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From Technology to Baking: Nothing Bundt Cakes Bring Happiness to Stockton

By Bryan Orozco

It is little over a year now that Nothing Bundt Cakes opened at Lincoln Shopping Center with great success, and to think that owner Mike Robinson wasn't looking for a franchise to own.

I tried these cakes in 2014 at the request of a good friend and was immediately convinced this was something I wanted to be a part of said Mike

Robinson grew up in the bay area and at an early age was interested in technology, particularly Apple Computers. Throughout the years he went up the ranks in the tech industry but it got to a point where he wanted to spend more time with his family.

When Robinson reached out to Nothing Bundt Cakes there were two

opportunities in two different towns to open a franchise, Stockton or Modesto. The opportunity of having a Nothing Bundt Cakes in Stockton's Lincoln Shopping Center and with him knowing the area and having a daughter in high school there made Stockton the logical choice.

Stockton's Nothing Bundt Cakes not only has been helping its customers, but also the community. It has been involved with many organizations such as Junior League, American Cancer Society, Child Abuse Prevention Council, and Kids Taking a Stand to name a few!

"We are heavily involved in the charitable side of the community and it feels good," said Robinson "It is amazing to meet these people and to see

how dedicated they are to these causes."

They help by donating their product, Bundt cake. They have donated up to 300 cakes for some events.

But reaching out to the Latino community has been a challenge, however one that Robinson wants to take on.

"I don't know all the things I can be involved in. So as much as they are exploring me, I'm exploring them."

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California Governor Signs Health for All Kids Bill

By Viji Sundaram - NAM

In May 2016, California will become the fifth state to allow undocumented children from low-income families to enroll in comprehensive health care.

Gov. Brown signed legislation Friday that will allow 170,000 undocumented children to smoothly transition from restricted scope Emergency Medi-Cal (the state's name for Medicaid) to full-scope coverage, by removing barriers to re-applying or re-enrolling. It will also let children with severe and chronic illnesses stay in specialty care.

Once undocumented children enroll in comprehensive Medi-Cal, they will be able to take advantage of preventive services and not have to wait until a medical emergency to seek care.

Earlier this year, the governor allocated \$40 million for health care coverage for undocumented children through the Health for All Kids pro-

gram initiated by Sen. Ricardo Lara, D-Bell Gardens, while committing an allocation of \$132 million for each subsequent year.

"When I began the effort to expand health care coverage to undocumented Californians, many people said it couldn't get done," Sen. Lara said in a press release. "Just a year later, we are covering all undocumented children, becoming the largest state to do so."

He said the victory will send a message across the country "that says compassion should always trump bigotry when we're talking about our immigrant population." Lara noted that President Obama's Affordable Care Act excluded undocumented immigrants.

Tanya Broder, a staff attorney with the National Immigration Law Center in its Oakland office, said she was happy that California took this step.

"I look forward to continuing the

See **HEALTH BILL** Page 2

De tecnología a hornear: Nothing Bundt Cakes trae felicidad a Stockton

Por Bryan Orozco

Es poco más de un año que Nothing Bundt Cakes abrió en el centro comercial de Lincoln con gran éxito, y cómo creer que el dueño Mike Robinson no estaba buscando una franquicia a la propiedad.

Probé estos pasteles en 2014, a petición de un buen amigo y estaba convencido de inmediato que esto era algo de lo cual quería ser parte dijo Mike.

Robinson creció en el área de la bahía y desde temprana edad se interesó por la tecnología, en especial las computadoras Apple. A lo largo de los años se fue avanzando en la industria de la tecnología, pero llegó a un punto en el que quería pasar más tiempo con su familia.

Cuando Robinson se acercó a Nothing Bundt Cakes había dos oportunidades en dos ciudades diferentes para abrir un local, Stockton o Modesto. La oportunidad de tener un local de Nothing Bundt Cakes en el centro comercial Lincoln de Stockton y con el hecho de conocer el área y tener una hija en la escuela secundaria hizo que la opción de Stockton fuera lógico.

Nothing Bundt Cakes de Stockton no sólo ha estado ayudando a sus clientes, sino también a la comunidad. Ha estado involucrado en muchas organizaciones como Junior League, la Sociedad Americana del Cáncer, el Consejo de Prevención de Abuso Infantil y Kids Taking a Stand para nombrar

algunas.

"Estamos muy involucrados en el lado caritativo de la comunidad y se siente bien," dijo Robinson "Es increíble conocer a estas personas y ver cómo están dedicados a estas causas."

Ayudan con la donación de su producto, un pastel Bundt. Ellos han donado hasta 300 pasteles para algunos eventos.

Pero llegar a la comunidad latina ha sido un reto, sin embargo es algo que Robinson quiere lograr.

"No sé todas las cosas en las que puedo estar involucrado. Así que mutuamente estamos explorando."

El pastel Bundt no es tradicional en la cultura y las fiestas latinas. Esto no quiere decir que no puede ser un acompañamiento como lugares de Nothing Bundt Cakes en Las Vegas y San Diego, que son lugares demográficas similares a Stockton han visto pedidos de Bundtlets individuales para quinceañeras.

Recientemente Robinson se ha unido a la Cámara de Comercio Hispana de lo que él cree se abrirá un nuevo mundo de posibilidades para colaborar con la comunidad latina.

Robinson cree que si las personas tienen la oportunidad de probar los pasteles verán que los pasteles Bundt son una opción viable para reuniones, fiestas y celebraciones.

Ese pastel ha traído mucho éxito en sólo un año.

La primera ubicación de Noth-

BUNDT en pág. 2

Cakes

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Bundt cake is not traditional in Latino festivities and culture. That is not to say that it can be in accompaniment as Nothing Bundt Cakes locations in Las Vegas and San Diego, in similar demographic locations as Stockton has seen orders for single serving Bundtlets for quinceañeras.

Recently Robinson has joined the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce which he believes will open a new world of possibilities for engagement with the Latino community.

Robinson believes that if people get the chance to taste the cakes they will see Bundt cakes as a viable option for meetings, parties and celebrations.

That cake has brought much success in just one year.

Nothing Bundt Cakes' first location was opened in Las Vegas in 1998. Fast forward to 2015 with now 146 locations nationwide, Stockton's Nothing Bundt Cakes is off to an amazing start,

and plans on being around for many many years to come! This speaks volumes about this amazing community!

Nothing Bundt Cakes success can also be seen in the managerial side as 80% of the staff is still working there since the opening day.

As the holiday season approaches, Robinson believes that they will have another outstanding year.

"When you talk about the future and you behave in a way that you are good with your employees, you are good with the community and your product is outstanding there is nothing stopping your future." Said Robinson

Nothing Bundt Cakes in Stockton will continue to serve the community by providing high-quality cakes. Steps to appeal to the Latino community have been taken, but only time will tell if Bundt cakes will be enjoyed in the Latino community of Stockton and beyond.

Bundt

continúa en pág. 1

ing Bundt Cakes abrió sus puertas en Las Vegas en 1998. Ahora en el 2015, con 146 ubicaciones en todo el país, Nothing Bundt Cakes de Stockton es un comienzo increíble, ¡y planea estar durante muchos años más! ¡Esto dice mucho de esta comunidad increíble!

El éxito de Nothing Bundt Cakes también se puede ver en el lado empresarial como el 80% de la plantilla que sigue trabajando allí desde el día de la inauguración del local.

Como se acerca la temporada de fiestas, Robinson cree que van a tener

un año excepcional.

