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Villapudua Looks to Expand Chamber's Efforts for Local Businesses

By Rhashad R. Pittman

Carlos Villapudua will bring a broad array of leadership experience in government and the community to his new role as head of the largest and most influential Latino business organization in the region.

As the new chief executive officer of the San Joaquin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SJCHCC), Villapudua will lead an organization that represents the interests of hundreds of business owners throughout the Central Valley. The Hispanic chamber announced his appointment as CEO last month. Villapudua officially started in his new role on Jan. 17.

His tenure comes at a time when the region has seen signs of economic

vitality after years of recession and high unemployment. But opportunities lie ahead in tourism and attracting major employers to the area, he said, both of which benefit local small businesses.

"It's important that the chamber continues to advocate for the needs of our members in order to grow successful businesses in the San Joaquin Valley," Villapudua said. "SJCHCC can provide them with the programs, services, connections and resources that can help our Latino-owned businesses flourish." The former San Joaquin County Board of Supervisor brings with him a broad knowledge of the inner workings of local government, and a vast network, to the leadership role, all of which he hopes will help guide his efforts to

make doing business in the region that much easier for small business owners.

"Creating a solid foundation of access and education to help our small businesses and encouraging a streamlined business-friendly environment from our regulators will ensure a sustainable balance where the community can prosper," Villapudua said, "and the Chamber is committed to carrying out this mission."

Bob Gutierrez, President of the Hispanic Chamber's Board of Directors, said Villapudua's experience will be vital in the chamber's advocacy and promotion efforts to help create "a stronger and sustainable local economy" for its members and the community.

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SJCHCC CEO Carlos Villapudua

Carlos Villapudua busca ampliar los esfuerzos de la Cámara para las empresas locales

Por Rhashad R. Pittman

Carlos Villapudua traerá una amplia gama de experiencia de liderazgo en el gobierno y la comunidad a su nuevo papel como encargado de la organización empresarial latina más grande e influyente de la región.

Como nuevo presidente ejecutivo de la Cámara de Comercio Hispana del Condado de San Joaquín (SJCHCC), Villapudua liderará una organización que representa los intereses de cientos de dueños de negocios en todo el Valle Central. La Cámara Hispana anunció su nombramiento como CEO el mes pasado. Villapudua comenzó oficialmente en su nuevo papel el 17 de enero.

Su mandato se produce en un momento en que la región ha visto signos de vitalidad económica después de años de recesión y alto desempleo. Pero hay oportunidades en el turismo y en atraer a los empleadores grandes a la zona, dijo, y ambos benefician a las pequeñas empresas locales.

"Es importante que la cámara continúe abogando por las necesidades de nuestros miembros con el fin de hacer crecer negocios exitosos en el Valle de San Joaquín," dijo Villapudua. "SJCHCC puede proveerles con los programas, servicios, conexiones y recursos que pueden ayudar a nuestros negocios latinos a prosperar."

El ex Consejo de Supervisión del Condado de San Joaquín trae consigo un

amplio conocimiento del funcionamiento interno del gobierno local, y una vasta red, a la función de liderazgo, todo lo cual él espera que ayude a guiar sus esfuerzos para hacer negocios en la región mucho más fácil para los propietarios de pequeñas empresas.

"Crear una base sólida de acceso y educación para ayudar a nuestras pequeñas empresas y alentar un ambiente empresarial amigable con nuestros reguladores garantizará un equilibrio sostenible donde la comunidad pueda prosperar," dijo Villapudua, "y la Cámara se compromete a llevar a cabo esta misión."

Bob Gutiérrez, presidente de la Junta Directiva de la Cámara Hispana, dijo que la experiencia de Villapudua será vital en los esfuerzos de promoción y apoyo de la cámara para ayudar a crear "una economía local más fuerte y sostenible" para sus miembros y la comunidad.

"Su riqueza de experiencia como un funcionario previamente elegido en la zona habla de su capacidad para involucrar a los sectores públicos y privados en la creación de oportunidades y abogar por nuestros miembros y negocios de propietarios latinos en todo el condado para prosperar más eficazmente y con éxito en su empresas de negocios," dijo Gutiérrez.

Villapudua ocupa una posición que anteriormente ocupaba Brenna

Ver **CÁMARA** Pág 2



Mass Deportations Would Impoverish US Families and Create Immense Social Costs

New American Media

CMS Study Finds that Mass Deportation Would Plunge Millions of US Families into Poverty, Cost \$118 Billion to Care for US-Citizen Children of Deported Parents, Imperil the Housing Market, and Reduce GDP

New York, NY – The Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS) today released a report on the impact of President Donald Trump's large-scale deportation plan on US families and the US economy.

The report provides a statistical portrait of the US undocumented population, with an emphasis on the social and economic condition of mixed-status households (that is, households that contain a US citizen and an undocumented resident). Major findings include:

There were 3.3 million mixed-status households in the United States in 2014.

6.6 million US-born citizens share 3

million households with undocumented residents (mostly their parents). Of these US-born citizens, 5.7 million are children (under age 18).

