 2020 marked the start of distance learning for Merced Union High School District. The Merced FFA chapter began the year with the theme “Rise up”, encouraging our members to take every challenge head on. This is no exception! Although adapting to something new and unexpected can be difficult, our members, officers, and advisors have been working diligently to their best ability to keep our chapter members active and involved in our chapter despite being there in person.

During the month of May, the Merced FFA Chapter hosts an end of the year banquet to recognize

our member’s accomplishments, show our gratitude to community members, hear retirement addresses, and install our 2020-21 Chapter Officer Team. Since the transition to online learning, our banquet took

on an untraditional look this year! From May 11th to May 20th our chapter utilized social media to hold a virtual banquet to keep members connected and involved. Participating in different events throughout the year never goes unnoticed by our advisors and officer team, many were recognized for rising up to different challenges this year! Along with recognition, a total of 16 awards were given out to individuals who went above and beyond and showed their passion for our chapter. Two of those awards were given to community members; Gabe Hughes, who was the Service Award recipient and Leslie Bautista, was awarded the Honorary Chapter Degree. A huge thank you to these individuals and all the individuals who volunteered

to lend a hand when our Chapter needs it. May 13th, 2020 was the start of our 2019-20 officer retiring addresses, where our current officers had a chance to say their goodbyes and words of wisdom to our future teams. On the last day of our virtual banquet, our 2020-21 Chapter Officer Team was introduced to the rest of chapter! We are excited to see all they have planned for this upcoming year!

The California FFA State Convention is an annual event put on by the State Officer team. This event is what many of our members look forward to, as they get to meet members from all over California and listen to speakers encouraging words about leadership. This year a virtual convention will be put on in this upcoming month. Many awards are given out to recognize members who have gone above and beyond, competing against both their section and regions members. A few of these awards have been announced, the Merced FFA chapter is proud to say Alyssa Loredo, owner of Wild Game Jerky business, is a state proficiency winner in the category of Agriculture Sales- Entrepreneurship, and is also 1 out of 6 Star Agribusiness State Finalists. We are proud to have a member so dedicated and

hardworking involved in our chapter, and can't wait to see where this path takes Alyssa!

Even with unusual circumstances, it is no surprise that our members are staying dedicated to their SAE projects, many of which include market animals that are auctioned at our county fair during the summer. Due to the cancellation of the Merced County Fair and the Junior Livestock Auction, a virtual sale will be held, on June 11th-13th, to help both 4-H and FFA members throughout the county. Students' hard work and time put into their market animals will not go to waste, they will have the ability to sell their animals... just in a new and virtual way! Throughout our time at home, the Merced FFA advisors have been working closely and staying connected with their exhibitors to prepare their animals for their future buyers. As our school year comes to an end, we hope everyone continues to stay positive and take this abnormal experience as another lesson that they can grow from. In the meantime, stay safe and stay healthy, we can't wait to see everyone next school year! For more information or to see the virtual banquet, please visit any of our social media accounts or our website, www.mercedfda.org

Fair continued from page 1

with the creation of our first-ever Virtual Livestock Sale. I could not be more proud of our Livestock team who have quickly adapted to going virtual, as well as our Ag community of 4-H and FFA leaders, businesses, community members and of course, our kids – who have accepted that this year will be different and are working hard to make this year’s sale a success!

We have nearly 500 animal entries for the Merced County Fair’s Virtual Livestock Sale; Dairy Replacement Heifers and Market beef, goat, sheep, swine and rabbits! The kids are now working hard to secure buyers – sending out their letters, emails and posting to social media to garner that support.

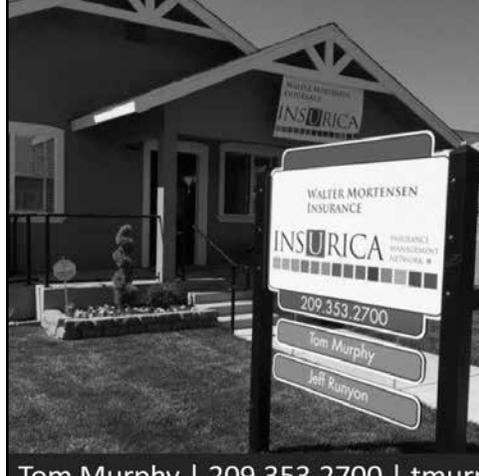
As a Fair, we just kicked off our FFA and 4-H “Chapter Feature” series where we highlight one student from each chapter leading up to the sale. You also should see billboards around Merced County and hear advertisements on the radio as we work hard to support our kids in this sale!

So, we ask of you – please get involved! Whether you are a returning buyer or new, we need everyone in the community to step up and help these kids. We want all of our 4-H and FFA members to recoup the investments they made in their animal projects – and hopefully, make a little extra so they can take on a project next year or invest in school. Remember – you don’t have to purchase an animal – you can also place add-on bids to help these kids reach their sales goal!

I am so grateful for our community who from the beginning showed up and asked how they can help. Our non-profit foundation, Friends of the Merced County Fair stepped up to cover the cost of the online platform, as well as cover all sales commission! That means every dollar generated in the sale of each animal will go directly to our exhibitors. Dr. J.L. Byerly D.V.M.,

owner of Sierra Gateway Veterinary Clinic donated \$10,000 towards add-ons to support those exhibitors who do not receive adequate bids on their projects; as did Yosemite Farm Credit, which donated \$20,000 toward add-ons as well!

Let’s keep that momentum going! If businesses are interested in getting involved – please reach *See Fair, Page 20*



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Hiring in the Time of COVID-19

By Amy Wolfe, AgSafe

As the agricultural industry forges onward during the continually evolving COVID-19 pandemic, a wide variety of our day-to-day practices are impacted. For many, harvest marks one of the busiest times of the year and with it, the need to hire temporary labor. Like other aspects of an operation, this process must be reconsidered from previous seasons, with an intentional and deliberate plan developed to ensure the safety and health of current, as well as prospective employees.