"Cuando se habla sobre el futuro y se comporta de una manera buena con sus empleados, con la comunidad y su producto es excepcional, no hay nada que detenga su futuro," dijo Robinson.

Nothing Bundt Cakes en Stockton continuará sirviendo a la comunidad al ofrecer pasteles de alta calidad. Se han tomado medidas para atraer a la comunidad latina, pero sólo el tiempo dirá si los pasteles Bundt se disfrutarán en la comunidad latina de Stockton y más allá.

Health Bill

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conversation about the need to cover everyone in California," she said.

That conversation is expected to resume early next year when Lara's SB 10 bill, aimed at providing health coverage to the state's 1.5 million or so undocumented adults, will be taken up by the legislature. The bill will provide health care coverage through a capped Medi-Cal enrollment program, and seek a federal waiver so undocumented residents can purchase health insurance on the state's online marketplace exchange, Covered California, using their own money.

The other states that currently provide comprehensive health care to children, regardless of their immigration status, are Massachusetts, Illinois, Washington and New York,

as well as the District of Columbia.

Earlier this year, Sacramento, Contra Costa, and Monterey counties, along with the County Medical Services Program that serves 35 small and rural counties in California, launched pilot programs to provide limited health benefits to their remaining uninsured, regardless of their immigration status.

"Californians increasingly recognize it is more efficient and effective to offer primary, preventive and specialty care on the front end rather than just expensive emergency and episodic care when it may be too late," observed Anthony Wright, executive director of Health Access California, a statewide health advocacy coalition.

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Meyers Hired as UOP Project Manager for External Relations

Janelle Meyers, one of San Joaquin County's young professional leaders, is getting comfortable in her new role at University of the Pacific as Project Manager for External Relations. Meyers' broad experience in marketing and community relations helped prepare her for this position, which she assumed in August. Meyers is part of a team that works to facilitate and strengthen ties among university leaders and corporate, community and elected stakeholders in Stockton, Sacramento and the Bay Area.

"Much of my work is to connect our three campuses with the communities we serve – to identify local needs and ensure that the University understands and is a constructive member of the Northern California region and Central Valley megaregion," Meyers stated.

Meyers' position was developed shortly after Pacific launched new degree programs at its Sacramento and San Francisco campuses. "With our recent campus expansions, there is an

even greater need to be present in the Sacramento and San Francisco Bay Area regions in the same ways that we are collaborative and supportive partners in the Stockton community," said Stacy McAfee, the university's Associate Vice President for External Relations.

The Sacramento campus expansion includes new graduate and professional programs keyed to the needs of the Sacramento regional economy. Graduate and professional programs in health, education, business and public policy join the McGeorge School of Law. The expansion of Pacific's new San Francisco campus, located on Fifth Street in the SoMa district, includes new graduate and professional programs in audiology, food studies, music therapy and analytics. These programs join the highly regarded Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry. The Sacramento and San Francisco campuses provide additional opportunities for students and working professionals to pursue graduate degrees,



Janelle Meyers

educating the leaders California needs in the decades ahead.

"While I work to develop relationships and expand Pacific's presence for all three of our campuses, much of my individual work takes place in Stockton

and Sacramento," said Meyers. "I am grateful for the opportunity to continue working with colleagues in the Stockton community and to continue my service to the Stockton region, which holds a special place in my heart. I am also enjoying making connections in Sacramento and identifying opportunities for Pacific to best serve the Sacramento region."

Before joining Pacific, Meyers worked for SASS! Public Relations where she served as Marketing Director for Lincoln Center. Recently, Meyers earned a Certified Marketing Director (CMD) designation through the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) and was recognized in the San Joaquin Lifestyles magazine 40 Under 40 edition. She is currently the chairperson for the American Cancer Society San Joaquin County Moonlight Gala. Meyers received a Bachelor's Degree from Azusa Pacific University. Email: Jmeyers1@PACIFIC.edu

Steve Colangelo Announces Candidacy for Stockton City Council, District 2

(Stockton) - Stockton Businessman Steve Colangelo has announced his candidacy for Stockton City Council, District 2. The district currently is being represented by an unelected appointment to fill an existing term.

Colangelo said: "Like many Stocktonians, I am frustrated by the lack of leadership at this critical time. We live in a city that is crying for jobs, a city that has unprecedented crime and a city that is desperate for leadership. I feel as though

this area has been under-served; electing people that have never created a job or have a basic understanding of the challenges our police officers have in fighting crime. I'm a businessman-not a politician-and I think that this is a perspective that we can use on our City Council during these tough times."

Steve is a past president of the Stockton Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Stockton Asparagus Festival. He also has served as Financial Vice President of

the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce. Steve is the proud recipient of the American Rental Association Person of the Year Award for Region Nine.

Steve and his wife Karen believe that the strength of a community is measured by its people and are proud to live, work and have raised their family in Stockton. Steve and Karen have a son and daughter, Joseph and Jennifer, and recently celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.



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Mandated Ethanol Fuel is Bad for California Consumers and Small Business

By Andrew Ysiano

Californians pay more at the pump than residents of any other state – a whopping \$4.8 billion more than the rest of the nation. That means the average California driver forks over \$201 more for gasoline than other drivers nationwide.

California, with its “car-mandatory” culture, is the largest consumer nationwide of ethanol, which the federal government mandated be blended into fuel since 2005. Adding ethanol to California’s fuel supply is an expensive process, costing 40 percent more to produce than traditional gasoline.

And when consumer’s fuel up with ethanol blends at the gas station, they’re getting a product with 33 percent less energy than pure gasoline, resulting in fewer miles per gallon and more trips and money spent at the gas station.

Californians rely heavily on keeping

their automobile engines safely and efficiently fueled, with 1.54 million workers driving longer than 60 minutes to work. But with higher ethanol percentages in our gasoline supply, we run the risk of paying for engine misfires, stalling, metal corrosion, rubber swelling, combustion, oil or fuel leaks, and damaged valves, rubber fuel lines and gaskets. In short, a whole lot of unintended consequences for a policy that was supposed to clean the air.

Equally of concern, California is in the 4th year of a historic drought. We’ve all read about the excessive amount of water used by farmers to grow almonds or residential water wasters at their Beverly Hills mansions. Well, the amount of water needed to produce one gallon of ethanol is staggering – 1,700 gallons of water to produce one gallon of ethanol.

Finally, and what’s also relevant for

many low-income families, is that the more corn used for gasoline production, the less for food such as bread, cereals, tortillas, syrups and cooking oils. So, Californians get hit with a double whammy – higher fuel prices and higher food prices.

It’s hard to rationalize why California businesses, taxpayers and families should be footing the bill for an expensive and broken ethanol fuel mandate when we are already dealing with a number of other financial burdens.

Thankfully, one of California’s leaders is playing an important role in an effort to end the mandate. Earlier this year, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) joined forces with Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) on an amendment to repeal the corn ethanol portion of the mandate. Unfortunately, it looks like it’s going nowhere in Congress, where lawmakers from the

Corn Belt fiercely protect the mandate.

Californians, particularly those of us in the Central Valley, can play an important role in making sure our elected officials hear calls for ethanol mandate reform. It’s imperative that we make our legislators aware that we’re done paying for this expensive policy. We can definitely make our members of Congress know that we’ll keep this issue in mind when making voting decisions in next fall’s general election.

It’s high time for California to address not only the high price of fuel but also the underlying reasons behind our high fuel prices. Ending the ethanol requirement is a step in the right direction. It may not be popular in Iowa but it certainly should be in California and for hard-working families and small businesses.

