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AMERICAN CANCER MONTH



Downtown Stockton Showing Signs of Economic Resurgence

By Rhashad R. Pittman

Downtown Stockton is showing signs of a resurgence. Traces of economic vitality can be found throughout the downtown area, from a string of new restaurants that have recently opened up, to the large crowds flocking to events, and even in the city's plan to provide hundreds of housing units in the area over the next few years.

Although downtown Stockton is not quite bustling to the likes of larger cities such as San Francisco or San Diego, it's making significant strides in that direction. The payoff for doing so could be felt around the city: more affordable housing for local residents, more tax revenue for the city, more small businesses, and jobs, and simply more options for food and entertainment.

Leading the effort for a downtown resurgence is the Downtown Stockton Alliance (DSA) and its leader Cindi Fargo. The DSA was formed in 1996 as a public/private partnership to improve downtown's appearance, increase safety, attract more businesses, and increase the number of downtown residents.

"An urban center like ours is really the heart of the city and always has been," Fargo said. "And sometimes you have to revitalize it by breathing life into it."

Since Fargo has come on board nearly three years ago, the DSA has helped support numerous events, including the Mexican Independence Day Celebration last month, and led promotional activities on behalf of local restaurants to raise the profile of downtown and encourage

people to visit. The organization also works with area organizations to open the way for new housing developments in the downtown area.

In November 2014, Fargo became the CEO of the Downtown Stockton Alliance, bringing 25 years of experience with her. Throughout her career, she has worked in four cities in business improvement and economic revitalization, including downtown San Diego's Gaslamp district.

In the last year and a half, seven restaurants and bars have relocated or opened up in downtown Stockton with more businesses on the way. An increasing number of people who live outside of the area are making their way to

See **RESURGENCE** Page 2

El centro de Stockton muestra signos de resurgimiento económico

Por Rhashad R. Pittman

El centro de Stockton está mostrando signos de un resurgimiento.

Las huellas de vitalidad económica se pueden encontrar en todo el centro de la ciudad, desde la cadena de nuevos restaurantes que se han abierto recientemente, a las grandes multitudes que acuden a eventos e incluso en el plan de la ciudad de proporcionar cientos de viviendas en la zona durante los próximos años.

Aunque el centro de Stockton no es bullicioso para los gustos de las grandes ciudades como San Francisco o San Diego, está haciendo avances significativos en esa dirección. La recompensa por hacerlo se podría sentir alrededor de la ciudad: más viviendas asequibles para los residentes locales, más ingresos fiscales para la ciudad, más pequeñas empresas y puestos de trabajo, y simplemente más opciones de comida y entretenimiento.

Liderando el esfuerzo de un resurgimiento del centro es la Alianza del Centro de Stockton, representada por las siglas DSA (Downtown Stockton Alliance) y su líder Cindi Fargo. La DSA se formó en 1996 como una asociación público-privada para mejorar la apariencia del centro, aumentar la seguridad, atraer más negocios y aumentar el número de residentes en el centro de la ciudad.

"Un centro urbano como el nuestro es realmente el corazón de la ciudad y siempre lo ha sido," dijo Fargo. "Y a

veces hay que revitalizarla al respirarle la vida."

Desde que Fargo ha estado al cargo por casi tres años, la DSA ha ayudado a apoyar numerosos eventos, incluyendo la celebración del Día de la Independencia Mexicana el mes pasado, y llevó a cabo actividades de promoción en nombre de los restaurantes locales para elevar el perfil del centro y animar a la gente a visitar. La organización también trabaja con las organizaciones del área para abrir el camino para nuevos desarrollos de vivienda en el centro de la ciudad.

En noviembre de 2014, Fargo se convirtió en el CEO de la DSA, trayendo 25 años de experiencia con ella. A lo largo de su carrera, ha trabajado en cuatro ciudades en negocios y revitalización económica, incluyendo el distrito Gaslamp del centro de San Diego.

En el último año y medio, siete restaurantes y bares se han reubicado o se han abierto en el centro de Stockton con más negocios en el camino. Un número creciente de personas que viven fuera de la zona están haciendo su camino a los eventos del centro para paseos en bicicleta, festivales y reuniones de arte.

DSA también se ha asociado con una organización sin fines de lucro del Área de la Bahía para ofrecer clases de emprendimiento para alentar y apoyar a los residentes locales que quieren abrir un negocio desde sus orígenes. Treinta y nueve residentes ya han completado

Ver **RESURGIMIENTO** Pág 2

Hispanic dropout rate hits new low, college enrollment at new high

By John Gramlich - Pew Research

The high school dropout rate among U.S. Hispanics has fallen to a new low, extending a decades-long decline, according to recently released data from the Census Bureau. The reduction has come alongside a long-term increase in Hispanic college enrollment, which is at a record high.

The Hispanic dropout rate was 10% in 2016, with about 648,000 Hispanics ages 18 to 24 – out of more than 6.5 million nationally in that age group – not completing high school and not enrolled in school. Just five years earlier, the rate had been 16%.

The overall high school dropout rate in the U.S. has also fallen substantially in recent decades, matching a record low of 6% in 2016. Hispanics have accounted for much of that decline. Since 1999, the earliest year

for which data on all major races and ethnicities are available, the dropout rate among Hispanics has fallen by 24 percentage points, compared with 9 points among blacks, 3 points among whites and 2 points among Asians. (Hispanics, however, still have the highest dropout rate of these four groups.)

The decline in the Hispanic dropout rate is particularly noteworthy given the large increase in Hispanic enrollment in U.S. public and private schools. Between 1999 and 2016, the number of Hispanics enrolled in public and private nursery schools, K-12 schools and colleges increased 80%, from 9.9 million to 17.9 million. By comparison, enrollment during the same period increased 30% among

See **ENROLLMENT** Page 2

Resurgence

continued from Front Page

downtown events for bike rides, festivals, and art gatherings.

DSA has also teamed up with a Bay Area nonprofit organization to offer entrepreneurship classes to encourage and support local residents who want to open up a brick and mortar business. Thirty-nine residents have already signed up or completed the program. "It's a real signal that we're being successful," Fargo said.

To increase housing options and the number of affordable housing units, Stockton's city leaders approved the construction of a number of developments with the goal of providing 1,400 housing units in the next few years, including a project for veterans by Visionary Home Builders.

"Housing really is the future of downtown," Fargo said. "The retail (businesses) will come once you have people living in the area."

City officials hope the additional housing units may help curb the homelessness that plagues the city. Homelessness is the region's biggest challenge,

Fargo said, with an estimated 750 transients. One of the key causes is the lack of investment in social services to provide assistance for those struggling to find housing.

It's a common issue in downtowns across the country, Fargo noted. "There's literally no place for people to go," she said. "So they spend a lot of time downtown."

To help address the issue, San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors assembled a regional taskforce involving city, county, police, health and community leaders to find solutions. In the meantime, the DSA continues to be optimistic about the future of downtown Stockton.

The recent activity provides a glimpse of what downtown could be if the DSA fulfills its ultimate mission, which is to complete an entire economic revitalization of the city's urban core.

"Our goal is to get the entire community of Stockton and beyond to come to downtown," Fargo said.

Resurgimiento

continúa en pág. 1

el programa.

"Es una señal real de que estamos teniendo éxito," dijo Fargo.

Para aumentar las opciones de vivienda y el número de unidades de vivienda asequible, los líderes de la ciudad de Stockton han aprobado la construcción de una serie de desarrollos con el objetivo de proporcionar 1,400 unidades de vivienda en los próximos años, incluyendo un proyecto para veteranos hecho por Visionary Home Builders.

"La vivienda es realmente el futuro del centro," dijo Fargo. "Los comercios vendrán una vez que tengas gente viviendo en la zona."

Funcionarios de la ciudad esperan que las unidades de vivienda adicionales puedan ayudar a frenar la falta de vivienda que afecta a la ciudad. La falta de vivienda es el mayor desafío de la región, dijo Fargo, con un estimado de 750 transitorios. Una de las causas clave es la falta de inversión en servicios sociales

para brindar asistencia a aquellos que luchan por encontrar vivienda.