Creating a New Hire Plan

Before temporary seasonal workers can be hired, it is critical to consider what that new hire process looks like while navigating the myriad of required and recommended government agency practices relative to COVID-19. There are steps to be taken prior to initiating the process, as well as once active recruitment begins, screening candidates, and the first day of employment.

Gearing Up to Hire

If the company does not already have a system in place for hiring new employees, now is the ideal time to develop one. Clearly define who will be responsible for which aspects of hiring:

- Responding to inquiries about available jobs from potential employees
- Distributing job applications
- Reviewing job applications
- Conducting background checks



In an effort to protect existing employees and those interested in a job, make job applications easily accessible outside the main office with clear directions for prospective workers on who to call with questions.

Source: Innovative Produce

- Coordinating pre-employment drug screening
- Conducting reference checks
- Contacting employees with employment offers
- Coordinating employee new hire paperwork
- Conducting new employee orientation training

For each of these elements, consider how you will appropriately implement required social distancing of at least six feet of space between the individuals, as well as how you will provide both current and prospective employees appropriate personal protective equipment, such as masks, and easy access to hand washing facilities or hand sanitizer. Many agricultural operations now keep their main office closed to the public and provide a telephone number with a point of contact for those interested in employment to contact. Some have made their job applications available online while others have placed them in an easy to access location outside their office.

As with any process, ensure that it is documented with who is responsible and the appropriate steps to be taken clearly outlined. It is essential to communicate the new hire process to not only those employees directly impacted by their involvement, but to all workers. Word of mouth referrals are often the best source of potential new hires and it is important for current workers to know what the process looks like right now.

Hiring in the Field or in the Office?

For many agricultural employers, hiring in the field is the most efficient and effective method. This may still be the case but needs to be clearly thought out relative to the additional steps that we are all now taking. Some important points to consider:

- Clearly labeling space to ensure prospective employees maintain at least six feet of social distancing.
- Sanitizing common equipment taken into the field for administrative staff and/or supervisors to tackle paperwork – tables, chairs, clipboards.

o All these items need to be sanitized between each prospective worker.

- Providing all prospective workers PPE, including masks and hand sanitizer.
- Providing individual writing utensils to minimize sharing of pens.
- Potentially conducting confidential COVID-19 health screening all applicants and not allowing any individuals exhibiting at least two signs or symptoms to stay that day.

o If this option is implemented, remember all information must remain confidential regardless of if the individual is hired or not.

Managing these elements, along with the usual challenges of hiring seasonal employees, has led some employers to transition the process into the office. In doing so, it is easier to manage the volume of people and ensure both current and prospective employees are sufficiently protected.

The Need for More Time

Whether the new hire process transpires in the field or in the office, these additional efforts will ultimately result in the need for more time. More time to screen prospective employees, more time to complete their paperwork and more time to conduct their new employee orientation. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) still recommends small gatherings and as of its guidance on May 26, 2020, Cal/OSHA suggests that agricultural employers limit

crew size, although a specific head count is not provided. The implication, though, is that employers are now working with smaller groups of employees in all aspects of their jobs and includes bringing them onboard.

It is also important to reach out to third party vendors, such as clinics or companies providing drug screening services, to determine how their protocol has changed. It may be helpful to work with multiple vendors to ensure this segment of the new hire process is not meaningfully slowed by their limitations on the number of individuals served. In addition, if reference checks are appropriate for the position, allow for more response time from the contacts. With more individuals working from home, there is a delay for some in retrieving office voicemails. In short, before the process even begins, think about how much additional time is needed for each step and plan accordingly.

Ultimately, as with all our processes and systems, it is important to think through how best to hire the needed seasonal staff. The continued safety and health of our workers, as well as prospective employees, is paramount. It is essential that agricultural employers consider the unique circumstances now impacting our industry as we navigate employment during the COVID-19 pandemic.



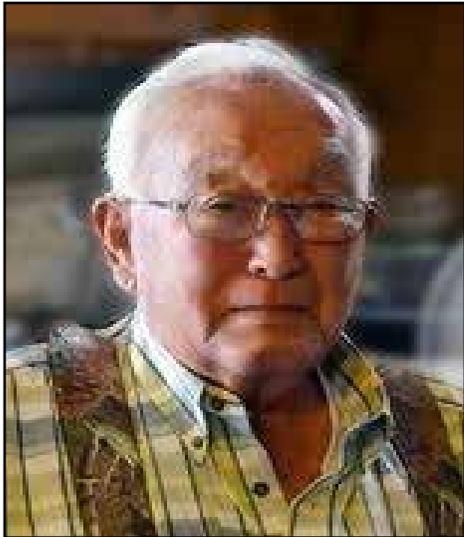
Clearly marking space inside and outside the office will assist existing and prospective employees in maintaining at least six feet of socially distanced space.

Source: Premium Packing and Innovative Produce



Thomas Osamu Nakashima

February 6, 1927 ~ May 19, 2020



Published in Merced Sun Star & Modesto Bee from May 29 to May 31, 2020.

Tom was born in Cressey, California to John Kohei and Ayako Nakashima and passed away May 19, 2020 at the age of 93 of natural causes. Tom was a proud lifetime farmer and resident of Livingston. He was a man of inner strength and integrity who treated everyone with respect.