CALA Applauds ADA reform bill

As businesses up and down the state of California are victimized by abusive Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) lawsuits, they continue to be forced to make a choice: fight the suit or settle. That’s before they can even consider coming into compliance since the cost of compliance and the cost of the lawsuit often make paying the expense of both impossible. The intent of the ADA was to ensure businesses provide accommodations to their customers who have dis-

abilities. Instead, trial lawyers have turned filing ADA lawsuits into a business, filing abusive lawsuits not to ensure access but to line their own pockets.

News is spreading of this lawsuit epidemic and legislators are taking note. Earlier this year, State Senator Cathleen Galgiani introduced SB 67, which would give businesses time to become compliant with the ADA prior to fines being assessed. SB 67 would exempt small businesses, employing 25 or fewer employees,

from statutory damages under the ADA for technical violations. SB 67 would also require a plaintiff bringing a lawsuit against a small business under the ADA to provide evidence of having suffered actual harm. Under SB 67, any judgment would have to be based on the actual harm rather than the arbitrary statutory fines that are currently imposed. The bill would also give the business the ability to fix the complaint within a 120 day window.

California Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (CALA) applauds Sen. Galgiani and her common sense bill. SB 67 is a step in the right direction for ADA reform. But until meaningful reform passes, small businesses are still a target for abusive ADA lawsuits. If you have been victimized by an unscrupulous attorney threatening you with an abusive ADA lawsuit, CALA encourages you to reach out to your local legislator or to CALA and join the growing chorus of advocates demanding ADA reform.

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Three-in-Ten U.S. Jobs Are Held by the Self-Employed and the Workers They Hire

Hiring More Prevalent Among Self-Employed Asians, Whites and Men

By Pew Research

Self-employed Americans and the workers they hired accounted for 44 million jobs in 2014, or 30% of the national workforce, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of data the U.S. Census Bureau recently made publicly available for the first time. The self-employed, 14.6 million in all, represented 10% of the nation's 146 million workers, and they in turn provided jobs for 29.4 million other workers.

Entrepreneurship and the role it plays in job creation is an issue of keen interest to policymakers. Self-employed workers, who work for profit or fees in their own business, encompass many of the nation's entrepreneurs.¹ Although much is known about how many and which workers are self-employed, far less is known about their job creation activities. This report attempts to fill this gap with estimates of the number of workers on the payrolls of the self-employed in 2014 and how job creation varies with these business

owners' demographic characteristics.²

Not all self-employed workers are job creators, however. Only about one-in-four of them (3.4 million) said they usually have at least one paid employee. Hiring is typically small-scale. Self-employed workers with employees had a median of three paid employees in 2014 and an average of 8.6 employees.

There are significant differences in self-employment and hiring across demographic groups. Asian Americans, one-in-ten of whom are self-employed, lead other groups in the rate at which they hire workers. Nearly one-third of self-employed Asians (31%) had at least one paid employee last year, compared with one-in-four overall. There is also a large gender gap in self-employment. Men were nearly twice as likely as women to be self-employed, 12% versus 7%; were much more likely to have paid employees, by 28% to 16%; and, when they hired workers, typically hired more of them.

Moreover, hiring by self-employed workers varies markedly by the type of business they operate.⁴ Most job creation by the self-employed—22.5 million out of 29.4 million—flowed from those with incorporated businesses. While most self-employed workers owned unincorporated businesses,

those with incorporated businesses were three times as likely to employ others for pay, by 41% to 13%. And among self-employed workers with paid employees, those with incorporated businesses hired more workers, on average, than the unincorporated (10.2 versus 5.6 workers).

Because of the newness of the data it is not possible to know whether the number of paid employees working for businesses run by the self-employed in 2014 is greater or less than in the past. However, two trends point to a potential decline.

The Self-Employment Rate in the U.S., 1990 to 2014⁵ First, the share of American workers who are self-employed has decreased, from 12.2% in 1994, the most recent peak, to 10% in 2014. However, in a countervailing trend, there has been a shift toward incorporated businesses, which are more likely than unincorporated businesses to have paid employees. The share of workers who are self-employed and have incorporated businesses rose from 2.9% in 1990 to 3.7% in 2014, and the share of workers who are unincorporated fell from 8.5% in 1990 to 6.3% in 2014.

Along with the decline in the self-employment rate, there has been a decrease in the share of the self-employed who provide jobs for others.

Among unincorporated self-employed workers, 21% reported having at least one paid employee in 1995, compared with 13% in 2014. The share of the self-employed who own incorporated businesses and have paid employees is also down, from about 60% in 2001 to 41% now.⁵

The Pew Research Center analysis also finds that hiring by the self-employed is concentrated in the hands of a few "large" employers with a payroll of 20 or more. Of the 29.4 million jobs created by the self-employed, fully 16.3 million, or 55%, were provided by just 391,000 people. These top-tier employers—11% of all the self-employed with paid workers—each hired 42 workers, on average.

Self-employed workers and the jobs they provide are integral to the agriculture, forestry and fishing and construction sectors. In agriculture, forestry and fishing 81% of those working in 2014 were either self-employed or worked for someone who was. Self-employment is only slightly less critical in the construction sector, where 68% of workers fell into one of these two categories. In addition, a majority of those (53%) in professional and business services were self-employed workers or on the payroll of one in 2014.

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Poll: Support for Hillary Clinton Drops Among California Democrats

By Allyson Escobar - NAM

CALIFORNIA Democrats are losing faith in Hillary Clinton.

According to a new Field Poll, the former first lady and secretary of state's support has dramatically plummeted in the Golden State. Clinton has dropped 19 points since May, and 26 points since February, reported the San Jose Mercury News. In contrast, Clinton's closest rival Bernie Sanders has surged in support, the poll found.

"I think it primarily has to do with the fact that over the past few months almost all the news voters have heard about Hillary Clinton has been about this email scandal, and not her policy positions," said Field Poll Director Mark DiCamillo. "The campaign is pretty much in a defensive mode and that's never a good thing."

California Dems also think it would be a "good thing" for Vice President Joe Biden to enter next year's presidential race, looking for something to get excited about.

"Certainly we've been hearing a lot from the Republican side, they've been having spirited debates," DiCamillo added. "Maybe Democrats would like to see a little more attention paid to their side, and if Biden got in, that would add a little more balance and drama to the campaign."

63 percent of likely voters said it would be a good thing if Biden, a strongly Catholic Democrat, runs for president. In contrast, only 15 percent said they would actually back him if he does.

"What that says to me is that Democratic voters really would like the opportunity to see their candidate against any and all comers, and Biden would certainly be welcomed into the race," he said. "That might turn more attention to the Democratic primary."

According to Reuters, an earlier Field Poll conducted in May found that 66 percent of likely primary voters supported Clinton as first lady during the administration of her husband, former

President Bill Clinton, and later a US senator from New York.

With four months to go before the first Iowa caucuses, and eight months before California voters decide on candidates, "it's way too early to say what will happen," DiCamillo said. "Especially given the upcoming Democratic debates, early primary results in other states, and whatever conclusion a federal investigation reaches on whether Clinton's email practices jeopardized classified information."

With the email server controversy and ongoing questions about the Benghazi attack, DiCamillo noted, "If [Hillary] can effectively get people talking more about her issues than her emails, she has plenty of time to bounce back and widen her lead again."