Es un problema común en los centros de todo el país, señaló Fargo.

"Literalmente no hay lugar para que la gente vaya," dijo. "Así que pasan mucho tiempo en el centro."

Para abordar el tema, la Junta de Supervisores del Condado de Santa Clara montó un grupo de trabajo regional que involucra a líderes de la ciudad, condado, policía, salud y comunidad para encontrar soluciones.

Mientras tanto, la DSA sigue siendo optimista sobre el futuro del centro de Stockton.

La actividad reciente brinda una vislumbre de lo que podría ser el centro si la DSA cumple su misión final, que es completar una revitalización económica completa del núcleo urbano de la ciudad.

"Nuestro objetivo es atraer a toda la comunidad de Stockton y más al centro de la ciudad," dijo Fargo.

Enrollment

continued from Front Page

Asians (from 3.6 million to 4.7 million) and 4% among blacks (from 11.3 million to 11.7 million) while falling 14% among whites (from 47.3 million to 40.6 million). Total public school enrollment grew 7%, from 72.4 million to 77.2 million.

The rise in Hispanic student enrollment reflects broader demographic shifts that have occurred in the U.S., with Hispanics accounting for a growing share of the nation's overall population. But educational progress has also improved among Hispanics.

As the Hispanic dropout rate has declined, the share of Hispanic high school graduates who enroll in college has risen. In 2016, 47% of Hispanic high school graduates ages 18 to 24 were enrolled in college, up from 32% in 1999. By comparison, the share

of college enrollees among 18- to 24-year-old white, black and Asian high school graduates increased more modestly.

A record 3.6 million Hispanics were enrolled in public and private colleges in the U.S. in 2016, up 180% from the 1.3 million who were enrolled in 1999. The increase in Hispanic college enrollment outpaced Hispanic enrollment growth in U.S. nursery and K-12 schools during the same span.

While Hispanics have made important strides in educational attainment in recent decades, it's important to note they still lag behind other races and ethnicities in several other academic measures. For example, Hispanics are less likely than other groups to obtain a four-year college degree.



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49th El Concilio Annual Gala will be held at Wine & Roses

El Concilio is pleased to announce its 49th Annual San Joaquin Gala will be held on Friday, November 10, 2017, at Wine & Roses, 2505 Turner Road, Lodi, CA 95242, 6:00-9:00pm

El Concilio is celebrating its 49th year as the largest Latino community-based organization in California's Central Valley and premier social services provider to the region's underserved, working low-income and at-risk communities. Founded in 1968 as one of the nation's first migrant worker civil rights institutions, El Concilio has grown to become the Central Valley's heart and home for those wishing to achieve a better life. Today we assist over 25,000 individuals and families annually through our multiple services, regardless of ethnicity, race or immigration status.

This year, El Concilio's Gala will honor four unique and diverse voices for their years of public service and community leadership, and who share in El Concilio's commitment to the community.

- Assemblymember Susan Eggman - "Amiga of the Year"
- Andy Prokop - "Amigo of the Year"
- Comerciantes Unidos - "La Raza Award" recipient
- Natalia Orfanos - "Unsung Hero" honoree

The Gala celebration will be an elegant evening to remember. The night's soundtrack will wonderfully accent conversations between old and new

friends while also inviting all to the dance floor. The martini and wine bar will feature premium alcohol options. The dinner menu is being custom catered to our exact standards. The food will be delicious, fresh and beautifully plated, and there will be favorite desserts.

Taking the stage will be Tonight Show and Comedy Central favourite, comedian Carlos Oscar. A lean, comedy machine, from the moment Carlos hits the stage, perched on his stool, his family-friendly motor-mouthed delivery and comedic expressions leave audiences rolling with the punchlines.

Carlos moved to Los Angeles to embark on a career in the entertainment industry, after serving 4 years in U.S. Air Force, when he bumped into comedy. "I was doing a comedic scene in class at UCLA. The immediate laughter response from the audience sparked me into pursuing stand-up comedy." With his own sitcom in development, Carlos is on the verge of making a huge impact across America.

El Concilio's Annual Gala provides needed funds to cover the costs of our many programs and services.

Individual tickets are \$150, tables for 10 are \$1,500. And, there are corporate sponsorship opportunities available to support El Concilio's mission to improve the quality of life of all residents of the Central Valley.

For more information contact Annette Sanchez at 209-644-2627.



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Helping Families Find a Connection

By Aaron Ortega-Andrade - NAM

When I was in 5th grade, going to school in Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District, I was asked to write my first typed essay. There was just one problem: I did not have a computer or a printer.

At the time, my family could not afford to have those things. I had the option to go to the library and write my paper there, but the nearest library was far from my home. We ended up getting a used typewriter from a thrift store. I actually liked my typewriter. But, if I made a mistake, I had to start all over again. When I turned in my essay, I looked at everyone else's and I felt left out. I didn't know what Microsoft Word was, and everyone was using something called Word Art to make their essays look nice; mine was just plain. Throughout the school year, we were asked multiple times to type our essays. That's when I realized that a computer was going to be a necessity.

In 6th grade I bought my first laptop for \$300. It took me five months to raise the money for it by collecting cans with my parents. Fortunately, the laptop came with a printer. But a laptop isn't as useful without internet service at home.

Today, it's not just word processing and the ability to produce typed papers that young people have to reckon with. Now, everything is online. Having access to the internet and to technology at home is necessary for students,

even in elementary school. But there's a problem that doesn't get enough attention: not everyone can afford the internet. As schools are transitioning to online services, young people and their families often struggle to find affordable internet access (and, of course, affordable computers) for their homes.

When I bought my laptop, my family and I were able to purchase a very slow connection from AT&T for about \$30 a month. Because it was so slow, we ended up switching to Xfinity for about \$25 a month, which was bundled with a TV service. But after a year, the price increased to about \$65 a month. Price increases like this are something that families have to deal with in order to have an internet connection for their kids to be able to do their homework.

With most schools in my district, at least half of the student population is on the free or reduced lunch program. With so many students qualifying for the lunch program, I came to the conclusion that many of their families are not making enough money to pay for necessities, which definitely includes an internet connection. Silicon Valley is so nearby, and yet kids and their families in Fairfield are having a hard time with the basics, like internet access and home computers.

In high school, I came up with a program for my school district called Get Connected. My plan was to have a program that would help students and



their families find the internet connections closest to their homes, and also provide them with resources to help them figure out how to get an affordable connection inside their homes. I got the idea from an educational conference I attended last year that was put on by the California School Boards Association. I heard about a similar program that another district had implemented, so I started doing research at the library and reading articles about the digital divide.

During my research, I learned a lot of things that I thought were very relevant to life for families in Fairfield. One, for example, is that some people are afraid to ask for help when they

don't have access to a computer or internet service. With Get Connected, not only did I want people to be able to find an internet connection near their home, but also to create a place that would be a hub for reliable and affordable plans.

I presented my plans for the program last year, when I was a senior in high school and a student board member of the school district. My term has ended and I'll be starting college in the fall, but the next student board member will be taking over the plans and overseeing the program, which is in its final development stages. I can't wait to see it up and running and how many people it will help.

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5 Takeaways From Congress' Failure To Extend Funding For Children's Coverage

By Phil Galewitz - NAM

Congress finally seems ready to take action on the Children's Health Insurance Program after funding lapsed Sept. 30.

Before the deadline, lawmakers were busy grappling with the failed repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

CHIP covers 9 million children nationwide. But until Congress renews CHIP, states are cut off from additional federal funding that helps lower- and middle-income families.

CHIP, which has enjoyed broad bipartisan support, helps lower- and middle-income families that otherwise earn too much to be eligible for Medicaid. Besides children, it covers 370,000 pregnant women a year. Like Medicaid, CHIP is traditionally paid for with state and federal funds, but the federal government covers most of the cost.

Though current authorization for spending has expired, states can use some of their unspent federal CHIP money. Still, several states are expected to run out of money before the end of 2017, and most of the rest will run out by next summer. CHIP has been in this fix only one other time since it was established in 1997. In 2007, CHIP went weeks without funding authorization from Congress.