Tom attended Livingston

schools until 1942 when he was incarcerated with his family at the Merced Assembly Center and the Amache Internment Camp in Colorado due to Executive Order 9066 – which removed persons of Japanese ancestry away from the West Coast during WWII. He was appreciative of his teachers at Amache, especially Mrs. Kathy Odom who continued to stay in touch with Tom and her students after leaving camp. He left Amache to work on a farm in Baxter, Iowa, but contracted polio and was nursed back to health by the Quakers using the Sister Kenney method. He felt a debt of gratitude to the Quakers for their care during his hospitalization.

Tom returned to Livingston in 1945 then attended UC Davis to study agriculture. Upon graduating he came back to Livingston and began a farming career that included growing grapes, organic almonds, sweet potatoes, compost and peaches. He met his wife Caroline Matsuyama at a church outing and the two were married

there would be environmental implications as well. The initiative would give local governments a great financial incentive to rezone farmland for commercial or industrial development—specifically farmland left idled when the full impacts of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act are realized—and would encourage counties to end participation in the Williamson Act, since doing so would yield them more tax dollars.

Farm Bureau has been monitoring this threat to California farmers and ranchers for more than a year. In fact, the California Farm Bureau Federation was the first agricultural organization in the state to identify the proponents' deception and announced its opposition to the split-roll property tax measure in February. Following our announcement, other statewide agricultural organizations have also

opposed the measure. He remained active in the Livingston Methodist Church throughout his life.

Tom was an active member in the community and was a Livingston Lions Charter member since 1958; and was honored as a Melvin Jones Fellow in 2016. He served on the Livingston Elementary School Board, and was a long-time member of the Livingston Farmers Association and the Japanese American Citizens League. Tom was later part of a speakers group that toured schools and colleges around Merced and Stanislaus counties and recounted stories of the hardships and injustices that American citizens of Japanese descent endured during internment. He also spoke about the internment at his grandchildren's schools in the Bay Area.

He enjoyed welcoming people to the farm. Whether it be exchange students, relatives or friends he always had time to show them around and share his passion for organic and sustainable farming.

opposed the measure.

We take this so seriously that before the COVID-19 pandemic and stay-at-home protocols threw the agricultural economy and the general economy into turmoil. Now, our opposition has become even more urgent. With so many farms, ranches, agricultural businesses and other businesses struggling mightily to stay afloat, this seems a particularly inappropriate time to add to the tax burden facing

California businesses. Seeing his grandchildren flourish was another joy for Tom. Together with Caroline they would support their endeavors including watching softball or basketball games, attending plays and concerts, or growing corn with his grandsons

He is survived by his wife of 69 years; children Jill Nakashima (Dennis Shea), Stuart (Ann) Nakashima, Dawn Nakashima (Jonathan Newman) and Beverly Nakashima; sister Ida Nakashima Schneck of Denver Colorado and grandchildren Taylor, Zachary, Mari, Leah, Charlie, Andrew and Aya . He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Tyler Nakashima.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, a private burial was held at Winton Cemetery. A celebration of Tom's life will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions can be made in Tom's memory to Livingston United Methodist Church or the Livingston Lions Club.

California businesses.

We take this so seriously that the CFBF Board of Directors determined Farm Bureau would establish its own campaign committee to fight the split-roll initiative on behalf of California farmers and ranchers. As the fall campaign season progresses, watch for information from CFBF and your county Farm Bureau on how you can contribute to defeat this destructive measure.

'Split-Roll' continued from page 1

1% of the purchase price, with annual increases capped at 2% a year. That limits drastic increases in property taxes and helps assure farmers and ranchers won't be priced out of their land. Removing that protection for barns, dairies, wineries, orchards and vineyards raises costs and reduces profit margins for farms and ranches that are already low-margin enterprises.

Tax increases for agricultural businesses would ripple through the rural economy, as businesses try to reduce their costs in order to pay their higher tax bills. That likely means fewer jobs in already-struggling rural communities. Local businesses that sell farm equipment, supplies and services would also be undermined.

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Legislation Seeks to Address San Joaquin Valley Canals

By Brian German, AgNet West

New legislation was recently introduced that will address several issues facing San Joaquin Valley Canals. The Restoration of Essential Conveyance Act was introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein as a means for repainting water conveyance damaged by subsidence. The bill would authorize a total of \$800 million to be used for the repair of three canals, as well as a habitat restoration project.

“We have to find better ways to use the water we have,” Feinstein said in a press release. “Restoring the San Joaquin Valley’s canals

is one of the most efficient ways to improve the sustainability of California’s water supply. It would allow us to capture more winter storm floodwaters and use that extra water to offset necessary reductions in groundwater pumping. This bill would give our farmers a fighting chance.”

Each of the four projects would receive \$200 million in funding support. Repairs and improvements would be made on the Friant-Kern Canal, the California Aqueduct, and the Delta Mendota Canal. The San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement would also receive funding support to help restore salmon populations.

An average of 367,000 acre-feet of additional water would be moved annually if the legislation were to be implemented and the prescribed repairs were made. The San Joaquin Valley canals are currently only operating at 60 percent capacity.

“This bill assists with one of the most critical and desperate needs to achieve long-term sustainability in the San Joaquin Valley,” Executive Director of the Friant Water Authority, Jason Phillips said in a news release. “The bill also makes significant investments in implementing the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement, in acknowledgment of the shared future between the Friant Division

contractors and the San Joaquin River.”

Failure to address the water conveyance issues these canals are facing could result in a loss of up to one million acres of productive farmland. Supporting water infrastructure and maximizing the value and efficiency of water supplies will become even more important as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act continues to take shape. Legislation similar to the Restoration of Essential Conveyance Act has been introduced in the House by Representatives Jim Costa and TJ Cox.