2.9 million undocumented residents were 14 years old or younger when they were brought to the United States.

Three-quarters of a million undocumented residents are self-employed, having created their own jobs, and in the process creating jobs for many others.

A total of 1.3 million, or 13 percent of the undocumented over age 18, have college degrees.

Of those with college degrees, two thirds, or 855,000, have degrees in four fields: engineering, business, communications, and social sciences.

Six million undocumented residents, or 55 percent of the total, speak English well, very well, or only English.

The unemployment rate for the un-

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Villapudua

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“His wealth of experience as a previously elected official in the area speaks to his ability to engage both the private and public sectors in creating opportunities and advocating for our members and Latino-owned businesses throughout the County to more effectively and successfully thrive in their business ventures,” Gutierrez said.

Villapudua fills a position that was previously held by Brenna Butler Garcia, the first woman to serve as CEO of the SJSCHCC. She replaced Mark Martinez, who served as CEO of the local Hispanic chamber from 2004 to 2012, and as board president from 2002 to 2004.

Founded 45 years ago, the SJCHCC helps local entrepreneurs establish their business, access capital,

and connect with other small business owners. The chamber's influence is felt across the region through its signature programs and events, such as its annual college and financial aid workshop, business workshops, and Latina business conference.

Because of these and other initiatives, the chamber already has a robust portfolio of programs and services that appeal to its members, Villapudua noted, adding that he would like to expand these efforts.

“With the expansion in tourism, I see SJCHCC looking to create marketing opportunities for our members such as participation in street fairs or pop-up markets. I also believe our members can benefit from procurement opportunities with large sector industry

and state or federal agencies,” he said. “Making sure our members have the education and capacity to become certified will be important.”

A Stockton native, Carlos graduated from Franklin High School and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from California State University-Sacramento. He has held a number of positions, including community social service director for San Joaquin County's Human Services Agency at the Northeast Community Center, director for the Welfare-to-Work “CalWorks” program and pre-trial service officer for the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department. He was also chairman of the Coalition of the Mexican-American organizations' Cinco de Mayo Parade.

Challenges Lie Ahead

Villapudua has taken leadership of the chamber amid great changes and some uncertainty in the business world

due to potential changes in the Affordable Care Act, an increase in the state minimum wage, and technological advances being embraced by companies throughout the country, such as artificial intelligence and various mobile applications that could significantly reduce workforces within businesses. Despite these challenges and changing landscape, he said, local small business owners should be optimistic about the economic vitality of the region because there are signs of economic growth. “Large-sector employers continue to locate to cities within the San Joaquin County and our community is taking seriously the need to increase our graduation rates and develop an educated and employable workforce,” Villapudua said. “Over time we will see these efforts result in an increase in jobs and more opportunities for people to live and work in the area.”

Cámara

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Butler García, la primera mujer en ocupar el cargo de directora ejecutiva del SJSCHCC. Ella reemplazó a Mark Martínez, quien se desempeñó como director general de la cámara hispana local de 2004 a 2012, y como presidente de la junta directiva de 2002 a 2004. Fundada hace 45 años, la SJCHCC ayuda a los empresarios locales a establecer sus negocios, acceder al capital y conectarse con otros propietarios de pequeñas empresas. La influencia de la cámara se siente en toda la región a través de sus programas y eventos, como su taller anual de ayuda económica y universitaria, talleres de negocios y la conferencia de negocios para Latinas. Debido a estas y otras iniciativas, la Cámara cuenta ya con un sólido portafolio de programas y servicios que atraen a sus miembros, señaló Villapudua, añadiendo que le gustaría ampliar estos esfuerzos.

“Con la expansión en el turismo, veo que SJCHCC puede crear oportu-

nidades de comercialización para nuestros miembros tales como participación en ferias de la calle o mercados al aire libre. También creo que nuestros miembros pueden beneficiarse de las oportunidades de adquisición con la industria del gran sector y las agencias estatales o federales,” dijo. “Asegurarse de que nuestros miembros tengan la educación y la capacidad para ser certificados será importante.”

Nativo de Stockton, Carlos se graduó de la Escuela Secundaria Franklin y obtuvo una Licenciatura en Trabajo Social de la Universidad Estatal de California-Sacramento. Ha desempeñado varios cargos, entre ellos el director de servicios sociales comunitarios de la Agencia de Servicios Humanos del Condado de San Joaquín en el Centro Comunitario del Noreste, el director del programa “CalWorks” de Bienestar para Trabajar y el oficial de servicio provisional del Departamento del Alguacil del Condado de San Joaquín.

También fue presidente del desfile de cinco de mayo de la Coalición de las organizaciones mexicano-americanas.

Los desafíos por delante

Villapudua ha tomado el liderazgo de la cámara en medio de grandes cambios y cierta incertidumbre en el mundo de los negocios debido a cambios potenciales en la Ley del Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio, un aumento en el salario mínimo estatal y los avances tecnológicos que abarcan las empresas en todo el país, y varias aplicaciones móviles que podrían reducir significativamente la mano de obra dentro de las empresas.