Here's a quick look at what may lie ahead for the program.

1. Will children lose coverage because Congress missed the deadline?

They could eventually, but not immediately. A few states facing the most immediate threat — including California and Arizona — have enough funding to last only until the end of the year.

No states have yet announced plans to freeze enrollment or alert families about any potential end in coverage. But if Congress fails to renew funding quickly, some states may begin taking steps to unwind the program in the next few weeks.

2. What are states doing in reaction to Congress missing the deadline?

Most states are doing little except reaching into their unspent federal funds.

However, Minnesota was among those most imperiled because it had spent all its funds. State officials said Tuesday that the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) was giving Minnesota \$3.6 million from unspent national funds to cover CHIP this month.

Emily Piper, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, reported in a newspaper commentary last month that her state's funds would be exhausted last Sunday.

Even without the last-minute infusion of funding from CMS, most of the



children covered by CHIP would have continued to receive care under the state's Medicaid program, but Minnesota would get fewer federal dollars for each child, according to Piper's commentary. However, she added, those most at risk are the 1,700 pregnant women covered by CHIP, because they wouldn't be eligible for Medicaid.

Utah has notified CMS that it plans to discontinue its CHIP program by the end of the year unless it receives more federal money. About 19,000 children are in the state's CHIP program, state officials say. So far, though, the state said it is not moving to suspend service or enrollment or alert enrollees about any possible changes.

Nevada officials said if funding is

not extended it might have to freeze enrollment on Nov. 1 and end coverage by Nov. 30.

California, which has 1.3 million children covered by CHIP, has the highest enrollment of any state running out of funding this year. But, so far, it's continuing business as usual.

"We estimate that we have available CHIP funding at least through December 2017," said Tony Cava, spokesman for California Department of Health Services. "Our CHIP program is open for enrollment and continues to operate normally."

Oregon said it has enough CHIP funding to last through October for its program that covers 98,000 children.

See **COVERAGE** Page 6

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Latino unemployment rate is back at historic low

By Rakesh Kochhar - Pew Research

The unemployment rate for Hispanics in the U.S. has returned to a historic low last seen more than a decade ago, though other labor market measures show this group has not totally recovered from the Great Recession, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of government data.

The Hispanic unemployment rate stood at 4.7% in the second quarter of 2017, about the same as in the second quarter of 2006 (4.9%). The improving labor market prospects for Latinos mirror trends for U.S. workers overall. The national unemployment rate in the second quarter of 2017 was 4.2%, compared with 4.6% in the second quarter of 2006. (Estimates are non-seasonally adjusted, but seasonally adjusted data show the same trend.)

This improvement extends to Hispanic women and men, as well as U.S.-born and foreign-born Hispanics. All four groups now have unemployment rates that are at or below their pre-recession levels.

Hispanics born in the U.S. have made the most progress on this measure, with the group's unemployment rate dropping to below its pre-recession level – 5.6% in the second quarter of 2017, compared with 6.2% in 2006. By comparison, foreign-born Hispanics' unemployment rate in 2017 (3.8%) had only returned to its pre-recession level.

Hispanics make up 17% of the

U.S. labor force in 2017, up from 13.5% in 2006. Much of this growth comes from U.S.-born Hispanics, who make up 52.5% of the Hispanic labor force in 2017, compared with 44.1% in 2006.

Despite the declining Latino unemployment rate, two other measures of labor market activity – labor force participation and the employment-population ratio – reveal that Latinos in the U.S. have not totally recovered from the Great Recession. This, too, reflects the experience of American workers overall.

The labor force participation rate for Latinos stood at 66.1% in the second quarter of 2017, well below its level in the second quarter of 2006. The employment-population ratio for Latinos also has yet to fully recover, standing at 63.0% in 2017, or nearly 3 percentage points below its 2006 level. Among workers in the U.S. overall, the labor force participation rate (62.9%) and the employment rate (60.3%) in 2017 also are about 3 percentage points below pre-recession levels.

These labor market measures also show that, at least in terms of employment, the economic recovery among Hispanics is further along for women than it is for men. Among Hispanic women, the labor force participation rate (56.4%) and employment-population ratio (53.2%) in 2017 stood at similar levels as in 2006. Among Hispanic men, the current labor force



participation rate (76.0%) and employment-population ratio (72.9%) are nearly 5 percentage points below their respective levels in 2006.

U.S.-born Latinos have fared better than foreign-born Latinos in their economic recovery. The employment-population ratio of U.S.-born Latinos in the second quarter of 2017 (60.8%) had nearly returned to pre-recession level, but for foreign-born Latinos the ratio remained more than 3 percentage points below 2006 levels, at 65.9%.

Latino women and U.S.-born Latinos have seen their standing in the labor market improve more than Latino men and foreign-born Latinos, in part because they are more likely to work in industries that have added the most jobs since the Great Recession, namely social assistance, education, health care and accommodation and food services.

In 2006, 37.6% of Latino women were employed in these four industries, compared with only 14.6% of Latino

men. Similarly, 26.8% of U.S.-born Latinos worked in these industries in 2006, compared with 21.3% of foreign-born Latinos. Conversely, Latino men and foreign-born Latinos were more likely to work in the three industries that have shed jobs since 2006 – information, construction and manufacturing.

In addition to the ongoing recovery in the labor market, new data by the U.S. Census Bureau reveal strong gains in Latino household income in recent years, up 10.7% from 2014 to 2016. Also, the poverty rate for Hispanics decreased to a record low of 19.4% in 2016. (However, Latinos have a higher poverty rate and lower median household income than the households overall.) These developments are reflected in Latinos' confidence in their economic situation. Since the Great Recession, Latinos have grown more confident in their personal finances and more optimistic about their financial future.

Coverage

continued from Page 5

3. When is Congress likely to act?

The Senate Finance and the House Energy and Commerce committees have scheduled votes Wednesday on legislation to extend CHIP funding. If both approve their individual bills, floor votes could come quickly, and then both houses would need to resolve any differences.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and the committee's ranking Democrat, Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, announced an agreement in mid-September to renew CHIP funding. Under the proposed deal, federal CHIP funding would drop by 23 percentage points starting in by 2020, returning to its pre-Affordable Care Act levels. The agreement would extend the life of the CHIP program through 2022.

Hatch and Wyden did not provide any details on how they would pay for the CHIP extension.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee posted its bill just before midnight Monday. It mirrors the Senate Finance plan by extending funding for CHIP for five years and gradually phasing down the 23-percentage-point funding increase provided under Affordable Care Act over the next two

years.

4. If CHIP is so popular among Republicans and Democrats, why hasn't Congress renewed the program yet?

The funding renewal was not a priority among Republican leaders, who have spent most of this year trying to replace the Affordable Care Act and dramatically overhaul the Medicaid program. Some in Congress also thought the Sept. 30 deadline was squishy since states could extend their existing funds beyond that.

5. Who benefits from CHIP?

While CHIP income eligibility levels vary by state, about 90 percent of children covered are in families earning 200 percent of poverty or less (\$40,840 for a family of three). CHIP covers children up to age 19. States have the option to cover pregnant women, and 18 plus the District of Columbia do so.

The program is known by different names in different states such as Hoosier Healthwise in Indiana and Peach-Care for Kids in Georgia.

For families that move out of Medicaid as their incomes rise, CHIP is an affordable option that ensures continued coverage for their children. Many states operate their CHIP programs as part of Medicaid.



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El Concilio Gala 2017 Honorees

El Concilio is pleased to announce its 49th Annual San Joaquin Gala will be held on Friday, November 10, 2017, at Wine & Roses, 2505 Turner Road, Lodi, CA 95242, 6:00-9:00pm

Susan Talamantes Eggman — El Concilio 2017 Amiga of the Year

A former member of Stockton's City Council – and the first Latina elected to that office – and past El Concilio board member, Dr. Susan Talamantes Eggman, Ph.D. is committed to policies that advance the good of her whole community. In particular, she has pushed reforms that are both good for the environment and good for business, and has been dedicated over the years to finding a way to bridge the gap between the environmental and farming communities.