What a Difference a Day Makes



By Danette Toso, Executive Director, Mariposa County Farm Bureau

As our country collectively swirls down the deep drain of despair, I feel a strange urge to stock up on Liquid-Plumr. We have some serious clogs in America right now and the Liquid-Plumr’s company advertises that “Liquid-Plumr® Drain Cleaners - Destroys

Toughest Clogs.” If only it were that easy, I’d be inclined to become a Plumr hoarder. We have been advised by our government to do so many different things regarding the Covid Virus, and then told the opposite, my head is spinning! What do we believe, who do we believe, do we keep wearing masks, do we stay home?

It’s simply amazing that just as our country is beginning to open up and get back to work, we have another tragedy and the drain plugs up like I’ve never witnessed in my lifetime. The mayhem in the city streets looks like something from a third world country. With protests, rioting, looting, death, destruction and extreme chaos, law enforcement is being stretched to the limit. Just as we think it can’t get any worse, we hear demands for defunding and even dismantling police departments. Now all we need are the Murder Hornets to decimate our Honey Bees

and everything else will pale in comparison.

Mariposa County residents have been working for months preparing for our own mayhem, and its name is fire. Along with the ranchers grazing their land, the county is beginning prescribed burns, with CalFire benefiting in the form of training. The Long Ranch in Mariposa recently participated in this program and Cotton Creek Ranch will take part as well. It is my hope that we can get more ranchers on board and dramatically reduce the massive amounts of fuel that these wild fires consume. The last several years have been horrendous fire seasons for our county, it’s past time for us to become much more proactive.

Speaking of fire, Mariposa County just had its first substantial fire of the season, Sunday June 7th. Wouldn’t you know, it was just over the hill from our ranch in Hunter’s Valley. The wind

was wicked that day and just as I was thinking how fast a fire could spread, I saw the smoke and flames. I couldn’t help but have flash backs to the Detweiler Fire in 2017, and we instantly sprang into action. I must say that CalFire jumped on that fire immediately, and had it under control not long after dark and kept us all safe. I’m sincerely thankful for their quick action, and the training they have undergone. We can only hope and pray that this fire season will be a slow one for these brave firefighters. Let’s help them as well as our community by participating in the prescribed burn program and make a difference today.

As always, I encourage farmers, ranchers and conservators to invite friends, neighbors and family members to join the collective voice of the Farm Bureau. Together, we can make our organization stronger than ever, one member at a time.

2020 American AgCredit Awards Scholarships

\$6,000 in Scholarships Awarded to Modesto Jr. College - California State University – Stanislaus – Merced Community College District Students

American AgCredit awards scholarships annually to 3 local colleges in the valley. The criteria given to each college committee to evaluate the applications include participation in agriculture projects, community service and extra-curricular activity, academics and the students must major in

an ag-related field of study. Each student was awarded a \$1,000.00 scholarship.

Modesto Jr College:

Josephina Cervantes

Josephina is a sophomore at Modesto Jr. College. She received

her degree in Ag Education April, 2020. She plans to transfer to CSU Fresno or Chico State. At the CSU that she chooses, she will further her education to obtain her Master’s Degree.

Josephina’s long term goals she wishes to teach future generations about agriculture starting at the

high school level. With more experience, she would like to advance to the college level of teaching.

Spencer Francesconi

Spencer is a sophomore at Modesto Jr. College. He will

See Scholarship, Page 10

PG&E readies \$11-billion jumbo debt deal

By Paula Seligson, Sridhar Natarajan and Mark Chediak, Bloomberg

Utility giant PG&E Corp. is readying an \$11-billion debt-financing package that may be sold to investors as soon as next week as the company prepares to exit bankruptcy, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

The financing includes \$4 billion of high-yield bonds and a \$750-million term loan led by JPMorgan Chase & Co., the people said, asking not to be named because the transaction is private. The remaining package consists of an investment-grade bond portion offered by Bank of America Corp., JPMorgan and other banks, the people said.

The exit financing marks the near-conclusion of a complex Chapter 11 bankruptcy that’s lasted over a year and seen wildfire victims fight for compensation. The utility company filed for relief from its creditors in January 2019 after its equipment was linked to wildfires that ripped through Northern California in 2017 and 2018.

PG&E shares surged as much as 12.4% to \$13.34 after Bloomberg reported the potential offering, triggering a volatility pause.

Bankers are targeting a timeline of next week for the debt offering,

the people said, adding that PG&E is expected to market a \$9-billion equity offering at a later date. The company has said in court papers that it expects to market the debt as soon as it gets confirmation of its plan, which could come as early as next week.

Representatives for PG&E, JPMorgan and Bank of America declined to comment.

An attorney for PG&E told the bankruptcy judge overseeing its case Friday that the utility plans to raise the \$9 billion in equity this month, saying it can’t do it in July because of a blackout period during the run up to reporting second-quarter earnings.

The attorney, Stephen Karotkin, asked the judge to confirm its plan by next Friday so the company can start raising the money.

“The intention is to raise all the capital as quickly as possible so we can exit as quickly as possible,” he said.

The jumbo debt financing comes as corporate debt markets have rallied following unprecedented support from the Federal Reserve.

Investors poured a record \$15.6 billion into funds that buy U.S investment-grade and high-yield bonds and leveraged loans in the week that ended Wednesday.

Some investment-grade companies have received record-low interest rates on new debt amid the frenzy, and U.S. high-yield bonds have gained 21% since bottoming in late March. Leveraged loans have been slower to recover, but the market for new loans has

started to thaw as well.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Dennis Montali is expected to conclude confirmation hearings on PG&E’s \$59-billion bankruptcy plan Friday and rule shortly after. The plan includes \$25.5 billion of settlements to pay wildfire damage claims from residents, businesses, local governments and insurers.

PG&E is seeking to gain court approval of its turnaround plan by June 30 so it can participate in a state wildfire insurance fund that will help utilities pay for any future fire damage claims. The firm’s equity offering is intended to go into a wildfire trust for victims.