A pesar de estos desafíos y el cam-

bio del paisaje, dijo, los propietarios locales de pequeñas empresas deben ser optimistas sobre la vitalidad económica de la región, porque hay señales de crecimiento económico.

“Los empleadores del sector grande continúan localizándose en ciudades dentro del condado de San Joaquín y nuestra comunidad está tomando en serio la necesidad de aumentar nuestras tasas de graduación y desarrollar una fuerza de trabajo educada y que se pueda emplear,” dijo Villapudua. “Con el tiempo veremos que estos esfuerzos resulten en un aumento de empleos y más oportunidades para que la gente viva y trabaje en la zona.”

Deportations

continued from Front Page

documented was 6.6 percent, the same as the national rate in January 2014. Seventy-three percent had incomes at or above the poverty level.

Sixty-two percent have lived in the United States for 10 years or more.

Their median household income was \$41,000, about \$12,700 lower than the national figure of \$53,700 in 2014 (US Census Bureau 2015).

Based on this profile, a massive deportation program can be expected to have the following major consequences:

Removing undocumented residents from mixed-status households would reduce median household income from \$41,300 to \$22,000, a drop of \$19,300, or 47 percent, which would plunge millions of US families into poverty.

If just one-third of the US-born children of undocumented residents remained in the United States following a mass deportation program, which is

a very low estimate, the cost of raising those children through their minority would total \$118 billion.

The nation's housing market would be jeopardized because a high percentage of the 2.4 million mortgages held by households with undocumented immigrants would be in peril.

Gross domestic product (GDP) would be reduced by 1.4 percent in the first year, and cumulative GDP would be reduced by \$4.7 trillion over 10 years.

CMS derived its population estimates for 2014 using a series of statistical procedures that involved the analysis of data collected by the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). The privacy of all respondents in the survey is legally mandated, and the identity of undocumented residents cannot be derived from the data. A detailed description of the methodology used to develop the estimates is available.

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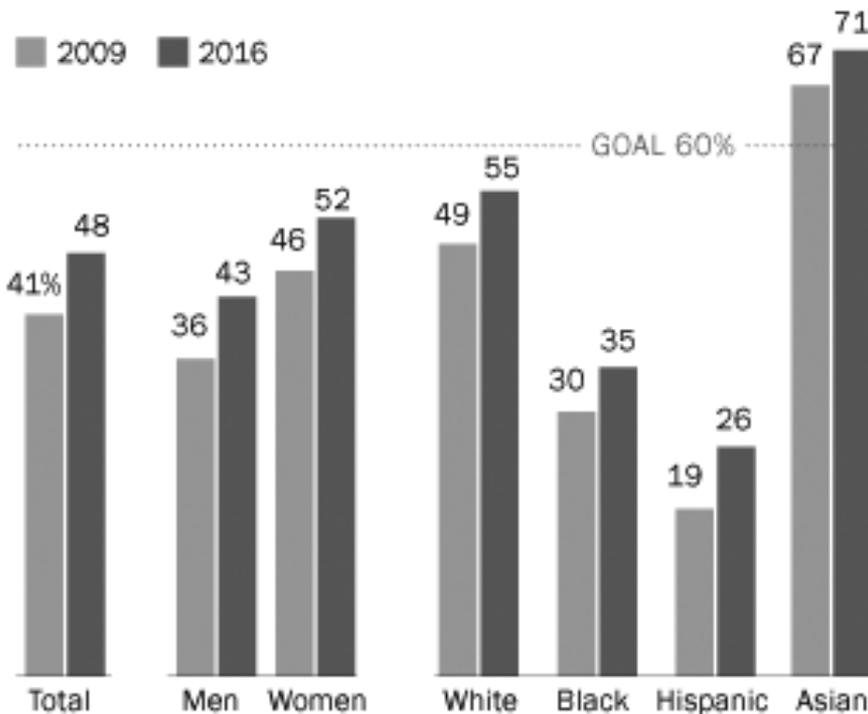


Judy Quintana
Vice President
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U.S. still has a ways to go in meeting Obama's goal of producing more college grads

Progress in increasing college attainment during the Obama years

% of 25- to 34-year-olds completing at least an associate degree



By Christina Oriel - NAM
In his first address to a joint session of Congress in February 2009, President Barack Obama said that, by 2020, America should “once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world.” The White House and U.S. Department of Education indicated that the president’s goal would be met if 60% of 25- to 34-year-olds had completed at least an associate degree by 2020.

Based on the conventional statistics used to gauge educational attainment, the nation has made some progress toward this 2020 goal during the Obama years. In March 2009, 41% of 25- to 34-year-olds had completed at least an associate degree. By March 2016, 48% of young adults had done so.

Still, as Obama’s time in office nears its end, the U.S. remains 12 percentage points short of the goal. More progress will need to be made over the next four years than has been made over the past seven if the 2020 goal is to be reached.