Among her many legislative accomplishments representing the 13th Assembly District: she is the author of 2015's End of Life Option Act; she negotiated on behalf of the Delta on the Assembly Water Working Group, in 2014; authoring a landmark bill to fund solar energy access to renters; and making concrete steps toward bringing a CSU campus to Stockton.

Close to her heart is the Young Legislators Program is inspired by the Assemblymember's belief that it is her responsibility as an elected official to develop the next generation of leaders.

Andy Prokop — El Concilio 2017 Amigo of the Year

Since 1999, Andy Prokop has been best known as being the upbeat as president and CEO of the United Way of San Joaquin County, raising money for local charities. But Andy Prokop's smile belies a fervent commitment to those in need, to community, to coalition-building for the underserved, at-risk and working low-income of San Joaquin.

He understands those who've been through struggle and those caught in its grasp. Prokop was born in Fresno to an abusive and alcoholic mother, and in and out of foster homes. After high school, he entered college to become a history teacher, but was drafted into the military, to Vietnam and the 1968 Tet Offensive. As a 23-year-old Army veteran, Prokop returned home from Vietnam in 1970 angry and volatile, as he faced open hostility returning from the unpopular war.

That was a "whole different Andy," says Prokop, who has been married to his wife, Carol, for 46 years.

Long ago, Andy chose to take the help once given to him, and turned

Comerciantes Unidos — El Concilio 2017 La Raza Honoree

The Central Valley is home to immigrants from all over the world and forty percent of its residents are Hispanic or Latino, a highly diverse group that draws from Native American, African, Caribbean, Portuguese and Spanish cultures. Stockton-based Comerciantes Unidos is an organization made

This year, El Concilio's Gala will honor four unique and diverse voices for their years of public service and community leadership, and who share in El Concilio's commitment to the community.



Its goal is to prepare the young people of today to become the leaders of tomorrow.

A Turlock native, Susan grew up on her family's small almond orchard and apiary, Assemblymember Eggman has a proven record of working across partisan divides to find working solutions to real problems.



it into his strength in helping others. He has served in leadership with the Child Abuse Prevention Council, the Jose Hernandez Reaching for the Stars Foundation and Mary Graham Children's Shelter. He's been called "Mr. Spear" of the Stockton Asparagus Festival. But more than anything else Andy's community service shows his dedication to helping others.

up of San Joaquin County Hispanic Entrepreneurs, dedicated to celebrating Mexican culture and promoting the understanding of Mexican traditions.

Comerciantes Unidos exists to celebrate the diversity of Mexican culture, its people and traditions. Through the engagement in folk and traditional

arts, Comerciantes Unidos fosters the integration of the Mexican community in California's Central Valley, and helps new generations of Mexican-Americans develop a strong sense of identity and a true understanding of their heritage. Comerciantes Unidos works in partnership with regional cultural, educational and socially committed institutions to promote and maintain the richness of Mexican culture, with a dedication to increasing awareness of Mexico's unique arts, customs, traditions and destinations among the audiences of the United States of America.

Committed to education, debate and dialogue about issues in Latin America, Comerciantes Unidos awards

Natalia Orfanos — El Concilio 2017 Unsung Hero of the Year

Natalia Orfanos has always been a connector. As public relations director for A.G. Spanos Companies, there are few who come in contact with her passionate spirit and infectious smile who aren't transformed by her generosity and genuine desire to give. If someone's mother needs help, she is there. If an entrepreneur needs to create a business plan, she has one. If she can't get it done, she knows someone who can. That's how she has always been. With strong will and rooted passion, she sticks by until every problem is solved.

Dynamic and force of nature, Natalia has the pulse of the community. She seeks to improve Stockton in a cooperative and positive spirit. A past El Concilio board member, Natalia's commitment and enthusiasm for San Joaquin and Stockton is grounded in a genuine



\$500 scholarships to high school seniors students going onto Community College or University to continue their studies.



concern and care for the community.

Natalia has always been a strong force of support for El Concilio, continuing the rich legacy of her family, the Spanos family, who have a tradition of selflessly giving so much to the area with acts of compassion and service to the community.







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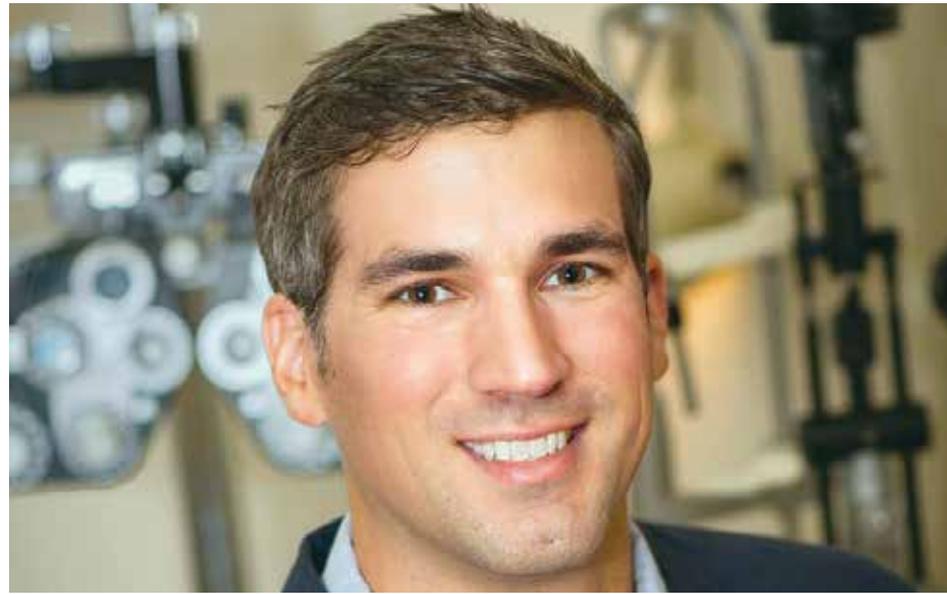
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Zeiter Eye Welcomes Newest Ophthalmologist

The physicians at Zeiter Eye are pleased to welcome their newest ophthalmologist to the Zeiter Team, Michael J. Mequio, M.D. Prior to joining Zeiter Eye, Dr. Mequio practiced in Seattle and served in the United States Air Force, earning the Meritorious Service Medal. Dr. Mequio completed his undergraduate degree at Kalamazoo College and attended Wayne State University for medical school. He completed his residency training at Kresge Eye Institute and served as Chief Resident. At Zeiter Eye, Dr. Mequio will be practicing general ophthalmology to include cataract surgery, glaucoma management and age-related macular degeneration

treatment.

Dr. Mequio is happy to have relocated to Stockton with his wife, Devin and three young children. Like the other physicians at Zeiter Eye, Dr. Mequio has an interest in humanitarian medicine and has enjoyed medical service trips to Zambia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand. When Dr. Mequio is not in the office, he is busy chasing after his three young children. His family enjoys the outdoors and they are looking forward to exploring the Delta and the beautiful areas that surround the Central Valley

Dr. Mequio is looking forward to building long-lasting relationships within the community.

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Over the Edge for Community Hospice

WHAT:

Community Hospice Foundation has once again partnered with TEN|SPACE and Over the Edge to provide an exhilarating once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to rappel down the historic downtown Stockton Medico-Dental Tower, overlooking the Stockton waterfront. Participants have the opportunity to raise donations to support the mission of Community Hospice, which is to provide compassionate and quality care, education and support to terminally ill patients and their families regardless of ability to pay.

WHEN:

Friday, October 20, 2017, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

VIP/Media Day

Saturday, October 21, 2017, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Edgers Rappel

WHERE:

Stockton Medico-Dental Tower
242 N. Sutter Street, Stockton, CA 95202

WHO:

Community Hospice Foundation, established in 2001, raises funds and awareness for Community Hospice, fulfilling the mission to provide compassionate and quality care, education and support to patients and their families, regardless of ability to pay.