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Scholarship continued from page 9

be transferring to Chico State in attaining a bachelor's degree in Animal Science. He will be a member of the collegiate livestock judging team. On the judging team, he will serve as a representative for the animal science program competing at contests throughout California and across the country.

Spencer plans to become a sales representative for feed and animal health and help young 4-H and FFA Members reach success in their projects. He would like to pass on the passion he possesses on to new students.

California State University- Stanislaus:

Amber Gariety

Amber is a junior at California

State University – Stanislaus. She is the daughter of Jeff Dyrz. Amber plans on getting her Pest Control Advisor License. She is saving her money to attend graduate school and work toward her Master's Degree in Soil Science. Amber chose the field of agriculture because she is interested in helping small, family farms reach their growth potential.

Her extra-curricular activities include painting, running, photography and volunteer work.

Antonio Jaime

Antonio is a junior at California State University – Stanislaus. He is the son of Gerald and Leticia Jaime. Antonio's major is Agricultural Biology and plans working in the crop production area. He would like to be a crop advisor.

Extra-curricular activities include volunteering at school

See Scholarship, Page 14



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June 17, 2020

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11:00 AM – 1:30 PM Spanish

2:00 PM – 4:30 PM Spanish

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NOTE: Instructor will be via webinar, but attendance at the above sites is required for testing purposes. Space is limited to 9 attendees per session at each location to maintain social distancing rules. Please pay by cash, check or credit card in advance.



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FIELDWORKER SESSION
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JUNE 30
(ENGLISH SESSIONS)

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FIELDWORKER SESSION
1:00 PM-3:00 PM



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Published May 29, 2020 -

Agriculture, Generally

SB 1196, (Thomas Umberg, D) would specify that “price gouging” includes when a person, contractor, business, or other entity sells or offers to sell those goods or services for a price 10% greater than the price charged immediately prior to a date of a state of emergency. It would also specify that it is a violation for a person, contractor, business, or other entity who did not charge a price for the goods or services immediately before the declaration of an emergency to charge a price that is more than 50% greater than either the amount that the seller paid for the goods or, if the seller did not purchase the goods, the seller’s costs. It would also specify that this violation is an alternate

felony-misdemeanor. Farm Bureau joined an agricultural coalition to express concern regarding the conditions of the bill citing that agricultural goods are often subject to nationally recognized markets, indexes or entity surveys. Through SB 1196 if the indexed price or national market price reflected a 10% increase, the seller would either risk violating this law, or not sell into California during the declaration. SB 1196 passed Senate Public Safety Committee and is set to be heard in Senate Appropriations Committee next week.

Fertilizer

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has announced four vacancies on the Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board (FIAB) Technical Advisory Subcommittee. This subcommittee serves as an

expert scientific panel on matters concerning plant nutrition and environmental effects related to fertilizing materials use. It reviews all research and education proposals for the annual Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) grant program and recommends to FIAB which projects should receive funding. Applicants should demonstrate technical, applied and scientific expertise in the fields of agronomy, soil science, plant physiology, production agriculture and/or environmental issues related to fertilizer use. Subcommittee members serve for three years. Individuals interested in being considered for appointment should send a resume and a Prospective Member Appointment Questionnaire to FREP@cdfa.ca.gov by June 30, 2020.

Hemp

The Industrial Hemp Advisory Board met on Thursday, May 28th to discuss the state’s actions to date, proposed regulations and state Legislation, County updates and an application of the California Seed Law to hemp production. The Department of Food and Agriculture announced that the State Implementation Plan

is currently in draft format and is under review by the State Attorney General before submission to USDA for approval.

Land Use

SB 950, (Hannah-Beth Jackson, D) would have expanded the California Environmental Quality Act’s (CEQA) patchwork of existing requirements with costly new mandates that will burden local agencies, add substantial time and costs to the CEQA process and provide project opponents with new legal arguments to delay or block housing and other projects. The bill would have specifically expanded non-English noticing requirements, which will expand opportunities to challenge projects. It proposed to address late hit letters—comment letters that are submitted on the final day of the public comment period intended to overburden lead agencies. Finally, and of highest note for agriculture, the bill would have revised the original legislative intent of CEQA to require considerations of environmental justice. Farm Bureau joined a coalition of interests in opposition and the bill failed passage of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.



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\$2,500 in cash prizes highlights 2020 California Farm Bureau Photo Contest

Courtesy of CFBF

Amateur photographers can compete for their share of \$2,500 in cash prizes in the 39th annual California Farm Bureau Photo Contest, which opens June 1. This year's theme, "2020 Visions," encourages participants to capture images that communicate their personal perspective of agriculture in California.

Photos may highlight a variety of farm, ranch and food imagery. Examples include farm animals, items being grown or harvested, rural scenery, fresh or plated food, and people working and living on a farm or ranch. There are no specific categories for entries; participants may submit up to five high-resolution digital photos or prints.

Entries will be eligible for one of 12 cash prizes, ranging from \$50 up to the \$1,000 Grand Prize. The contest is open to members of county Farm Bureaus in California and supporters of the California Bountiful Foundation. Participants must be amateur photographers—those who do not regularly receive income from photography.

In addition to the general competition, aspiring photographers younger than age 14 as of Sept. 30, 2020, and who are children or dependents of

Farm Bureau members or California Bountiful Foundation supporters are invited to submit photos as "Budding Artists." Presented by the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, this category awards a first-place prize of \$250 and a second-place prize of \$100. All Budding Artists entrants also receive a copy of the "Imagine this..." book of stories written by students and inspired by agriculture.

In addition to the cash prizes, winning photos will be published in the weekly California Farm Bureau newspaper Ag Alert® and bimonthly California Bountiful® magazine. The photos will also appear on the organization's websites, www.cfbf.com, www.californiabountiful.com and www.agalert.com, and social media pages.