Only 47 percent of likely voters in next June's Democratic primary now support Clinton. Meanwhile, Bernie Sanders' support has grown from 9 percent in May to 35 percent currently. The self-described "socialist" and Vermont senator has his strongest support in the actively liberal Bay Area, at 38 percent (to Clinton's 45 percent).

California is almost certain to be carried by a Democrat in November, the Mercury News reported.

However, the Field Poll survey of 391 Democratic likely voters (from Sept. 17 to Oct. 4, with a five-percentage-point margin of error) seems to reflect the party's inconsistency as candidates prepare for the first of six televised debates, hosted by CNN next Tuesday, Oct. 13 in Las Vegas.

Beyond the Golden State, Sanders has closed the gap so that Clinton now leads by only 16 percentage points, according to an average of recent national polls compiled by Real Clear Politics. In Iowa, she leads Sanders by six points. In New Hampshire, Sanders leads Clinton by 11 points.

Despite wavering from some supporters, California remains a rich source of campaign cash for Clinton — she was



in the Bay Area just last week to raise money in Saratoga, Belvedere, Orinda and San Francisco.

Clinton is still the most likely to win California's primary and the nomination," said Jack Citrin, director of UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies. "If only because she stands a better chance against any Republican nominee. It's improbable to me that someone with Bernie Sanders' background would be nominated, especially once people start thinking about what's likely to happen in the general election."

"She communicates well with other countries... it isn't just us, it's the world, and we have to remember that," Laurie Koester, 64, told the Field Poll. She also likes Clinton's environmental views and how she handled Republican attacks on her trustworthiness, "with grace and aplomb."

Yet on Biden's experience, Koester said: "[Biden] can enrich the race's dialogue. He can kind of show her the ropes."

SAN JOSE POLICE CHIEF SELECTED AS TRACY'S NEW CHIEF OF POLICE

Tracy, Calif. — Following a competitive four month national recruitment, the City of Tracy is pleased to announce the selection of its new Chief of Police, current San Jose Police Chief Larry Esquivel. Esquivel, 53, comes to the City of Tracy with more than 30 years of law enforcement experience with the City of San Jose. Esquivel will replace Tracy Police Chief and Public Safety Director, Gary Hampton, who announced his retirement in April 2015.

"Chief Hampton has served the City exceptionally well and we are fortunate to have Chief Esquivel serve as Tracy's new Police Chief," stated Tracy City Manager, Troy Brown. "I am certain he will bring the same level of dedication and leadership to the City of Tracy as he did in San Jose."

While serving as San Jose's Police Chief, Esquivel led a department of nearly 1,000 officers, reduced crime levels and championed efforts to tackle gang activity. Throughout his tenure, he has demonstrated a deep involvement in civic activities and community policing efforts. Esquivel is an advocate of progressive public safety strategies and professional development, and looks forward to promoting Tracy as a safe community to live, work and play.

"I'm very excited about the opportunity, and look forward to continuing efforts to engage the community and help it grow," stated Police Chief Esquivel. Esquivel began his career in 1984 as a Police Reserve Officer for the City of San Jose. He was later sworn in as a Police Officer in 1986

Overall, the Field Poll of California Democratic likely voters found:

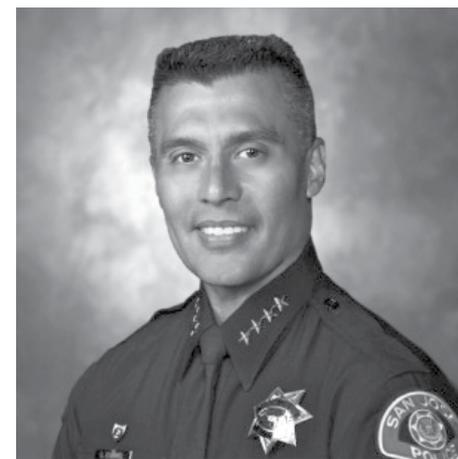
- 47 percent support Hillary Clinton (down 19 points from May) while 35 percent support Bernie Sanders (up 26 points from May).

- Clinton's support is weakest (45 percent) and Sanders' support is strongest (38 percent) in the Bay Area.

- Clinton is doing much better (52 percent) than Sanders (22 percent) among Latino voters.

- 63 percent believe it would be a good thing for Vice President Joe Biden to enter the race, but only 15 percent said they would vote for him if he does.

- Fewer voters say they'd be enthusiastic about having Clinton as the party's nominee: 37 percent now, compared to 46 percent in May. Another 42 percent say they would be satisfied if Clinton wins the nomination, while 26 percent would be dissatisfied.



Tracy Police Chief Larry Esquivel

where he gained experience working in patrol, narcotics enforcement, and covert investigations. He was later promoted to Sergeant in 1997, Lieutenant in 2005, and Captain in 2010. In February 2012, Esquivel was promoted to Deputy Chief, and one year later, assumed the role of Acting Chief of Police upon the retirement of former San Jose Police Chief Chris Moore. Esquivel was then officially appointed as San Jose's Chief of Police on December 10, 2013.

Esquivel received his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from San Jose State University in 1993 and has received numerous awards and certificates of recognition throughout his career for his leadership in public safety. He will begin his duties as Tracy's Chief of Police on February 1, 2016, pending completion of pre-employment requisites as required by the California Peace Officers Standards and Training.

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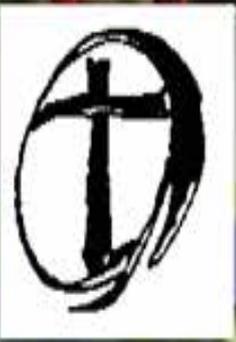
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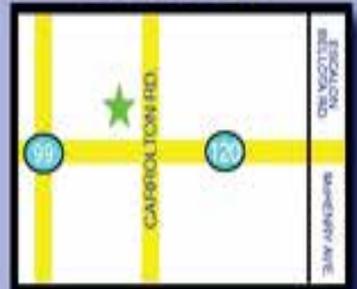
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Con el cambio de las estaciones la necesidad de regar afuera se disminuye y el ahorro de agua en el interior se vuelve aún más importante. El Servicio de Agua de California (Cal Water) tiene múltiples herramientas, programas y rebajas para ayudarle a ahorrar y cumplir con el mandato del Estado. Para obtener más información, visite calwater.com/conservation.

Cal Water está ofreciendo un incentivo adicional: De diciembre a febrero, vamos a dar tarjetas de regalo de \$50 para 25 afortunados clientes en el distrito, cuyos nombres se extraerán de los clientes que se quedaron cada mes en o por debajo de su presupuesto de agua al mes anterior. Para obtener más información, por favor visite calwater.com/reward.



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Danza y Movimiento refuerzan vínculo familiar

By Sarita Hlutt - NAM

SAN FRANCISCO -- A Guadalupe de la Peña le encanta bailar. Durante casi un año, la educadora de salud da clases de gimnasia en el Centro de Recursos Centro Americano (CARECEN), una organización comunitaria para familias inmigrantes en el distrito de la Misión. En los últimos meses, CARECEN ha iniciado una clase de baile y gimnasia dos veces por semana para padres y madres de familia y niños pequeños.

El orden del día de hoy incluye una clase inspirada en el estilo de Zumba. De la Peña y la coinstructora Norma Carrera, dirigen al grupo de ocho a diez mujeres y sus hijos con canciones y bailes aptos para niños, antes de continuar con la parte más activa del programa. Según De la Peña, los alumnos pidieron clases de baile durante su último encuentro.

“No sabían bailar”, dice De la Peña. “Zumba lo tiene todo: cumbia, salsa, merengue, así que les enseñamos todos los pasos”.