Since 1979, Community Hospice



has provided compassionate care, comfort and support to terminally ill patients and their families throughout the San Joaquin Valley. Today, Community Hospice provides care to more than 200 community residents in their homes, care facilities and at the Community Hospice Alexander Cohen Hospice House.

Register:

For more information regarding Over the Edge, visit give.hospiceheart.org or call the Community Hospice Foundation at 209.578.6370.

Sponsorship opportunities are available.



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El Concilio Gala 2017 Homenajeados

El Concilio se complace en anunciar que su 49a Gala Anual de San Joaquín se llevará a cabo el viernes 10 de noviembre de 2017, en Wine & Roses, 2505 Turner Road, Lodi, CA 95242, 6: 00-9: 00pm

Este año, la Gala de El Concilio honrará cuatro voces únicas y diversas por sus años de servicio público y liderazgo comunitario, y que comparten el compromiso de El Concilio con la comunidad.

Susan Talamantes Eggman - El Concilio 2017 Amiga del Año

Un ex miembro del Concejo Municipal de Stockton -y la primera Latina elegida para esa oficina- y el ex miembro del consejo de El Concilio, la Dra. Susan Talamantes Eggman, Ph.D. está comprometida a políticas que promueven el bien de toda su comunidad. En particular, ha impulsado reformas que son buenas para el medio ambiente y buenas para las empresas y se ha dedicado a través de los años a encontrar una forma de cerrar la brecha entre las comunidades medioambientales y agrícolas.

Entre sus muchos logros legislativos que representan al Distrito 13 de la Asamblea: es la autora de la Ley de Opción de Fin de Vida del 2015; negoció en nombre del Delta en el Grupo de Trabajo sobre el Agua de la Asamblea, en 2014; la creación de un proyecto de ley histórico para financiar el acceso de energía solar a los inquilinos; y tomar medidas concretas para fundar un campus CSU en Stockton.

Cerca de su corazón está el Programa de Jóvenes Legisladores que se inspira en la creencia de la Asambleísta de que es su responsabilidad como funcionario electo desarrollar la próxima



generación de líderes. Su objetivo es preparar a los jóvenes de hoy para convertirse en los líderes de mañana.

Una nativa de Turlock, Susan creció en el pequeño huerto de almendras y colmenar de su familia, el asambleísta Eggman tiene un historial probado de trabajar a través de divisiones partidarias para encontrar soluciones de trabajo a problemas reales.

Andy Prokop - El Concilio 2017 Amigo del Año

Desde 1999, Andy Prokop ha sido mejor conocido como el optimista como presidente y CEO de United Way del Condado de San Joaquín, recaudando fondos para organizaciones benéficas locales. Pero la sonrisa de Andy Prokop desmiente un ferviente compromiso a los necesitados, a la comunidad, a la formación de coaliciones para los marginados, a los que están en riesgo y a trabajadores con bajos ingresos de San Joaquín.

Él entiende a aquellos que han pasado por la lucha y los que están atrapados en su alcance. Prokop nació en Fresno de una madre abusiva y alcohólica, y pasó dentro y fuera de hogares de crianza. Después de la escuela secundaria, entró a la universidad para convertirse en un maestro de historia, pero fue reclutado al ejército, a Vietnam y la Ofensiva Tet de 1968. Como



un veterano del ejército de 23 años de edad, Prokop volvió a casa de Vietnam en 1970 enojado y volátil, como se enfrentó a la hostilidad abierta al regresar

de la guerra impopular.

Ese fue un "Andy totalmente diferente," dice Prokop, que ha estado casado con su esposa, Carol, durante 46 años.

Hace mucho tiempo, Andy decidió tomar la ayuda una vez dada a él, y lo convirtió en su fuerza para ayudar a los demás. Ha servido en liderazgo con el

Comerciantes Unidos - El Concilio 2017 Premio La Raza

El Valle Central es el hogar de inmigrantes de todo el mundo y el cuarenta por ciento de sus residentes son hispanos o latinos, un grupo muy diverso que se nutre de culturas nativas americanas, africanas, caribeñas, portuguesas y españolas. Comerciantes Unidos, con sede en Stockton, es una organización compuesta por Empresarios Hispanos del Condado de San Joaquín, dedicada a celebrar la cultura mexicana y a promover la comprensión de las tradiciones mexicanas.

Comerciantes Unidos existe para celebrar la diversidad de la cultura mexicana, su gente y sus tradiciones. A través del compromiso en las artes folclóricas y tradicionales, Comerciantes Unidos fomenta la integración de la comunidad mexicana en el Valle Central de California y ayuda a las nuevas generaciones de mexicano-americanos a desarrollar un fuerte sentido de identidad y una verdadera comprensión de su patrimonio. Comerciantes Unidos trabaja en conjunto con instituciones regionales, culturales, educativas y comprometidas so-

Consejo para la Prevención del Abuso Infantil, la Fundación José Hernández Alcanzando las Estrellas y el Refugio para Niños Mary Graham. Se le ha llamado "Mr. Spear" del Festival de Espárragos de Stockton. Pero más que nada, el servicio comunitario de Andy muestra su dedicación a ayudar a los demás.



cialmente para promover y mantener la riqueza de la cultura mexicana, con una dedicación a aumentar el conocimiento de las artes, costumbres, tradiciones y destinos únicos de México entre las audiencias de los Estados Unidos de América.

Comprometidos con la educación, el debate y el diálogo sobre temas en América Latina, Comerciantes Unidos otorga becas de \$500 a estudiantes de secundaria que van a Colegios Comunitarios o Universidades para continuar sus estudios.

Natalia Orfanos - El Concilio 2017 Héroe Desconocida del Año

Natalia Orfanos siempre ha sido un conector. Como directora de relaciones públicas de las Empresas A.G. Spanos, son pocas las que entran en contacto con su espíritu apasionado y su sonrisa infecciosa que no se transforman por su generosidad y genuino deseo de dar. Si la madre de alguien necesita ayuda, ella está allí. Si un empresario necesita para crear un plan de negocios, ella tiene uno. Si no puede hacerlo, conoce a alguien que puede hacerlo. Así es como siempre ha sido. Con una voluntad fuerte y una pasión arraigada, se aferra hasta que se resuelve cada problema.

Dinámica y con una fuerza única, Natalia tiene el pulso de la comunidad. Ella busca mejorar a Stockton en un espíritu cooperativo y positivo. Un miembro del consejo de El Concilio pasado, el compromiso de Natalia y el entusiasmo por San Joaquín y Stockton



se basa en una preocupación genuina y el cuidado de la comunidad.

Natalia siempre ha sido una fuerte fuerza de apoyo para El Concilio, continuando el rico legado de su familia, la familia Spanos, que tiene una tradición de dar desinteresadamente tanto a esta área con actos de compasión y servicio a la comunidad.

Scholarship Dollars Available for Local Students

High school seniors with a 3.0 GPA or higher who attend school in San Joaquin County are eligible for scholarship money through Lincoln Center's Scholarship Program. With assistance from the San Joaquin County Office of Education, the shopping center will award scholarships to local students with funds raised from their Lincoln Center Classic Car Show.

Three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors graduating in the class of 2018. All high school seniors with a GPA of 3.0 or higher attending school in San Joaquin County (public, charter, private, etc.), can apply

for the scholarship.

Visit <http://lincolncentershops.com/scholarship-program/> for more information and to download the application. Applications are due by Friday, January 12, 2018.

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DACAmented and Still Fighting in the Trenches

By Daniel Casarez - NAM

FRESNO, Calif. -- There are about 800,000 Dreamers in the United States, and about 61,000 are in the region between San Joaquin County and Tulare County.

Some were brought into the country as infants, others as teenagers. Their country is the United States, even though they don't have the documentation to prove it.

This is a look at Pedro Ramírez and Xavier Vázquez Báez.

Ramírez, 28, graduated from Tulare High School and works in Fresno.

Vázquez Báez, 27, graduated from Amos Alonzo Stagg High School in Stockton and works in Fresno.

Both are Fresno State graduates.

Both have benefitted from President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program introduced in 2012.