The U.S. also has a ways to go if it is to reach Obama’s stated goal of having the highest proportion of college graduates in the world. As of 2015, the nation ranked 10th among the 35 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries in college attainment, up from 15th in 2009. In 2015, 47% of U.S. 25- to 34-year-olds had at least an associate degree, exceeding the OECD average of 42%. But the U.S. still trailed nations like Korea, Japan and Canada by more than 10 percentage points.

Men, women and all major racial and ethnic groups have made gains in

college completion during Obama’s tenure. The magnitude of these increases varies between groups, however.

Women continue to outpace men in terms of educational attainment, though both groups are making gains at a fairly similar rate. A larger share of female 25- to 34-year-olds (52%) had finished college in 2016 than their male counterparts (43%).

Asian Americans are the only major group to have met the 2020 goal, though they had already done so before Obama came into office. In 2016, 71% of Asian young adults had completed college, up from 67% in 2009.

As of 2016, 55% of white 25- to 34-year-olds had attained at least an associate degree, compared with 35% of blacks and 26% of Hispanics.

While young Hispanics are furthest from the 2020 goal, there are large gaps between U.S.-born and foreign-born Hispanics. U.S.-born Hispanics are twice as likely as their foreign-born counterparts to have completed at least an associate degree (34% vs. 17%). In fact, the attainment rate of young U.S.-born Hispanics is on par with that of young blacks (35%). It’s important to note that many young foreign-born Hispanics have recently arrived in the U.S. from countries with lower average levels of education than the U.S.

Conversely, young foreign-born Asians are more likely than their U.S.-born counterparts to have completed at least an associate degree. This is largely due to the fact that many of these young Asian immigrants hail from nations that have higher educational attainment levels than the U.S. overall.

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Ports to Hold Casting Call and National Anthem Auditions

STOCKTON, Calif.— With baseball right around the corner, the Ports are excited to give members of the local community the opportunity to join in on the fun of the 2017 season. The annual casting call for seasonal game-day employment and National Anthem auditions will take place at Banner Island Ballpark on Saturday, February 25th.

The event will be open to the public from 10:00am to 1:00pm, giving applicants the chance to speak with

members of the Ports front office staff about positions in various departments seeking assistance for the 2017 season.

The Ports are looking for outgoing, personable, team-players to fill positions in the following areas: parking, food services, bat boy, merchandise sales, ushering, Kids' Zones, ticket office, promotional team, and ticket taking. All candidates must be at least 16 years of age by April 4th, 2017.

Job descriptions and applications are currently available on stockton-

ports.com and will also be available the day of the casting call. All candidates may park in the West Lot, located on Harrison Street, and enter through the main gates of the ballpark.

Following the casting call, the Ports will host National Anthem tryouts at the ballpark from 2:00pm to 3:00pm. Performers should be prepared to sing or play the National Anthem with no background music and in front of an audience. Selected performers will be contacted by the

Ports front office for scheduling.

For questions regarding the casting call and auditions, please contact the Ports front office.

Opening Night is Thursday, April 6th vs. the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes. Season tickets, group tickets, and mini-plans are currently available for purchase online at stocktonports.com or by calling the Ports front office at (209) 644-1900. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm.

RTD to operate Weekend Service Schedule on President's Day

(Stockton, CA) — On President's Day, Monday, February 20, San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) will operate its Weekend Service Schedule for all routes, except the Commuter Route 150 to BART, which will operate on its regular Weekday Service Sched-

ule. Additionally, RTD's administrative offices, call center, and Downtown Transit Center (DTC) will be closed.

RTD's Weekend Service Schedule is as follows:

- Metro Express Routes 40, 43, and 44
- Weekend Routes 710, 715, 720, 725,

and 745

- County Fixed Routes 723 and 797
- Stockton Metropolitan Area (SMA) American Disability Act (ADA) Dial-A-Ride (DAR)
- Countywide Rural General Public (GP) Dial-A-Ride (DAR)

RTD will resume regular service and reopen its administrative offices, call center, and the DTC on Tuesday, February 21. For route and trip planning assistance during the holiday, please visit www.sanjoaquinrtd.com.

San Joaquin General Hospital and Clinics Introduce a New Mobile App

January 10, 2017 – French Camp, CA- San Joaquin General San Joaquin General Hospital and SJ County Clinics direct contact information are now at the convenience of San Joaquin County resident's mobile phones. As more and more local residents rely on their smart mobile phones to keep them updated on Internet entertainment, news and events, SJ General Hospital and Clinics have changed to meet the changing communication needs of local patients. The Hospital

has been developing its mobile app to communicate and respond to all of the immediate needs of its many diverse patients.

The new App allows patients to schedule an appointment with their physician, or call and get information on a future appointment right from their mobile phone. They can also access the San Joaquin County Clinics' patient portal and check their private test results. Mobile phone users will be able to have immediate access to mater-

nity and pediatric services for the your family members. In case of emergency, you can access the Hospital's emergency department and trauma services in cases of severe emergency.

The new mobile app allows patients to open and browse the San Joaquin County Hospital and SJ County Clinics' websites wherever they may be on the globe.

The Hospital and Clinics have been working to develop lines of communications that link patients to Hospital

and Clinic physicians and health services. The Hospital is hoping the new app program will serve as an access card which individuals can carry in their pocket or purse.