Al comprender que las voces de la comunidad son una fuente vital de información acerca de las dificultades que conlleva la salud y las posibles soluciones, CARECEN anima firmemente a que los socios aporten sus comentarios.

“Los padres son la mejor fuente de ideas creativas sobre cómo hacer cambios sanos en sus familias”, dice Vanessa Bohm, Directora de Servicios de Salud en CARECEN.

“Pensamos que es importante crear

oportunidades que apoyen a las familias en su conjunto y ayuden a crear una red de apoyo social en la comunidad”.

CARECEN se estableció en San Francisco en los años 80, y desde entonces ha ampliado el ámbito de su trabajo, desde servicios legales para inmigrantes hasta una serie de servicios sociales para familias, incluyendo programas de salud.

Para hacer efectivo su compromiso con la comunidad en cuanto a salud y bienestar, CARECEN utiliza el modelo “promotora”. Las promotoras son miembros de la comunidad entrenadas para dar educación sanitaria. De la Peña, una de las ocho promotoras de CARECEN, ha estado realizando actividades de compromiso con la comunidad relativas a la salud y dando clases de educación física en la Misión durante diez años, a pesar de que ella, como muchos de sus alumnos, no vive allí.

“Muchas [familias] están siendo forzadas a salir de la Misión y a irse a vivir al Bayview y Visitation Valley, pero también reciben muchos servicios en la Misión”, dice Bohm. Destaca que muchas familias que viven fuera de la vecindad continúan mandando a sus hijos a la escuela en la Misión y buscando servicios legales y de salud allí.

Con el fin de que las familias aprovechen plenamente las oportunidades de gimnasia gratis que hay por la ciudad, CARECEN organiza excursiones cada pocas semanas a lugares como el Presidio y Bernal Heights.

“A las familias latinas les gusta hacer cosas en grupo”, dice Bohm. “Se siente



bien cuando puedes participar con otras familias y por un momento olvidarte de algunos factores estresantes que hay en casa.

“Puedes ver a tu hijo o hija sonreír porque están dando un paseo muy bonito y pueden pararse para acariciar a los perros y jugar y almorzar tranquilamente en el parque. Todo esto promueve la importancia de salir y de ser activo físicamente, pero también la de compartir y platicar y de ser parte de una comunidad más amplia con otras familias”.

Las clases también se centran en el vínculo afectivo familiar mediante actividades compartidas. CARECEN no tiene los recursos para proporcionar guarderías para los niños, así que las clases para todas las edades son una forma de que los padres supervisen a los

niños mientras están haciendo ejercicio.

Como partes de la clase están orientadas hacia los niños, los padres pueden disfrutar de la oportunidad de jugar con sus hijos. En los próximos meses, CARECEN piensa ensayar un nuevo programa de 12 módulos de gimnasia para familias. El tema de cada módulo será un juego tradicional de Centro América para ayudar a niños criados en el Área de la Bahía a conectarse a las experiencias de la niñez de sus padres.

Este artículo está patrocinado por Healthy Hearts SF, un programa del Departamento de Salud Pública de San Francisco que promueve ejercicio gratis para latinos y afro-americanos como forma de luchar contra la enfermedad cardiovascular. Para información sobre ejercicio gratuito, llama al 211. Sigue #healthyheartssf en Facebook y Twitter.

FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANCORP REPORTS RECORD THIRD QUARTER AND YEAR-TO-DATE EARNINGS

LODI - Farmers & Merchants Bancorp today announced record net income for third quarter and year-to-date 2015.

For the quarter ending September 30, 2015, Farmers & Merchants Bancorp reported net income of \$7.0 million, a 9.5% increase from net income of \$6.4 million earned in third quarter of 2014. Earnings per share of common stock for the quarter were \$8.96, up 8.3% from the same period in 2014. Net interest income for the quarter ending September 30, 2015 was \$22.2 million, up 11.4% from the same quarter in 2014. Non-interest income for the quarter increased 27.1% over the same quarter in 2014. Return on average assets for the third quarter of 2015 was 1.14%, and return on average equity was 11.50%. Total assets at quarter-end were \$2.5 billion, up 13.8% from the third quarter of 2014. Total loans outstanding reached \$1.9 billion, an increase of 18.2%, and total deposits of \$2.1 billion increased 13.7% from the prior year. The Company's loan quality remained strong with non-performing loans as of September 30, 2015 totaling only 0.15% of total loans. In addition, the Company's loan loss reserve was \$39.1 million, or 2.04% of total loans, representing an increase of \$4.8 million from the same period in 2014. The Company's tier 1 leverage capital ratio was 10.44% at September 30, 2015, resulting in the highest possible regulatory classification of “well capitalized.”

For the nine-month period ending September 30, 2015, net income was \$20.2 million, up 7.3% from the prior

year, and earnings per share of common stock outstanding were \$25.70, up from \$24.19 in 2014. Net interest income increased to \$63.6 million for the nine-month period in 2015, up 11.5% from the same period in 2014. Non-interest income for the first nine months increased 11.7% over the same period in 2014. For the first nine months, return on average assets was 1.12%, and return on average equity was 11.13%.

Kent Steinwert, Farmers & Merchants Bancorp's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, stated, “We are very pleased with the Company's strong performance in 2015, following record net income in 2014, and despite many headwinds impacting our industry, we have a positive outlook for the remainder of 2015 and into 2016. Bank credit quality remains excellent and capital ratios remain well above all regulatory well-capitalized measures. We have maintained a 5-Star rating from BauerFinancial for 25 consecutive years, longer than any other commercial bank in the state of California.”

Farmers & Merchants Bancorp is the parent company of Farmers & Merchants Bank of Central California, also known as F&M Bank. Founded in 1916, F&M Bank is a locally owned and operated community bank which proudly serves California through 25 convenient locations. The Bank has recently expanded into the Bay Area with new full service branches in Walnut Creek and Concord.

For more information about Farmers & Merchants Bancorp and F&M Bank visit www.fmbonline.com.

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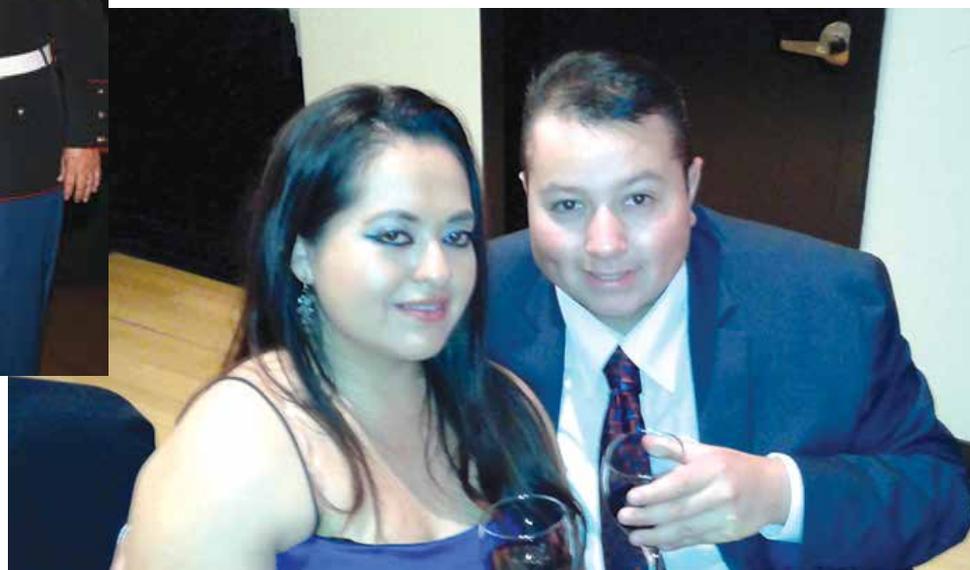
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LEFT: El Concilio Honorees 2015
Frank Searcy, Congressman Jerry McNerney, Mrs. McNerney, Jonise Olivas, Mary Adame, Tino Adame.