Trump's action re-ignites his passion

Pedro Ramírez was a poster boy for the Dreamer movement pre-DACA.

In 2011 when he was student body president at Fresno State, Ramírez was ousted as undocumented but retained strong support from the university, fellow students and the community. He never accepted a penny from a stipend worth at least \$9,000 for serving as president.

Ramírez refused to step down from the office. His undocumented status, he said, helped advance state policy, educated the public about undocumented

children brought into the only country they know by their parents, and motivated him.

That activism was born from the 2006-07 student-led walkouts against anti-immigrant proposals in Congress.

"I don't regret any of what I've done because a lot of good has come from it, but I am tired," he posted on his Facebook page last week. "I am tired of politics, tired of being used as a political football, tired of all the BS. I've lost friends, relationships, and put my family at risk."

Ramírez – who graduated from Fresno State with a degree in political science, and later earned a master's in public policy at Long Beach State – worked for Los Angeles City Councilmember Gil Cedillo for four years before returning to the San Joaquin Valley.

President Donald J. Trump's revocation of DACA has re-ignited Ramírez's passion.

"It's one thing to lose your work permit, it's another thing knowing that the government knows where you are, and they can use that information to go after you," said Ramírez. "And they might actually plan to do just that."

Ramírez says the political landscape has changed with Trump in office.

"The situation is different from when George W. Bush was president, when Ronald Reagan was president; they had compassion for immigrants. This president does not, and he's not afraid to make threats to get what he wants," said Ramírez.



Xavier Vázquez Báez

Ramírez fears for family and other DACA immigrants.

"People who are citizens here, people who are residents, they're fine. Nothing's going to happen to you. Us, yeah. For all we know, they may deport us; they can put us in concentration camps, detention centers like they do in Texas and Arizona," said Ramírez, whose father worked in construction, dairies and restaurants. His mother worked as a hotel maid.

Ramírez bristles that Trump would use DACA recipients (polls show major support for the program) to leverage Congress for money for a border wall.

Not even Trump's twitter message is comfort for Ramírez.

The president wrote: "For all of those (DACA) that are concerned about your status during the 6 month period, you have nothing to worry about — No action!"

Ramírez works as a Central Valley campaign coordinator for the California Labor Federation in Fresno, a position he said he felt needed his attention because of the current administration.

"When Trump got elected I felt that I needed to return back to electoral politics; fight and hold him and those that support him accountable," he said.

"I came (to the U.S.) when I was 3 years old. We lived in L.A. for several years before we came to the Central

See **DACAmented** Page 13

Se ofrece exención fiscal y tarifaria a propietarios de casas rodantes o viviendas prefabricadas que nunca obtuvieron título y registro

Sacramento: Las personas que compraron una casa rodante o una vivienda prefabricada pero no recibieron el título necesario, ahora tienen la oportunidad de registrar sus hogares de manera apropiada con el nuevo programa de exoneración fiscal y tarifaria, y evitar pagar cientos o incluso miles de dólares en impuestos locales y estatales, tarifas, y sanciones.

El Departamento de Viviendas y Desarrollo Comunitario de California (Housing and Community Development, HCD) administra el programa para registrar hogares apropiadamente y ayudar a los propietarios de viviendas a evitar problemas que puedan ocurrir cuando el propietario no tiene el título y registro. Hasta 160,000 personas son aptas para el programa.

El programa de exoneración fiscal y tarifaria se pasó en la Asamblea del Proyecto de ley 587, lo firmó el gobernador Edmund G. Brown el año pasado y entró en vigor este año.

"Este programa le brinda a la gente que adquirió un hogar pero no obtuvo la documentación apropiada una única oportunidad de corregir su situación y no tener que pagar muchos impuestos atrasados, tarifas y sanciones en las que incurrieran los propietarios anteriores", dijo el director de HCD, Ben Metcalf. "Con el título y registro apropiados, los propietarios de viviendas pueden tener la seguridad y tranquilidad que provienen de tener un hogar

estable y seguro".

Son aptos los propietarios de casas rodantes y viviendas prefabricadas que nunca solicitaron el registro y no tienen el título. En muchos casos, estos son propietarios que nunca supieron que la propiedad se debe titular y registrar, mientras que otros deseaban el título pero no podían afrontar el costo debido a impuestos atrasados y tarifas e impuestos locales.

Sin el título y el registro, los propietarios de viviendas pueden enfrentar embargos en sus hogares debido a impuestos y tarifas sin pagar, lo que les impide vender legalmente el hogar o transferirlo a un ser querido. Además, los propietarios no podrán obtener seguro contra incendios o permisos de construcción para mejoras, y es posible que no sean aptos para recibir asistencia financiera ni descuentos en servicios.

HCD lanzó un esfuerzo de divulgación para elevar el conocimiento del programa. El departamento brinda información a gestores de campo de casas rodantes y viviendas prefabricadas, grupos comunitarios de casas rodantes y viviendas prefabricadas y asociaciones estatales. El personal de HCD realiza presentaciones y brinda asistencia para la solicitud en lugares donde se reúnen los propietarios de casas rodantes y viviendas prefabricadas.

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Student-Athlete Receives Car From National Auto Body Council

STOCKTON, CA – The Monarcas Academy soccer organization alongside the National Auto Body Council will present a Stockton, CA, student-athlete with a much-needed vehicle. The car donation is part of the Recycled Rides™ program, a collaborative effort by collision industry businesses who team up to repair and donate cars

to individuals in need.

The student-athlete, who was nominated for the program by Monarcas Soccer Academy, will receive a 2016 Hyundai Elantra. Fabian's Collision Center, Inc., in Stockton, CA, obtained the vehicle, provided the repairs and several local businesses contributed vehicle maintenance services.



“It’s been a tremendous honor supporting a hard working and well deserving student athlete,” said Fabian Ceballos, Owner, Fabian’s Collision Center, Inc. “It is a humbling privilege to be able to help improve the life of a member of our community”.

About Monarcas Central Valley Soccer Academy

Monarcas Academy was founded in 2004 and is a Central Valley Soccer Club based in Stockton, CA. Monarcas Academy is constituted as an independent 501c3 non-profit organization, for the purpose of allowing its teams to play soccer at the highest level of competition while promoting higher

education to its athletes. Central Valley Monarcas Academy seeks to empower positive, contributing citizens and provide the best support and education to the youth soccer community. www.monarcasacademy.com

About the National Auto Body Council

The National Auto Body Council is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting community initiatives that exemplify the professionalism and integrity of the collision industry. Our ongoing and continued success is a direct result of the efforts and support of our sponsoring companies and membership. NationalAutoBodyCouncil.org

DACAmented

continued from Page 12

Valley, Tulare, where I lived the majority of my life until I graduated from high school,” said Ramírez.

His parents barely made it to middle school, he said.

“My parents definitely instilled education in me. The reason why they came to the country was for me to get a good education and to get a good job and get a good life.”

His work has involed the immigrant community

Xavier Vázquez Báez has made no secret about how DACA has helped him since 2013 when he applied and was accepted.

The 2013 Fresno State graduate (bachelor’s in political science) has taken an active role.

He wasn’t intimidated last week to share his story as he stood in front of the Robert E. Coyle Federal Building in downtown Fresno with many community members and organizations to lobby for DACA.

We sported a black T-shirt emblazoned with “I AM AN IMMIGRANT” in red-and-white letters.

Vázquez Báez came to the U.S. from the central Mexican state of Tlaxcala when he was 13. His family is a mixed status family – one of his siblings is also a DACA recipient while his younger sibling is a U.S. citizen. Both of his parents lack legal status.

He attended San Joaquín Delta College before he transferred to Fresno State.

Right after he obtained his work permit thanks to DACA, Vázquez Báez worked for the Consulate of Mexico in Fresno.

“That allowed me to work for the consulate for three years,” he said.

He worked on many immigration-related issues there.

“We worked with community organizations helping undocumented folks with their DACA applications.”

Vázquez Báez works as director of immigration services for the non-profit Education and Leadership Foundation in Fresno. The foundation was launched in 2012 and has served approximately 12,000 young adults – documented and undocumented – with DACA applications, scholarships, citizenship applications or petitioning family members for visas.