You can download the Hospital and Clinic App by visiting either the Apple or Android App store and typing the Hospital into the search window. For more information visit the Hospital's website: www.sjgeneral.org or San Joaquin county clinics' site: www.sjclinics.org



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Year-End Tax Tips for 2016

By Rande Spiegelman

If tax time brings you stress, read on. First, take heart that you can act before the end of the year to help minimize the pain of April 15 (April 18 in 2017). Then, consider the tax tips below affecting key areas of your financial life—from your portfolio to your retirement and more.

Whether you do your own taxes or rely on a tax professional, these tried-and-true strategies may help you keep more of your hard-earned income and boost your after-tax returns. After all, it's what you keep that counts. Get started: Six simple steps

Use last year's tax return as a starting point, and begin by updating some of the key inputs: your salary and other income, deductions and the dependents you'll claim. You can use tax preparation software to see where you stand, or ask your accountant for an estimate. If the initial estimate seems high, don't panic. Instead, get going on your taxes by taking these six simple steps.

Double-check your withholding. You want to pay the IRS its due but not a penny more. So make sure you're not having too much (or too little) taken out of each paycheck. The same holds if you make quarterly estimated tax payments.

Consolidate debt. Consider replacing credit card debt, which generally has a higher interest rate, with a lower-rate, tax-deductible home equity loan

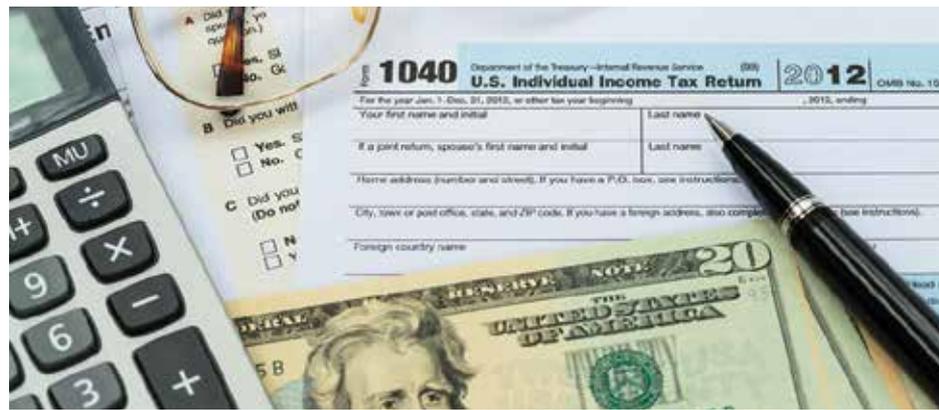
or line of credit (HELOC).

Account for refinancings. If you lowered your mortgage interest rate in the past year, you may now have a lower-interest deduction. Also, if you used any of the proceeds for something other than physical improvements to your home, that amount may be subject to the alternative minimum tax (AMT). Remember that points paid in prior refinancings that you haven't already deducted can be deducted the year you refinance again.

Prepay quarterly estimated state tax payments. Consider paying your fourth-quarter 2016 estimated state income taxes and any outstanding balance by December 31. Your payments will be tax deductible for the 2016 tax year if you're not subject to the AMT.

Prepay property taxes. Many counties bill taxpayers twice, in November and February. If you pay your February installment by December 31, you can take it as a deduction on your 2016 return. Again, watch out for the AMT, which disallows these deductions.

Avoid the AMT if you can. More taxpayers are facing the AMT, particularly dual-income homeowners who have children and live in high-tax states. If you're one of these taxpayers, try to defer payment of state and local taxes and accelerate income to the point where you're no longer subject to the AMT. Also, multiyear planning is a must, so talk to a tax professional.



Retirement: Four tax-savvy planning ideas

Take full advantage of your employee retirement plan, at least to the point of any employer match. And if you're 50 or older, make a catch-up contribution (see table below). If you expect to be in a higher tax bracket down the road (for example, if you're a younger worker who has yet to reach peak earning years) and your employer offers the Roth 401(k), consider it. You won't get any up-front tax benefits, but after you retire, qualified distributions will be tax-free.

If you're self-employed, consider a small business retirement account such as a SEP-IRA, SIMPLE IRA, Individual 401(k) or other qualified retirement plan. Contributions are tax-deductible and grow tax-deferred. If you open a qualified retirement account by December 31, you have until the day you file next year, including extensions, to

make this year's contribution.

Be sure to make your annual IRA contribution. Even though you have until next April 15 to make your 2016 contribution (April 18 in 2017), early contributions will give your money more time to benefit from potential long-term compound growth. So consider making your 2016 and your 2017 contribution early next year. If you're eligible, a Roth IRA might be a good option as well, especially if you're not eligible for a deductible traditional IRA contribution.

If you're age 70½ or older and have to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) from your retirement accounts, you need to do so before year-end. If you just turned 70½ this year, you have until April 1 to take your first RMD (April 3 in 2017). However, if you wait until next year to start, you will have two distributions in the same year—which might bump you into a higher marginal tax bracket.