BELOW: Andrew Ysiano Jr. Violeta Tejeda at El Concelio
48th Annual Gala Lodi Ca



LEFT: Today, Rachel Randolph from United Way of San Joaquin came to California Water Service's Stockton District for their annual kick off campaign. Rachel shared the message of how even the smallest donations can make a big change in our community. For the last 89 years, donations made to the United Way have benefited many non-profit organizations like The Children's Home of Stockton, Second Harvest Food Bank, Hospice of San Joaquin, Stockton Shelter for the Homeless and many, many more.

During Rachel's presentation, she awarded several Stockton employees with "Keel Club," plaques, representing those who gave donations of five hundred dollars or more last year. Those honored included: Denise Holt, Mike Pereyra, Trish Herron and Craig Stevens (not pictured).

As a great way to start the kick off campaign, John Freeman, District Manager of Stockton, surprised Rachel with a donation of one thousand dollars from California Water Service. Last year's donations from California Water Service's Stockton Employees totaled over five thousand dollars; this coming year we hope to exceed that number and together make a difference!

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What Happens When Everybody Has a Gun?

Dr. Joseph Marshall - NAM

Guns are in the news again. The recent mass shooting at Umpqua Community College in Oregon thrust the issue of guns squarely back in the public eye. Guns are once again front and center—as they were after the Newtown school shooting three years ago and both gun control and gun rights advocates are once again pressing their cases.

However, this isn't a piece about gun control or the 2nd Amendment or the right to own a gun. It's not about legal guns or illegal guns or good guns or bad guns. And it's not about politics or studies or research. This piece is about the kids I deal with and some of the things that I've encountered with them when it comes to guns.

Many of the young people I have dealt with over the years firmly believe in carrying a gun. It's actually a commandment that they live by—"Thou shalt carry a gun for protection" is the way they put it. It's dangerous in the neighborhoods they live in they say and they don't want to be caught 'slippin.' They'd rather be caught with it than without it because you never know what's on the other man's mind. And they've been told that if you pull a gun, you'd better use it. Young people also say that there are way too many guns on the street and in their community—but their answer to the "way too many" is to add another gun to the mix, because quite frankly they're scared.

Now what strikes me is that everyone else seems to pretty much believe the same thing. They all say they need a gun (or sometimes lot of guns) to protect themselves. They all live by that same commandment—"Thou shalt carry a gun for protection." The athletes and entertainers say they need one because they're famous and they're a target; the homeowners say they need one because their homes might get broken into; school staff and teachers say they need to carry guns on school grounds because they have the right to protect themselves; students

themselves carry guns to school because they're having a problem with somebody at the school site.

Suburban communities see disturbances in Ferguson and Baltimore and they arm themselves to protect against... well actually I'm not sure who. And then there are those citizens who are concerned that the government will take away their rights or impose some kind of martial law—and they've got to protect themselves—and they store caches of weapons to do so. Quite frankly, it looks like everybody else is scared too!

So what do you do when everybody's scared and everybody's got a gun? Good question. And what do I say to the kids who are smart enough to look at everybody else and see that everybody else's justification—to protect themselves—is pretty much the same as theirs?

We have a lot of great talks—the kids and I. They put their thoughts out there, I put out mine and we go back and forth. We have to because this is serious stuff and I'm trying to keep them Alive & Free.

One thing that really gets them to thinking though is when I talk about what it was like when I was their age—you know back in the day. They really find it hard to believe when I tell them that I did not go to one funeral of a peer when I was a teen. That I didn't wear any T-shirts with dead homies' names on them and that I didn't have a scrapbook full of obituaries. There were no makeshift street vigils with teddy bears and balloons. Yes there were a lot of fights, but there weren't a lot of deaths. Why? It's really pretty simple. Nobody had a gun!

I remember the first time I saw a gun. I was 16 years old and I went to the playground to play basketball. My friend had a .38 and showed it to me. Absolutely freaked me out. The instrument of instant death was right there in his hand. It made me look at him in a whole different way because I knew I had a chance if we ever had a fight, but I knew I had no chance if he had that gun.



As the years went by it began to get all bad in my neighborhood and the neighborhoods around me—from nobody having a gun to everybody having one. From fights to shoot-outs. From no funerals to nothing but funerals. All because of those damn guns. All because everyone was scared and trying to protect themselves.

"It's not like that anymore Dr. Marshall, but I sure wish it was," the kids tell me. "I'm just glad we don't have to worry about that here." And they're right. I figured out a long time ago that in bringing together and working with all kinds of kids—gang members, drug dealers, friends, enemies, turf rivals and everything in between—I really only had one thing to worry about. You could bring your attitudes, your past behaviors, your fears, your concerns, your different backgrounds, your belief in your need to protect yourself—all of that—but the one thing you couldn't bring with you was a gun.

So I did my own form of gun control—I banned them. And if they brought them and I found out, I took them away and then I told them they could come anytime but the gun was not welcome. And then we talked about risk factors for violence—the gun being number one—and we talked about the mentality you have and the power you feel when you've got one. And we talked about being afraid

and how to handle it when you're feeling that way. And we watched movies like Juice and South Central and we analyzed them. And I told them that in spite of what everyone else was doing the worst possible thing they could do was have a gun. And then I gave them our number one Rule for Living—The Rule of Life: "There's nothing more valuable than an individual's life."

So tell me have I been wrong all this time? Should I have let them bring their guns because they felt the need to protect themselves? And further was I wrong myself in not having a gun to protect myself and them in case someone came in here to harm me or them? I need to know because I want them to stay Alive & Free, and if I'm not doing it the right way please tell me.

What I can tell you is this. It's been 28 years and 1456 Tuesday night meetings and 200 college graduates produced and not one gun death here. Not even a fight. Imagine that! It's almost like the old days, huh?

Yes I know everybody's got a gun. But not here. Stay Alive & Free.

Dr. Joseph E. Marshall, Jr. is a noted author, lecturer, and host of the Street Soldiers radio show on 106MKEL. He is both a MacArthur genius award recipient and an Ashoka Fellow recognized for his pioneering work in the area of youth violence.

California Transportation Commission Awards \$396,000 in Active Transportation Program Funds to the City of Stockton

STOCKTON— At their October 21 meeting, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) recommended 114 bicycle, pedestrian, and Safe Routes to School projects and programs for funding from the Active Transportation Program (ATP), including one from the City of Stockton. The ATP is a statewide grant program that funds bicycle pedestrian, and Safe Routes to School improvements throughout California. Under the ATP, the CTC awarded \$215 million for projects and programs in two categories: a statewide competition and a separate competition for small

urban and projects.