Vázquez Báez had the opportunity to travel to México through the foundation a couple of months ago under DACA’s advance parole.

Because the trip took place right after Trump was inaugurated as president, Vázquez Báez said it was a little scary for him since he was afraid of what could happen now that Trump

was president.

“I went for a week because I knew the risk coming back,” Vázquez Báez said.

He was worried that he wouldn’t be admitted back at the border.

Trump’s campaign promise to rescind DACA, opened his eyes to the possibility that deportation could happen if DACA was taken away and that he would end up going back to a country he doesn’t know.

“My adult life has been here. This is where I’ve been working. This is where I studied. This is where my life is,” he said.

Vázquez Báez renewed his DACA status about a month ago and now he is waiting for the administration approval.

He has renewed his DACA application twice, once in 2015 and now in 2017. His current DACA card would have expired in January 2018.

“Let’s see what happens,” he said, adding that he is asking Congress to fight for all DACA recipients and be their voice in Washington, D.C.

If his application gets approved, Vázquez Báez would have another two years protection from deportation under DACA.

Vázquez Báez didn’t know who the Dreamers back in 2012. Now, he said, they are lawyers, doctors, and professionals who had proved themselves to contributed to the community in many ways from buying houses to paying taxes.

“We are not criminals,” he said.

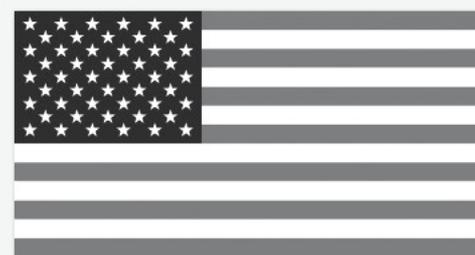
Vázquez Báez said the weekend before the announcement by the White House to rescind the DACA program, the foundation helped DACA recipients to file their applications.

“We opened our office at 7 and we finished at 4,” he said, adding that they wanted to have all the cases they could ready to go and filed before the announcement was made on Sept. 5. “I feel accomplished because we were able to send those (new) cases so those individuals would be able to benefit from DACA.”

TOTAL DACA-ELIGIBLE POPULATION IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY BY COUNTY

Sacramento County: 13,000
San Joaquin County: 11,000
Stanislaus County: 8,000
Merced County: 6,000
Madera County: 4,000
Fresno County: 18,000
Kings County: 3,000
Tulare County: 11,000
Kern County: 15,000

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Nothing Stops a Bullet like a Job” Resource Fair

On the Frontlines: Ending Gun Violence Summit

Fathers & Families of San Joaquin (FFSJ) has the pleasure of inviting you to attend our “Nothing Stops a Bullet like a Job” Resource Fair (Wednesday, October 18, 2017 (10:00 am to 2:00 pm) leading into our On the Frontlines: Ending Gun Violence Summit (Thursday, October 19, 2017 (9 am-5 pm) at the Stockton Memorial Civic Auditorium (525 N. Center St, Stockton, CA 95202).

The purpose of the Resource Fair is to provide individuals opportunities for success rather than resorting to unhealthy avenues that lead to violence and crime. We aim to reach this goal through employment and financial

stability and the implementation of healing approaches, which can help to foster growth and healthy development. Services provided at the resource fair will include: resume-building and preparation, free record expungements, tattoo removals, and access to employment opportunities for community residents in need of employment resources. The resource fair is but one small aspect we feel can contribute to a greater sense of belonging, awareness, and prevention in our strategy to end gun violence.

On the Frontlines Summit on Day 2 (10/19), we will gather alongside policymakers, community members, system leaders and changemakers to hold sacred

space with one another and share stories, ideas, and transformational proposals about how we can strategize to end gun violence locally. We know that Stockton can and will be the catalyst for change in the state of California. We must enable those who are most impacted by gun violence to amplify their voices and elevate their platform as survivors, advocates, and community organizers. The summit will include spoken word performances, guest speakers, workshops, and much more.

Our key partners and sponsors for this event includes Sierra Health Foundation, Hope and Heal Fund to Stop Gun Violence of San Francisco, Revolve Impact, Alliance for Boys and Men of Color, PolicyLink, Faith in the Valley San Joaquin, First 5 of San Joaquin, La-

tino Community Foundation, National Compadres Network, American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, The One Woman’s Love (OWL) Movement, City of Stockton Office of Violence Prevention, Stockton Trauma Recovery Center at FFSJ, Stockton Angel Mothers, Ink Off Me, and American Leadership Forum Great Valley.

Please share this message with those who you feel can benefit greatly from this space and ask them to register for a truly unconventional yet healing experience. Space is limited so please RSVP to secure your spot by the deadline on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 by 5 PM at tinyurl.com/OTFL-RegistrationForm. If you have any questions, you may contact Missy or Hannah at (209) 941-0701.

Stockton Arts Week Excites Community with Amazing Lineup!

Stockton, CA - Back for its second year, Stockton Arts Week is bursting with a variety of over 30 arts related events throughout Stockton October 13-22. This celebration of arts and culture, organized and promoted by Visit Stockton, gives local artists and arts organizations a chance to showcase their passion and collaborate with others while educating and engaging the public. Created to honor the thriving arts community in and around Stockton, Stockton Arts Week is gaining momentum, featuring the inclusion of many prominent organizations in 2017.

A few “not to miss” events include:

- The Haggin Museum’s “Reveal” event on October 13th. This ticketed event is a sneak peek at the massive \$2.5 million renovation recently completed at the museum. The Haggin will also feature free admission October 14 and 15 to share their revamped lobby, galleries, and special pieces with the community.

- The City of Stockton Community Services Department has partnered with Goodstock Productions to bring “Collide: A Stockton Arts Week Experience” to the Janet Leigh Plaza at 11am each weekday October 16-20. This outdoor event will feature food

trucks, performance art, visual art, live art, music and various collaborations.

- University of the Pacific will be celebrating Stockton Arts Week during their Homecoming events on October 21. Enjoy a showcase of Pacific student work from a variety of disciplines including performances by students from the Conservatory of Music. A large alumni band will perform during the annual Taste of Pacific event followed by a big announcement and performance by R&B artist H.E.R.

- Stockton Symphony will perform along with the silent film *The Mark of Zorro* during their POPS performance

at Atherton Auditorium on October 22.

Allison Cherry Lafferty, Chair of the Stockton Arts Commission said, “This is a fantastic way to boost the visibility of the various arts and cultural offerings our city has to offer. The commission is excited to see how Stockton Arts Week has been elevated this year and we look forward to it evolving in the future.”

For more information and a full list of events, visit StocktonArtsWeek.com or reach out to Robyn F. Cheshire, Visit Stockton, Director of Marketing and Communications at 209-636-4348 or robyn@visitstockton.org



Four domestic destinations & international service to Mexico begin in spring 2018

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – In a major route expansion at Sacramento International Airport, Southwest Airlines (WN) has announced new air service to five destinations, including the airport’s first-ever flight to Florida and Southwest’s first-ever international flight from Sacramento to Mexico. New destinations are Austin, Orlando, St. Louis, New Orleans and Cabo San Lucas (SJD). Southwest is also adding an additional flight to Burbank.

New nonstop service to Cabo and New Orleans begins March 10, 2018. New nonstop service to Austin and St. Louis begins April 8, 2018. New nonstop service to Orlando begins May 6, 2018. Tickets are on sale now at www.southwest.com

The Southwest announcement marks Sacramento International Airport’s first nonstop flight to Florida, to leisure-market-favorite Orlando, and its eighth nonstop destination on the East Coast. Other East Coast gateways include Boston and New York City

(JetBlue), Newark, NJ and Washington, DC (United Airlines), Baltimore (Southwest), Charlotte (American Airlines) and Atlanta (Delta).

The service expansion brings the total number of daily Southwest flights to 82, serving 22 nonstop destinations. Nonstop flights will be offered daily, except for New Orleans, which will be available on Sundays, and Cabo San Lucas, which will be available on Saturdays.