All entries must be postmarked or submitted online by Sept. 30. Entry forms and official contest rules are available online at www.cfbf.com/photocontest and www.californiabountiful.com and from county Farm Bureaus.

For more information or additional forms, contact the CFBF Marketing/Communications Division at photocontest@cfbf.com.



2020 VISIONS

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- Rural scenery
- Animals, crops and harvests
- Life, work and family on the farm or ranch

Any amateur photographer who is a member of a county Farm Bureau in California or a current contributing member of the California Bountiful Foundation can participate. Join Farm Bureau at www.cfbf.com/join.

To enter: Submit up to five print or high-resolution digital photos. Enter online or postmark by Sept. 30. Go to www.cfbf.com/photocontest to find rules and forms, enter or see past winners. Or email photocontest@cfbf.com for rules and entry forms.

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Budding Artists (ages 13 and younger)

- \$250 First Place
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How has the coronavirus pandemic impacted California food, agriculture and environment?

New report explores long-term effects of COVID-19 on state's cattle, dairy, produce, strawberry, tomato, nut and wine industries.

By Pam Kan-Rice, UCANR

COVID-19 continues to affect parts of California agriculture in different ways. A new report from agricultural economists at the University of California examines the current and long-term impacts on California's leading agricultural industries.

Profiles in the report illustrate the different ways the pandemic has impacted dairy, beef and produce – industries that have scrambled to repurpose products from foodservice to retail – and tree nuts, an industry that saw a temporary spike in sales as consumers hoarded storable goods. The report includes expert assessments of what the future holds for California's cattle, dairy, produce, strawberry, tomato, tree nut and wine industries.

The studies are contained in a special coronavirus issue of ARE Update, a bimonthly magazine published by the University of California Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics. Contributors include several experts from the UC Davis Department of Agricultural and Resource

Economics.

In addition to industry profiles, the report includes three articles addressing the effect of the pandemic on farm labor, food security, and traffic and pollution in California. The authors conclude that farm labor supplies are likely to be reduced due to the pandemic, hastening the trend toward mechanization. Authors of the study on federal nutrition assistance programs expect participants in these programs to face unprecedented economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They suggest specific policy responses to reduce the impact. The study on vehicle traffic (and associated pollution) in California shows that travel dropped dramatically—by 40% to 60%—in California following the stay-at-home order, but then began increasing in mid-April, long before any restrictions on the stay-at-home order were lifted.

"Although the coronavirus pandemic continues to afflict most parts of the world, states and countries are attempting to reopen their economies and assess the

parents are Hiroshi and Juniko Hatano. He has been accepted to UC Davis as a transferring student to study International Agricultural Development. He wants to work for a company that assists in economic and social growth in developing countries. He plans to develop agricultural markets, building connections between developing countries and manage fair trade.

In the past, Rikiya has worked for the Merced College on a daily basis, helping international

damage that has been wrought," said Richard Sexton, UC Davis distinguished professor and co-editor of ARE Update. "We look at the impacts on California agricultural industries and the implications for the environment and consumers, especially the most vulnerable among us."

COVID-19 and farmworkers

No state relies upon agricultural labor more than California, where employment peaks seasonally in June. When stay-at-home orders were issued in March 2020 to slow the spread of COVID-19, farmworkers were deemed essential and expected to continue working.

As California's farm employment climbs toward its June peak, sick farmworkers, closed schools and uncertainties surrounding the H-2A guest worker program could reduce the supply of farmworkers, accelerating trends already underway such as mechanization.

Nutrition assistance programs

Processing plant closures, consumer stockpiling of key staple foods and other supply chain disruptions have raised serious

students. He also participated in 2 honor societies, Alpha Gamma Sigma and Phi Theta Kappa. He also participated in AGS activities as treasurer such as collecting food for the food pantry, managing the blood drive, asking for donations for charities and attend the AGS Conference. He also became an Ag Ambassador to work local college events.

Maci Jurado

Maci is a sophomore at

questions about food security in the U.S. Enrollments in CalFresh, for example, are up as much as 80% in California from last year at this time.

The authors address the role policymakers, food banks and food assistance programs like the National School Lunch Program and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) can play in meeting food-security challenges now and in the future.

Traffic, travel and pollution

Near real-time data can give key insights into how the pandemic and economic shutdown have impacted behavior in California. Using Caltrans traffic sensor data and Apple data, economists show that travel in California dropped precipitously when the stay-at-home orders were issued—down 40% to 80%, depending on the data source—but the rate of decline varied considerably by regions within the state.

While the stay-at-home order did reduce travel, the report found that the shutdown had no effect on fine particulate concentrations, a key contributor to air pollution.

Merced Community College. Her parents are Mark and Lorraine Jurado. She has volunteered at the Merced College Farm by giving vaccinations, moving animals, feeding the animals and during calving, lambing and kidding time.

Maci plans to attend Modesto Jr. College and complete the Veterinary Technician Program. After a few years she will continue her education to achieve her bachelor's degree in animal science and become a teacher.

Scholarship continued from page 10

events for Modesto Jr. College Field Day, MJC Expo. Antonio has also been part of the cotton judge contest.

Merced Community College:

Rikiya Hatano

Rikiya is a sophomore at Merced Community College. His



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If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the PHI Cares Membership department Monday to Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm MST at 1.888.1 FLY PHI (1.888.435.9744).