Not surprisingly, the ATP received far more applications than it was able to fund. The state received more than 617 applications, totaling more than \$1 billion in needed funds. Of those 617 applications, 13 were submitted from the city of Stockton and 3 from the county of San Joaquin. Of the 16 projects submitted by our region, the CTC has awarded \$396,000 to one project in the City of Stockton:

Active Transportation Plan in Greater Downtown District - \$396,000. The project will develop a community conceptual plan for future

Active Transportation projects in the Greater Downtown District. It encompasses approximately 27 square blocks bounded by the Harding Way, Wilson Way, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and Pershing Avenue. The success of this Active Transportation Plan will be used to model an expanded Active Transportation Plan in the future for the City as a whole.

In September, the remaining 15 projects were considered in a competitive process for the regional ATP funds that SJCOG is receiving from the state. On October 22, the SJCOG Board recommended awarding all of

the available funds to one project in the City of Stockton:

Miner Avenue Complete Street Improvement Project - \$2,898,000. This project consists of the final design and construction for first phase of streetscape improvements to Miner Avenue, which will include improved sidewalks, new bicycle lanes, replacing diagonal parking with parallel parking, and removing one traffic lane in each direction. These improvements will help calm traffic and promote walking, bicycling, and Safe Routes to School in

See COMMISSION Page 13




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San Joaquin RTD Celebrates Regional Transportation Center Grand Opening

STOCKTON, Calif. – Last Thursday, the San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) celebrated the grand opening of its new, \$51.1 million Regional Transportation Center (RTC). The RTC will dramatically improve transit in San Joaquin County by consolidating RTD’s operations and maintenance functions. It replaces an aging, overcrowded facility originally designed for a fleet of only 50 buses, less than half of RTD’s current fleet.

“RTD continues to plan for the

future of regional transportation by making strategic investments today,” said Donna DeMartino, General Manager/CEO of San Joaquin RTD. “With modern features throughout and lots of room to grow, the RTC will provide the necessary capacity to meet San Joaquin County’s growing transit service needs.”

The RTC provides over 136,000 square feet of building space on a 10-acre lot. It is equipped with digital camera security systems, proximity badge access controls, computerized

lighting and air conditioning, and networked monitoring systems, including fuel and fluid monitoring systems for bus maintenance operations.

The RTC also incorporates design elements that honor RTD’s commitment to environmental stewardship. Not only will consolidated facility functions reduce trip times and emissions, LED lighting in the RTC shop will reduce electrical use. Moreover, by incorporating swales to recharge groundwater and by recapturing, recycling, and reusing 97% of the water used by the bus wash station, RTD is doing its part to conserve water during this drought.

Completed under budget and

three months early, the RTC is creating over 900 direct and indirect jobs. Lead contractor McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. used a design-build project delivery method and embraced RTD’s mission to employ and subcontract to regional businesses and residents of San Joaquin County.

The construction of the RTC was funded by \$17 million in federal funding, over \$11 million in State Prop 1B funding, and over \$22 million in local funding, including \$16 million in Measure K funds. Operations at the RTC are scheduled to begin in November 2015.

web: sanjoaquinRTD.com

Commission

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a disadvantaged community. In 2010, Caltrans awarded the City of Stockton and San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission a \$250,000 Community-Based Transportation Planning Grant to prepare the Miner Avenue Streetscape Plan. The purpose of the plan was to develop a comprehensive design for the corridor that establishes Miner Avenue as a prominent “complete street,” emphasizing Pedestrian amenities and multimodal transportation between the Robert J. Cabral Rail Station and the Weber Point Events Center. The plan also included recommendations for future building locations, proposed land uses, and façade enhancement guidelines to activate the street with pedestrian-oriented store-

fronts, signage, and lighting. In 2014, the SJCOG Board awarded the City of Stockton \$861,000 in federal funds to complete the environmental and preliminary design phases of complete street improvements for the entire 9-block Miner Avenue corridor between Center Street and Aurora Street.

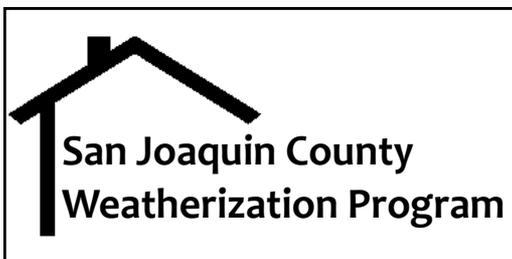
The project recommendation by the SJCOG Board will be considered for adoption by the CTC at their mid-December meeting.

SJCOG is San Joaquin County’s regional transportation planning, coordinating, and financing agency. As the local transportation authority, SJCOG oversees Measure K, the local half-cent transportation sales tax for San Joaquin County.

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2015 Income Guidelines

# People in Home*	Annual Income	Monthly Income
1	\$23,963	\$1,996.89
2	\$31,336	\$2,611.31
3	\$38,709	\$3,225.74
4	\$46,082	\$3,840.17

*For homes with more than 5 people, please call 209-468-0439.

Baje su cuenta de energía



Para mas información, por favor llame 209-468-0439.

Revise la table de ingreso para ver si califica para este servicio:
2015 Income Guidelines

# Personas*	Ingreso Anual	Ingreso Mensual
1	\$23,963	\$1,996.89
2	\$31,336	\$2,611.31
3	\$38,709	\$3,225.74
4	\$46,082	\$3,840.17

*Para hogares con mas de 5 personals, llame al 209-468-0439.

San Joaquin County’s Weatherization Program provides these services for **FREE** to qualified homes and individuals. Items such as:

- Window (glass only) repair or replacement
- Door repair or replacement
- Free refrigerator, microwave, gas stoves
- Heating/Air Conditioning repair or replacement
- Insulation
- Water Heater repair or replacement
- Ceiling fans
- Shower heads
- Smoke Detectors
- Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- Digital Thermostat
- Weather-stripping

El Programa de Climatización Provee estos servicios **gratis para hogares e individuales que califican.** Puede incluir:

- Reparación o reemplazo de ventana (vidrio solamente)
- Reparación o reemplazo de la puerta
- Refrigerador, micro-ondas, estufa de gas gratis
- Reparación o reemplazo de Calefacción o Aire Acondicionado
- Insulación
- Reparación o reemplazo del Calentador de Agua
- Ventilador de techo
- Regadera
- Detector de Humo
- Detector de Monóxido de Carbono
- Termóstato Digital
- La cinta de aislamiento
- La Weather-stripping

Prodigal Son

Politico

At first glance, Marco Rubio seems to be the boy wonder of 2016. On stage during the debates and at campaign appearances, he appears young, handsome, almost cherubic. But anyone who thinks that Rubio is naive, soft or inexperienced would be mistaken. Behind the baby-face features is a street-smart Miami politician and a former football player for whom politics is a contact sport. The son of Cuban immigrants, Rubio has made his family story the anthem of all his political campaigns. As told on the campaign trail, it is a moving and compelling story—a hardscrabble, up-from-the-bootstraps, American family saga. His father worked ceaseless shifts as a bartender, his mother scrubbed floors as a hotel maid—all in a single-minded pursuit of a better life for their children in America.

Rubio's narrative, though, belies a more complicated reality, as the most prominent Hispanic politician in the United States balances his own past with his party's future. Incubated within Miami's unique political ecosystem, mentored and guided by *el exilio historico*, the old guard, he's risen from Calle Ocho to Tallahassee to Washington. Now Ru-

bio has arrived on the national stage just as U.S.-Cuban relations have shifted dramatically. While he has never visited his ancestral homeland of Cuba, it has defined and influenced every part of his life. And in a wild-card twist of fate, the largest island in the Caribbean has emerged from its half-century cocoon of isolation just in time to play a potentially decisive role in Rubio's quest to capture the GOP presidential nomination.