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U.S. House speaker says Obamacare replacement will pass this year

By J. Scott Applewhite

The U.S. House of Representatives' Republican leader said on Tuesday that legislation to replace former President Barack Obama's signature healthcare law would be completed this year, trying to dispel the idea that the party is retreating from its campaign promise to dismantle Obamacare quickly.

"The question is how long does it take to implement the full replacement of Obamacare," House Speaker Paul Ryan told a news briefing. "We hope to get this done as fast as possible."

Ryan was responding to questions about Republican President Donald Trump's weekend interview with Fox News in which he said it might take until next year to replace the Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare, which Republicans consider federal government overreach.

Trump and congressional Republicans campaigned on a promise to scrap the 2010 healthcare law. But they are struggling to agree on a replacement for the law, which has enabled up to 20 million previously uninsured Americans to obtain health coverage.

"Maybe it'll take till sometime into next year," Trump said.

On Tuesday at the White House, spokesman Sean Spicer said the administration was "optimistic about getting

this thing completed by this year."

Spicer also said Trump still favors lowering drug prices as part of healthcare reform, with the government negotiating directly with companies on prices to be paid by the Medicare insurance program.

Spicer said Trump was committed to using his "skills as a businessman" to drive pharmaceutical prices down.

Ryan said it was important to get U.S. Representative Tom Price confirmed as secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services soon, so he too can "get to work with replacing" the healthcare law. The Senate is expected to confirm Price this week.

Ryan said he was not bothered by recent protests against dismantling Obamacare that have taken place at some Republican lawmakers' meetings with constituents. "Peaceful protests are something we honor in this country," he said.

While Republicans voted last month to start scrapping Obamacare, they missed a target date of Jan. 27 to begin drafting legislation. This raised some doubts about how quickly they will be able to undo the complicated law, even though they have the majority in Congress.

At a recent congressional retreat, Republican leaders told lawmakers they



hoped Congress would legislate the repeal by March or April, as part of a process known as budget reconciliation. But some Republicans, like Representative Tom McClintock, have said they think doing it this way will actually

make repealing Obamacare "harder and slower, while further disrupting an already faltering healthcare market." (additional reporting by Susan Heavey and Emily Stephenson; Editing by Jonathan Oatis and David Gregorio)



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Lodi Health receives standout score for maternity care

The Maternal Child department at Lodi Memorial Hospital recently received a total score of 93 out of 100 for data submitted in 2015 for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) survey. The report highlights the hard work and commitment of Lodi Memorial as a birthing facility working to support best practices for breastfeeding.

The mPINC survey is a national, voluntary survey of infant feeding practices in maternity care settings. Lodi Memorial Hospital was among 2,582 facilities nationwide to participate. Scores were recently released in a benchmark report stating that Lodi Memorial performed better than 88 percent of other hospitals of similar size in the nation in measures of infant feeding care practices, policies and staffing expectations. Lodi Memorial's score of 93 exceeds the state score of 85, and the national average mPINC score of 79.

"Lodi Memorial Hospital sees breastfeeding as a community priority because it provides the optimal nutrition for infants and gets babies the healthy start they need, in addition to providing health benefits to mothers," said Maternal Child Services Director Valerie Stump. "It is important to our dedicated team of nurses and lactation consultants that Lodi Memorial continue to strengthen the breastfeeding culture to support mothers

and babies. This survey proves that our efforts are successful for our patients."

Lodi Memorial earned perfect scores (100 percent) for labor-and-delivery care, breastfeeding assistance, mother-infant contact, staff training and structural and organizational aspects of care delivery. In 2014, Lodi Memorial Hospital earned its Baby-Friendly designation, which promotes these best practices in infant care, including breastfeeding education, a focus on skin-to-skin contact and rooming in – the practice of keeping mother and child together in the same room throughout their hospital stay. Lodi Memorial also has a weekly support group for breastfeeding moms to continue support once they are discharged.

Lodi Health is part of Adventist Health, a faith-based, nonprofit integrated health delivery system serving communities in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington. Our workforce of 31,000 includes more than 22,350 employees; 4,800 medical staff physicians; and 3,850 volunteers. Founded on Seventh-day Adventist heritage and values, Adventist Health provides compassionate care in 20 hospitals, more than 275 clinics (hospital-based, rural health and physician clinics), 15 home care agencies, seven hospice agencies and four joint-venture retirement centers. We invite you to visit www.lodihealth.org for more information.



Hispanic Homeownership Rate Increases for the Second Consecutive Year

The National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP®) has announced for the second year in a row, Hispanics were the only ethnic demographic with an increase to their homeownership rate, which surged from 45.6 percent in 2015 to 46.0 percent in 2016. The improvement came in a year when Hispanics also led in net household formations, adding a total net increase of 330,000 households.

Overall homeownership rates in the U.S. are at their lowest levels in almost 50 years. Hispanics have broken from this trend due to their high workforce participation and the fervent desire to own a home.