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Virtual FARM2U & AgAdventure
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- \$100 donation** - Large logo recognition in newspaper and e-newsletter
- \$50 donation** - Small logo recognition in newspaper and e-newsletter
- \$25 donation** - Company name listed in newspaper and e-newsletter

Contact Name: _____ **Title:** _____

Company: _____

Address: _____ **City/Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Return completed form along with payment to:

Merced County Farm Bureau

Attention: FARM2U

PO Box 1232, Merced, CA 95341

Phone: (209) 723-3001

Email: dflake@mercedfarmbureau.org

Stanislaus County Farm Bureau

Attention: AgAdventure

1201 L Street, Modesto, CA 95354

Phone: (209) 522-7278

Email: caitiec@stanfarmbureau.org





Merced County Business Member Directory

Businesses Supporting the Farm Bureau

To be included in the directory, join Merced County Farm Bureau as a business member by calling Denelle at 723-3001

REPAIRS & SERVICES

AC King
722-3552
Atwater Radiator & Muffler, Inc
358-2638
Car Plus
722-3552
Freitas Auto Wreckers
722-7086

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS

Allison Sierra, Inc.
966-4082
Dias Construction, Inc.
634-9601
M-Mig Construction, Inc.
631-6017

LANDSCAPE

Bergman Landscape
669-9138

FARM EQUIPMENT

Garton Tractor, Inc.
726-4600
Holt Ag Solutions
723-2021
J M Equipment Co Inc .
386-1797
Kirby Manufacturing
723-0778
Laird Mfg LLC
722-4145
N&S Tractor
383-5888

REAL ESTATE

Flanagan Realty
723-4337 (Merced)
(559) 665-1313 (Chowchilla)
Property Team
769-4698
Dick Templeton, Coldwell Banker
761-4441
Rucker Real Estate
722-6532
Valley Real Estate Sales, Inc.
854-1000

GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS

Blue Diamond Growers
(559) 474-2996
California Sweet Potato Growers
394-7935
California Women for Agriculture
723-5878
Central CA Irrigation District
826-1421
Cortez Growers Association
632-3118
Del Rio Nut
394-7945
Dos Palos Co-op Gin
387-4151
Farmers Rice Cooperative
(916) 923-5100
Gustine Drainage District
854-6782

GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS CONT'D

Hilltop Ranch Inc.
874-1875
Livingston Farmers Assoc
394-7941
Merced Boosters
761-0815
Merced Irrigation District
722-5761
Turlock Irrigation District
883-8205
Merced College Ag Division
384-6250

FARM SERVICES

A-Bar Ag Enterprises
826-2636
Caddy Shack Rodent Service, LLC
(559) 363-3315
Cal Ag Safety
351-0321
Cal Corn Growers Inc.
(559) 665-5775
Chipponeri Electric
634-4616
Chozen Few Ranches
585-8633
Dutch Door Dairy
648-2166
Farm Management Inc.
667-1011
Guerrero Farm Labor
492-0408
Horizon Farms, Inc.
383-5225
J & F Fertilizer
854-6325
La Follette Enterprises, Inc.
632-1385
Machado Feed Company
658-5943
Marciel & Co
777-0911
Mid Valley Ag Service
394-7981
Modern Dairy
722-7452
Modesto Dairy Supply
669-6200
Silva & Sons Custom Spreading
667-2566
Silva's Hay Source
777-7440
The Pollination Connection
(877) 970-BEES (2337)

FOOD PROCESSING

A V Thomas Produce
394-7514
Minturn Huller Co-op
(559) 665-1185
Parreira Almond Processing Co.
826-1262
Sensient Natural Ingredients
(800) 558-9892
Yosemite Farms
383-3411

HARVESTING & HAULING

Bertuccio Hay
761-6247
Castillo Brothers Hay
392-3817
Diamond J Farms
564-0870
Minturn Huller Co-op
(559) 665-1185
Northern Merced Hulling
667-2308
Wallace & Son
382-0131

IRRIGATION, WELLS, & SEPTIC

Allison Sierra, Inc.
966-4082
Agri-Valley Irrigation
384-8494
Dickey's Pump Service
394-3112
Frasier Irrigation Company
387-4202
Irrigation Design & Construction,
LLC
387-4500
Precision Aqua
756-2025
Quality Well Drillers
357-0675
Rain for Rent/Westside Pump
(559) 693-4315
Robal Inc.
826-4540
Shannon Pump Company
723-3904

INSECT & WEED CONTROL

Environmental Spraying Service
667-1038
Malm Ag Pest Management
392-6905
Star Creek Land
704-1790

FARM SUPPLIES

Ag Flag
357-3424
Cal Farm Service
358-1554
Kellogs Supply
722-1501
Livingston True Value Hardware &
Farm Supplies
394-7949
Marfab
826-6700
Modesto Dairy Supply
669-6200
Stanislaus Farm Supply
723-0704

FUEL SERVICES

W.H. Breshears, Inc.
522-7291
Western States Petroleum
Association
(661) 321-0884

FUEL SERVICES CONT'D

Valley Pacific Petroleum
948-9412
Van De Pol Petroleum
667-0236

INSURANCE

Barlocker Insurance
383-0220
Fluetsch & Busby Insurance
722-1541
Diane Norton Insurance
357-3626
Rico, Pfitzer, Pires and Associates
854-2000
Walter Mortensen Insurance
353-2700
Western Valley Insurance
826-5667
Winton Ireland Insurance
394-7925

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Alice B. Contreras CPA
722-6778
American Ag Credit
384-1050/826-0320
Farmers & Merchants Bank
626-4100
Grimbleby Coleman CPAs
527-4220
Trans County Title Company
383-4660
Yosemite Farm Credit
383-1116

SOLAR

Coldwell Solar
259-9260

MISCELLANEOUS

Amarants Propane Service
358-2257
Berliner Cohen LLP
385-0700
California Farmland Trust
(916) 544-2712
EAC Engineering Inc.
664-1067
The Hat Source
357-3424
Merced County Fair
722-1506
P. B. Iyer, M.D.
854-1120
Queen Anne's Garden Nursery
358-3875
Santa Fe Pet Hospital
383-5050
SS Blue
722-2583
Unwired Broadband
(559) 336-4157

Long-Term Care options can protect you, your family and your farm operation

The following information is provided by Nationwide, the #1 farm and ranch insurer in the U.S.*



Long-term care: what does it mean to you? Do you think of the consequences like the stresses placed on family caretakers or the changes to your lifestyle that may result? How will your farm or ranch operation be impacted by your need for care? Many believe long-term care (LTC) planning is too expensive or too complicated, or that it's something they'll never use. Improving your understanding may help you better protect what matters most.