Certainly, the rise of the junior U.S. senator from the Sunshine State owes much to the formidable Cuban-American Miami machine. Cuban-Americans generally call themselves exiles—not immigrants—a nod to having been the tossed-out refuse of Fidel Castro, who labeled them *gusanos* (worms) and *escoria* (scum). Since the early 1960s, they have morphed into Miami's kingmakers, deciding state and local elections while dictating national policy on Cuba to U.S. presidents for decades.

As the most successful scion of that power structure, the freshman senator, who has taken an unrelenting hard line on the Castro brothers and on immigration, finds himself confronting deep fault lines with his fellow Hispanics, a new generation of Cuban-Americans



and even a U.S. president who sees reestablishing ties to the island as one of his signature accomplishments. Today, the 44-year-old is caught between an older intransigent generation of Cuban-Americans who are passing from the scene and a younger, growing generation of Central and Latin American Hispanics who face a very different immigrant experience in the U.S. and who resent the special treatment afforded his fellow Cubans.

While the 2016 campaign is filled with the pathos of Jeb Bush's run to make his family a triumvirate of presidents and the showstopping bluster of Donald Trump's reality show theatrics, it is Rubio's story that carries the grand sweep of history. It is a family saga that is both searingly humble and shaped by a cast of larger-than-life characters and epochal

moments: Fidel Castro, JFK, the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the cocaine wars that inspired Miami Vice, Elián González—even the Bush v. Gore Florida recount.

To get the proper measure of Marco Rubio, it is necessary to understand his complicated relationship with the island of Cuba—its troubled legacy and its wild-card future.

In late September, when Pope Francis addressed Congress, Rubio listened intently. "Millions of people came to this land to pursue their dream of building a future in freedom. We, the people of this continent, are not fearful of foreigners because most of us were once foreigners," the pontiff told the assembled legislators, stepping into one of the most conten-

See RUBIO Page 15

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CALIFORNIA

California Narcotic Officers' Association Announce Senator Cathleen Galgiani Named Legislator of the Year for 2015

SACRAMENTO--- Today, the California Narcotic Officers' Association have announced that Senator Cathleen Galgiani has been named their "Legislator of the Year" for 2015. CNOA's prestigious designation comes one year after the California Police Chiefs Association named Senator Galgiani "Legislator of the Year" in 2014.

The California Narcotic Officers' Association is a non-profit, corporation dedicated to providing high quality training for law enforcement professionals. Since 1964, CNOA has grown to become the largest non-profit Training Association in California, with over 7,000 members. CNOA's members include: local, state, and federal peace officers, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, and other national and in-

ternational associates.

"I am pleased to inform you that the California Narcotic Officers Association has unanimously selected you as our Legislator of the Year for 2015," said CNOA Legislative Counsel John Lovell in a letter addressed to Senator Galgiani. "Your commitment to protecting our communities – and the next generation of our communities – from the scourge of drug abuse is truly the stuff of legends among our members. The California Narcotic Officers Association commends you for your leadership in addressing the problems caused by Bath Salts and Spice and your tireless efforts toward creating solutions that protect our children from these drugs."

"I am both honored and humbled to have earned the designation of Legislator

of the Year from the California Narcotic Officers' Association," said Galgiani. "I am fully committed to ensuring these professionals have the resources and information they need to serve our communities. In a second term as State Senator, I will continue this commitment to the brave men and women of our public safety community."

The support of CNOA adds to the widespread and growing support that Galgiani has received from California's public safety community, including recent endorsements from: The California Correctional Peace Officers Association, The California Professional Firefighters, CALFIRE Local 2881, the Peace Officers Research Association of California and the California Highway Patrolmen.



Senator Cathleen Galgiani

Visionary Home Builders offering Homebuyer Education Class

(Stockton, CA) Visionary Home Builders is offering a Homebuyer Education Class at their Homeownership Center on Saturday November 14th. This one-day class reviews all aspects of home purchase, including understanding credit scores and good faith estimates, budget analysis, housing payment affordability, and how to develop your home buying team.

The Homebuyer Education Class

satisfies the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirement for those interested in considering a home through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Visionary Home Builders is a HUD Approved "Housing Counseling Agency".

A Class Registration Form is available at Visionary Home Builders' Homeownership Center located in downtown Stockton at 315 N. San Joaquin Street, or can be download-

ed - www.visionaryhomebuilders.org. Pre-registration is mandatory. Classes are held from 8:30am to 4:30pm each Saturday.

For further information about classes, please contact Carlos Almanza at 209-466-6811 or visit the website at www.visionaryhomebuilders.org.

"NAVIDAD EN EL VALLE" El Concilio's Tamale Dinner & Drive Thru Lunch

Stockton, CA, December 4, 2015– El Concilio invites you to their 2015 "Navidad En El Valle" Tamale Dinner & Drive Thru Lunch, which will take place at Stockton's Civic Auditorium! All of the proceeds will go towards food baskets for families in our community that are in need, especially this time of year. The drive-thru lunch will be from 11am until 2pm. The Tamale Dinner will begin at 5pm and end at 8pm. The event will feature LIVE music,

LOCAL entertainment, DANCING, and photos with SANTA! "Navidad En El Valle" is FREE to attend, tickets for a Tamale dinner are \$10 each and will include 2 tamales, and Mexican rice & beans.

"48 years of providing services and empowering families in the San Joaquin Central Valley"

Sponsorship opportunities and tickets are available, please contact Heather Stonehouse at 209-644-2621 or email at hsto@elconcilio.org.

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Rubio

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tious issues of 2016. "I say this to you as the son of immigrants, knowing that so many of you are also descendants of immigrants."

Marco Rubio, born a Catholic, wiped away a tear. That palpable gratitude of an immigrant's son also spurred Rubio's rebuke to rival Donald "Make America Great Again" Trump, whose stump speeches are a salad of U.S. failings and failures, sprinkled with nuggets of anti-immigrant nativism. "I think America is great." Rubio responded emotionally to Bill O'Reilly. "You know how I know it's great? You don't have American refugees winding up on the shores of other countries. You have people wanting their children born here!"

1 People, that is, like Rubio's parents, Oriales and Mario.

The Rubio family's timeline, however, is not the traditional Cuban exile one—but rather the dream shared by all immigrants. Years before Fidel Castro emerged from the Sierra Maestra and seized Havana, the Rubios had settled into a better life in America.

The Rubios never had it easy—in the United States or in their homeland.

Even by Cuban standards, Rubio's par-

ents, grandparents and great-grandparents struggled. The childhood pueblos of his grandparents were not glamorous like Havana or Santiago de Cuba but bore names like Jicotea, Cabaiguán and Jatibonico, names derived more from the indigenous language than the imperialist Spanish, places where folks did the killing work of slashing sugarcane and farming tobacco. Even today, one sees bohios—thatched roof huts—and feels the remorseless heat.

The island's magnificent beaches and soothing coastal breezes feel far from these dusty towns that dot the Carretera Central and the Autopista, Cuba's two-lane highway that runs along the spine of the crocodile-shaped island from Pinar del Rio to Sancti Spiritus. Motorists drive the unlit Autopista, as I have done more than once, at their own peril, especially at night as bicyclists mix with oxcarts and ancient Russian-made Ladas with headlights dimmer than flashlights. Rubio's beloved maternal grandfather and mentor, Pedro Victor Garcia, was one of the few in his hometown who learned to read, since polio had damaged his leg and exempted him from the farm work that occupied his siblings.



Wishing you and your family all the best this season.

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