Initiatives from major corporations focused on Hispanic homebuyers, and a sharp growth of Hispanic entrepreneurs in mortgage banking and the real estate brokerage business are helping to advance this growth.

"With credit remaining tight and limited housing inventory in several markets, these numbers are extremely encouraging and a testament to the economic resilience of the Hispanic community," said 2016 NAHREP President Joseph Nery. "As the mortgage industry continues to recognize the exceptional opportunities in serving the Hispanic market and adjusts accordingly, we expect these numbers to only improve."

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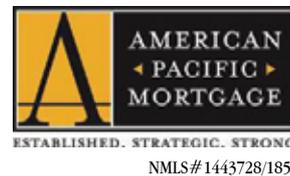
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State Senate Leader Kevin de Leon Acts to Protect Californians in Trump Era

By Christina Oriol - NAM

Since the election of President Donald Trump, California has been leading a movement to counter his administration's various policies from immigration to health care.

One of the progressive individuals on the forefront of this is state Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León, a Democrat of Mexican descent who represents parts of Los Angeles, including Historic Filipinotown, East Hollywood, Eagle Rock and Highland Park.

In an interview with the Asian Journal, de León made it clear that the state is not "looking for a fight with Donald Trump."

"But we will do everything in our power to protect our economic prosperity, the values and the people in California," the state senator said on Thursday, February 2 at his district office in Los Angeles. "There are numerous frontal assaults against the people of California in the areas of climate change, environmental protections, workers' rights, women's rights, immigrant rights and the threat of separating families...and health care."

Repealing the Affordable Care Act (also known as Obamacare), he said, would "devastate many Filipinos in the health care industry."

In December of last year, de León introduced SB 54 (the California Val-

ues Act) to prevent the use of state and local public resources to aid federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in deportation proceedings. The bill creates "safe zones" — public schools and universities, hospitals, and courthouses — that prohibit the presence of immigration enforcement.

"It's un-American to separate children from their mothers and mothers from their children," he said. "That's not who we are as a nation and as a state."

Further, the legislation bans state and local law enforcement from cooperating and collaborating with ICE agents in the detention and deportation of immigrants.

"To use local tax dollars that we supply the police department to serve the community and have them abandon their neighborhoods to go help ICE agents go raid a workplace or factory or stake out an elementary school waiting for a mother to pick her child at the curbside, that's not making our communities safer," de León said, adding that the federal government has the responsibility to carry out federal immigration laws, but shouldn't use local resources and tax dollars to do so.

On Tuesday, January 31, SB 54 passed the Public Safety Committee — just days after Trump signed a series of executive orders on immigration,



including one that calls for defunding "sanctuary jurisdictions" that do not cooperate with federal officials in removing and detaining undocumented immigrants.

"It is my hope that Donald Trump and his administration will find value in what we do in California..." he said. "If you tear things down and decimate programs, you'll just be hurting the people of California and the economy of the United States."

Though the Filipino-American community has not been single out as much as other communities have by the divisive, anti-immigrant rhetoric, de León noted how it's important more than ever to have a support system and

to be civically involved, whether by participating in demonstrations, communicating with elected officials, and voting. By coming together and being inclusive, it adheres "to the higher ideals and values of what it means to be an American," he said.

"Filipino Americans are my neighbors, my friends and they're Californians," he said. "As their senator, it is my role to do everything in my power to protect Filipino Americans, whether they're legal, U.S. citizens, or undocumented."

"I know that the Fil-Am community has a very wonderful representative in the state, [Assemblymember] Rob Bonta. I'm sure he's the community's No.1, but I'll be the Filipino's No. 2."

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Human Trafficking Survivor Announced as Keynote for Women's Center-YFS Annual Luncheon

STOCKTON - Women's Center-Youth & Family Services, the sole-provider of free, confidential shelter and services for homeless and runaway youth and victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking in San Joaquin County, is honored to welcome Ms. Kate Price to serve as the Keynote Speaker for our agency's 37th Annual Luncheon on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. The Luncheon, which serves as Women's Center-YFS annual fundraiser, will be held at the Stockton Civic Auditorium and will offer an exclusive introduction to Women's Center-YFS new CEO, a first-hand look into Human Trafficking, a learning opportunity for individuals and local businesses to make impact, and additional discussion around other trauma-informed services.

Kate Price is a survivor of commercial sexual exploitation as a child, and her life story exemplifies the power every community member has to change a life. In addition to being victimized by family members, she was overlooked by her community. Extended family, neighbors, friends and teachers all suspected she was being harmed, yet no one intervened. At 10 years old, after a decade of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, Ms. Price found hope after visiting a friend whose mother was

a professor at a local college. "That one visit gave me a vision of what I knew my life could look like beyond those cycles, and I held on to that inspiration for dear life as I fought my way out," says Ms. Price. So, while some did nothing or didn't know how to help, others helped by opening their arms and welcoming her into their home – giving her hope for a different life.