The Sacramento County Department of Airport is responsible for planning, developing, operating and maintaining the county’s four airports: Sacramento International Airport, Executive Airport, Mather Airport and Franklin Field. Sacramento International Airport (SMF) offers more than 150 daily nonstop flights on nine domestic and international carriers to 30 cities. The regional economic impact of the Sacramento County airport system is more than \$4 billion annually. For more information, visit <http://www.smf.aero>

AARP offers Smart Driver Course

AARP is offering the Smart Driver course at the Oak Park Senior Center located at 730 E Fulton St. In addition to learning safe driving strategies which can reduce the likelihood of a crash, participants of this course will learn how changes in aging, medications and other health-related issues affect driving ability and will learn how to recognize and adjust to these changes. Participants will earn a certificate which may entitle them to a discount on their auto insurance premiums and should check with their insurance agents. To register for this course or for more information contact Marina Estrada at 928-592-7087.

Espanol:

El curso AARP Smart Driver será ofrecido en el centro de mayores Oak Park Senior Center localizado al 730 E Fulton St. Este curso es el primer y más amplio curso de actualización del país diseñado específicamente para conductores de



50 años o más de edad. Algunas compañías de seguro de automóviles brindan un descuento en las primas a los participantes que completen un curso de seguridad para conductores aprobado por el estado. Se insta a los participantes a consultar su agente de seguros antes de tomar el curso AARP Smart Driver. El curso cuesta \$15 para miembros de AARP o \$20 para personas que no son miembros. Para información o para registrarse en el curso llame a Marina Estrada por teléfono 928-59-7087.

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SJCHCC Congratulates Bob Gutierrez Re-Elected as Vice Chair

Sonoma, CA) On Friday, August 25, 2017, the membership of the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce (CHCC) re-elected San Joaquin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SJCHCC) President, Bob Gutierrez, as Vice-Chairman and Frank Montes from the Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce as Board Chairman to their second terms in service for the organization. Serving as Vice Chairman for the past two years, Gutierrez has helped focus and stabilize the organization to enhance its capacity to advocate for Hispanic businesses and invest in a longterm vision by hiring Chief Executive Officer, Julian Canete.

Serving as President of the San Joaquin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has given Bob a clear understanding of the challenges Latino-owned small businesses encounter when trying to do business in California. During his election speech, Gutierrez expressed an appreciation for many of the regulatory and financial challenges businesses must overcome and the CHCC voting membership's trust in him to represent the organi-

zation, "My service to this organization and the business community has only been possible by the trust of the CHCC membership in me to represent our constituency by building bridges in community relations that ultimately provide access for our local Chambers and their members. We must continue to engage our policymakers to spark business-friendly policy reform and help our local Chambers spur economic development in their regions". The elections signal a greater change for the organization, reinforcing the CHCC Board of Directors commitment to bring consistent and transparent leadership to the organization and provide members with programs and services that can assist Hispanic companies grow, provide tools to help small business embrace innovation and changing technology and create access opportunities to dialogue with elected officials and regulators about the challenges California businesses face. SJCHCC was instrumental in the re-election of Bob Gutierrez, bringing ten delegates to participate at the election as a founding charter of the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce.



The CHCC held its 37th Annual Convention in Sonoma to bring together the small business community and discuss real issues affecting the future of the Hispanic community and California. The convention featured workshops on small business development, Chambers of Commerce best practices, and California regulatory topics such as cannabis and climate change to educate Chamber leaders and business professionals from throughout the State.

The San Joaquin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SJCHCC) represents the interests of business owners throughout the central valley. Established in 1972, the Chamber is a referral source and provides assistance in opening businesses, accessing capital, and links members-to-members through events held throughout the year. The Chamber sponsors monthly business mixers, workshops, tradeshow and conferences. For more information visit www.sjchispanicchamber.com

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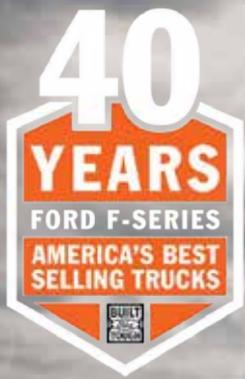
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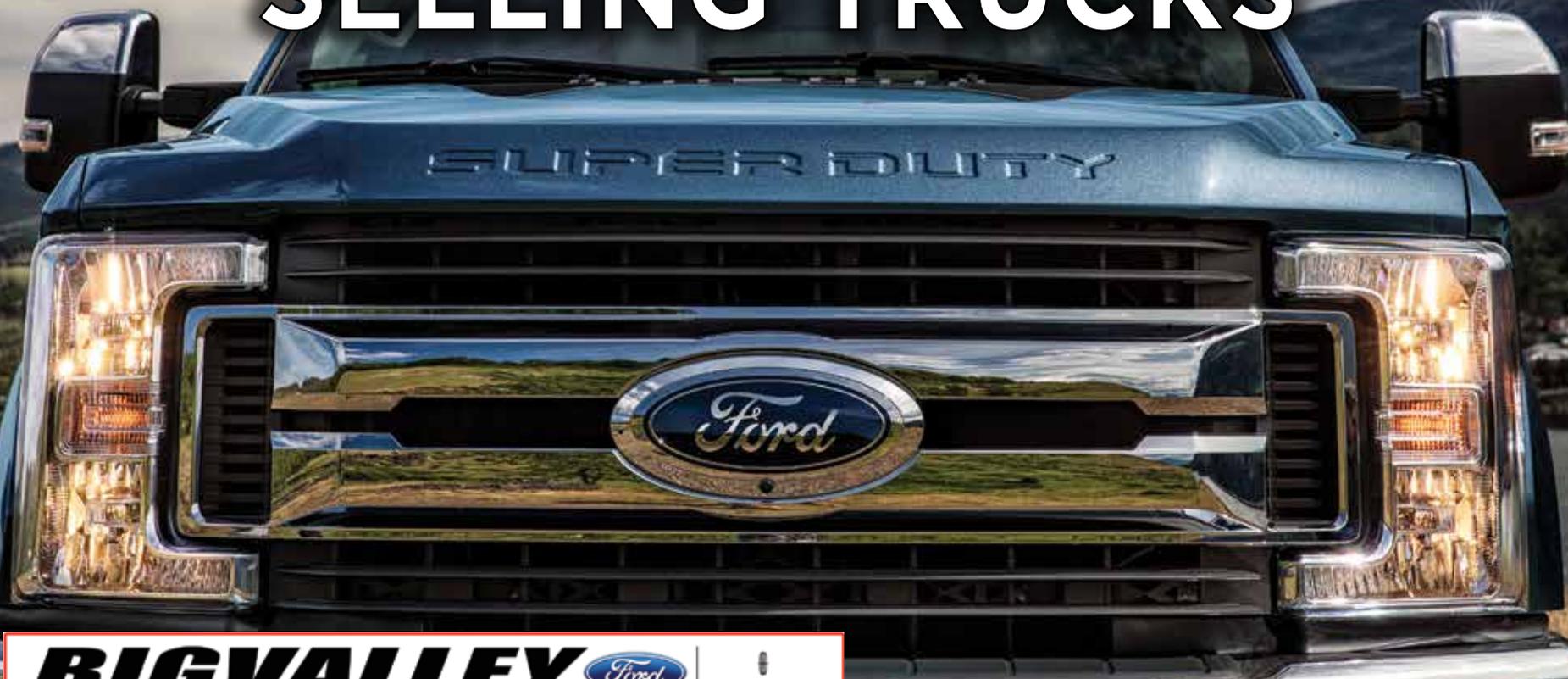
Oferta válida hasta el 31 de Octubre de 2017 a las 11:59 p.m. Visite el Club de Jugadores para obtener las reglas y detalles completos. Debe presentar este cupón al Club de Jugadores y presentar su tarjeta del Club de los jugadores e su identificación. No se puede utilizar en combinación con otras ofertas. Debe tener 18 años o más. No es transferible. Oferta única válida. No se aceptan copias o reproducciones. La gerencia reserva todos los derechos. Un anuncio por persona por mes.



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