What is long-term care & how much does it cost?

It's an event that needs to

be planned for to help you live as independently and safely as possible when you can no longer do so on your own.

Most of us would prefer to receive care in our homes; in familiar surroundings and with our families. The good news is that "home health care" is what just over half of us needing care will receive. Another 20% of us will likely receive care in an assisted living facility, and about 3 in 10 of us will need care in a nursing home. Each has varying costs and they can certainly be substantial. Today, the average annual expense of a home health aid is \$49,192 and

in the next 20 years, that is expected to grow to \$88,846.

Long-term care options

Recently, the variety of LTC coverage options has increased even as the number of providers offering coverage has shrunk. Combination products that provide an LTC benefit along with life insurance coverage have become more available and more popular. They're designed to protect your premiums paid by providing a benefit even if the LTC benefit is not used.

Minimizing the consequences

The consequences of not planning for a long-term care event can be costly. The time is now to decide which options are best for you, your family and your business.

What you can do

Join us as your Farm Bureau brings LTC specialists from Nationwide® to answer your questions and show you how you can obtain estimates for receiving care in your local community. Register for one of our online webinars at www.nationwide.com/cfbf or call Nationwide for help at 855-863-9636.



Mariposa County Business Member Directory

Support Farm Bureau Business Members

AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES

Gallaway Feed and Supply
374-3331
Mariposa Feed & Supply
966-3326
Bootjack Equipment Rental & Feed
966-3545

ASSOCIATIONS

35-A District Agriculture Assn.
966-2432
Mariposa Chamber of Commerce
966-2456
Mariposa County Farm Advisor
966-2417
Mariposa County Farm Bureau
742-5875

CONSTRUCTION

Bucks Construction
878-3702
Tobey Guenthart Construction
374-3334

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Inter-County Title Company
966-3653
Yosemite Bank
966-5444

HARDWARE STORES

Coast Hardware
966-2527
Foster Ace Hardware
966-2692

MEDICAL

Mariposa Physical Therapy
742-7242

MISCELLANEOUS

Allison Sierra Inc
966-4082
Happy Burger Diner
966-2719
Mariposa Friends of the Fairgrounds Foundation
742-4680

Hugh A. Yamshon Ranch
Mariposa Gun Works
742-5444
Miners Roadhouse 140
966-2444
Pony Expresso
966-5053

REAL ESTATE

Cathey's Valley Real Estate
742-2121

SERVICES

Chases Foothill Petroleum
966-3314
Edward Lien & Toso Ag Appraisers
634-9484
Palmer Tractor
374-3470
Ranch Fence, Inc.
966-5914
Valley Pacific Petroleum
948-9412
Yosemite Glass & Window Inc.
966-3292

WINERIES

Mount Bullion Vineyard
377-8450
Rauch Ranch Vineyard & Winery

To be included in this directory, join the Mariposa County Farm Bureau at 742-5875.

MCFB FARM & RANCH CONNECTION

Thank you for advertising in the Merced County Farm News.

Are you interested in running an ad in the Farm News? Call Denelle at 723-3001 for prices and publication schedule.

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Merced Farm & Industrial Businesses on Highway 59

Please patronize these members business for your farm, home and industrial needs!



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Merced County Farm Bureau 723-3001	Kirby Manufacturing 723-0778	Shannon Pump Co. 723-3904	

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Hilmar Dairy and Farm Fair Festival Fireworks June 20

By Denise Skidmore, Director of Education & Public Relations,
Hilmar Cheese Company

Despite the challenges, the community will hold the Dairy and Farm Festival Fireworks show set for dusk on Saturday, June 20 at the Hilmar High school field. This year, viewers must watch from their cars or the back of their trucks. The fireworks show and drawing to support the fireworks are the only activities allowed this year. The Hilmar Chamber of Commerce is thankful for the support of the local businesses and community to make this event happen.

Fair
continued from page 5

out to us at (209) 722-1506. And don't forget to mark your calendars for Thursday, June 11 through Saturday, June 13 for the first-ever Merced County Fair Virtual Livestock Sale, supported by

Merced Irrigation District (MID). More details can be found at www.MercedCountyFair.com.

While we will miss seeing everyone at the Merced County Fair and in the livestock barns, we look forward to coming together virtually to support these hard-working 4-H and FFA kids at the sale!

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.

YOSEMITE FARM CREDIT

SERVING OUR MEMBERS IS WHAT WE DO.

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TURLOCK 209-668-3522	LOS BANOS 209-827-3885
PATTERSON 209-892-6136	OAKDALE 209-847-7021

Virtual Livestock Sale
JUNE 11-13

SUPPORT THE KIDS!

The Merced County Fair's first-ever Virtual Livestock Sale will showcase nearly 500 animals to be sold by hard-working 4-H and FFA kids.

We need YOU! Buyers can register online now. Purchase an animal or place an add-on bid. Every bit supports these hard-working kids!

DAIRY REPLACEMENT HEIFERS	MARKET SHEEP
MARKET BEEF	MARKET SWINE
MARKET GOATS	RABBITS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
The Merced County Fair's first-ever Virtual Livestock Sale, June 11-13.

Questions? Call (209) 722-1506