Today, Ms. Price is working on her Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Massachusetts Boston, where she is researching how organizational and legislative discrimination towards Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) can re-traumatize child sex victims and survivors instead of providing necessary services and protection. While serving on the advisory boards of the anti-trafficking organizations Truckers Against Trafficking and ECPAT-USA, her story of grit and determination is a reminder that we all have the power to change a life, even if we never know it.

Join us to learn more about human trafficking trends and services in San Joaquin County, the opportunities every individual and local business has to raise awareness and make impact, and to support Women's Center-YFS, as we grow upon four decades of providing trauma-informed services to the community. Sponsorship and ticket oppor-

tunities are available by emailing Krista Fiser, Women's Center-YFS' Development Director, at kfiser@wcyfs.org or calling (209) 941-2611.

About Women's Center-Youth & Family Services: Established in 1976, Women's Center-YFS exists to build a stronger community by fostering the strengths in individuals and by acting as a catalyst to end violence and youth homelessness. With ten locations throughout San Joaquin County, including four homeless youth and domestic

violence shelters, Women's Center-YFS serves 20,000 individuals annually. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Women's Center-YFS relies on donations from the local community to supplement programmatic contracts and grants in order to continue providing the highest quality of services to those in need.

For more information about the Women's Center-YFS and its programs and services, please visit www.women-scenteryfs.org.

Business Training for Self-Made Entrepreneurs

The second cohort of Brick and Mortar Basic Entrepreneur Training started a new 9-week session this January in the historic B & M Building, 125 Bridge Place, Downtown Stockton. The first class of the program graduated in December 2016. Application process is now open for the Spring/Summer session at www.BrickAndMortarStockton.com.

In partnership with Centro Community Partners, Downtown Stockton Alliance created this successful program to educate local entrepreneurs about business planning, personal and business finance, marketing strategies, operations, and more.

"DSA created this opportunity because we have recognized the potential in our neighborhoods. We believe that there are many people who given the opportunity, would be interested in a micro-enterprise business. These workshops are tailored to help these home-grown entrepreneurs get their business up and running," commented Cindi Fargo, the Alliance's CEO.

The training is a step-by-step process with fun, dynamic activities dynamic and

interactive mobile application developed by the Centro Community Partners who lead the workshops. CCP are based in Oakland and were recently recognized among 10 finalists for The Drucker Prize given to a social-sector organization demonstrating Drucker's definition of innovation - "change that creates a new dimension of performance." To qualify, the program must be highly effective and have made a difference in the lives of the people they serve, as well as for those organizations that demonstrate a capacity to further leverage the discipline of innovation.

The downtown workshops are provided through the Brick & Mortar Entrepreneurship Center managed by the Downtown Stockton Alliance and funded by a grant from the City of Stockton's Business Development Grant (CBDG). The classes are once a week on Thursdays from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm for 9 weeks. Cost is \$45 per participant. Sign ups for the future sessions are online at www.brickandmortarstockton.com. With additional questions, contact DSA at 209-464-5246 or 209-888-8624.



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SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY EXPERIENCING VERY HIGH INFLUENZA ACTIVITY IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO TAKE ACTIONS TO FIGHT THE FLU

STOCKTON – Every year, influenza spreads across the country, from person to person, among families and communities. The severity of flu illness can vary from mild to severe. Flu-related complications can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. As flu activity continues to increase in San Joaquin County, we encourage residents to “Take 3” actions to fight the flu:

- #1. Take time to get the current seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine
 - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a yearly seasonal flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against seasonal influenza viruses. Since it takes up to two weeks after vaccination for full immunity to take effect; anyone who has not already been vaccinated should do so NOW. Everyone six months of age and older should get the flu vaccine as soon as possible.
 - Vaccination is especially important for people at high risk of serious flu complications, including young

children, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease and people 65 years and older.

- Seasonal flu vaccine is also important for health care workers, child care workers and other people who live with or care for high risk people to keep from spreading flu to those at high risk.

- Flu vaccinations are still available at a wide variety of places, including doctors’ offices, local health department clinics, and community settings as well as in most retail pharmacies. At the PHS clinic in Stockton, flu shots are available during regular immunization hours for \$20; but no one will be denied services for inability to pay.

#2. Take everyday preventive actions to stop germs

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your elbow.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not

available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.)

- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.

#3. Take flu antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them

- Antiviral drugs are different from antibiotics. They are prescription medicines (pills, liquid or an inhaled powder) and are not available over-the-counter.

- Antiviral drugs can make your illness milder and shorten the time you are sick. They may also prevent

serious flu complications, like pneumonia.

- It’s very important that antiviral drugs be used early to treat people who are very sick with the flu (for example, people who are in the hospital) and people who are sick with the flu and have a greater chance of getting serious flu complications, either because of their age or because they have a high risk medical condition.

- The symptoms of influenza, which tend to come on suddenly, may include fever (usually high), chills, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, and sometimes diarrhea and vomiting. People experiencing flu-like symptoms should call their health care provider if they have severe symptoms, trouble breathing, are pregnant, or have underlying medical conditions.

For more information visit the San Joaquin County Public Health Services website at www.sjcphs.org/Clinic/clinical_services or call 1-800-839-4949.

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