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# Latino Times

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## Former Riverbank Mayor Announces Bid For Congress

By Rhashad R. Pittman

Virginia Madueño, the first Latina mayor of the City of Riverbank, has announced that she will run for Congress for the 10th Congressional District seat. If elected, she will more than likely be the first Latina to hold that office as well.

The 10th Congressional District seat represents roughly 700,000 residents in communities throughout Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties, including the cities of Modesto, Tracy and Manteca. The seat is currently being held by Rep. Jeff Denham, a Republican who has been in office since January 2013.

Madueño officially launched her campaign on Aug. 31 in her hometown of Riverbank with friends, family and supporters in attendance. Although a registered Democrat, the Modesto native hopes to work across party lines amid the divisiveness that has plagued Congress

and much of the country. To do so, she must first win the Democratic primary election in June to be on the ballot for the general election that will take place in November 2018.

“Representing my community’s voice in Washington is a big responsibility,” Madueño said shortly before her official launch, “and I am asking this district to trust me to be their voice. And I am ready. I was born and raised in this district and know that I can bring the people of this community together. It’s what I’ve always done, and it’s what I will do as our next representative in Washington.”

Madueño said she is running mainly because she feels issues affecting local residents are not being adequately addressed. Some of the most pressing issues facing the district, she said, are immigration reform, access to healthcare, a lack of job opportu-

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## Ex Alcalde de Riverbank Anuncia Candidatura para el Congreso

Por Rhashad R. Pittman

Virginia Madueño, la primera alcaldesa latina de la ciudad de Riverbank, ha anunciado que presentará su candidatura para el 10º Distrito del Congreso. Si es elegida, será más que probable que sea la primera latina en ocupar ese cargo también.

El 10º asiento del distrito del congreso representa a aproximadamente 700,000 residentes en comunidades a través de los condados de Stanislaus y de San Joaquin, incluyendo las ciudades de Modesto, Tracy y de Manteca. El asiento está actualmente en manos del representante Jeff Denham, un republicano que ha estado en el cargo desde enero de 2013.

Madueño lanzó oficialmente su campaña el 31 de agosto en su ciudad natal Riverbank con amigos, familiares y simpatizantes presentes. Aunque un demócrata registrada, la nativa de Modesto espera trabajar a través de los partidos entre la división que ha plagado el congreso y mucho del país. Para ello, primero debe ganar las elecciones primarias demócratas en junio para estar en la boleta electoral para las elecciones generales que tendrán lugar en noviembre de 2018.

“Representar la voz de mi comunidad en Washington es una gran responsabilidad,” dijo Madueño poco antes de su lanzamiento oficial, “y le pido a este distrito que confíe en que yo sea su voz. Y estoy lista. Yo nací y crecí en este distrito

y sé que puedo reunir a la gente de esta comunidad. Es lo que siempre he hecho, y es lo que haré como nuestro próximo representante en Washington.”

Madueño dijo que está corriendo principalmente porque considera que las cuestiones que afectan a los residentes locales no están siendo atendidas adecuadamente. Algunos de los problemas más apremiantes que enfrenta el distrito, dijo, son la reforma migratoria, el acceso a la atención médica, la falta de oportunidades de trabajo, las pequeñas empresas sobrecargadas y la educación.

Como nativa de Modesto, casada, madre de tres hijos y propietaria de una pequeña empresa, Madueño siente que tiene una profunda comprensión de los problemas y una fuerte conexión con los residentes locales, particularmente haber sido nacida de padres inmigrantes que trabajaban en los campos mientras luchaban financieramente para criar a seis hijos.

Algunos de los problemas más inevitables que enfrenta el distrito han desempeñado un papel integral en su vida personal, señaló, lo que alimenta su pasión para abogar y encontrar soluciones para abordarlos.

### Inmigración

Los padres de Madueño emigraron de Penjamillo, Michoacán, México antes de que ella naciera. Sus tres hermanos

Ver **CONGRESO** Pág 3



## DACA has shielded nearly 790,000 young unauthorized immigrants from deportation

By Jens Manuel Krogsta

Pew Research

Nearly 790,000 young unauthorized immigrants have received work permits and deportation relief through the federal government’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program since it was created five years ago by President Barack Obama, according to the latest data released by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The program, known as DACA, was created through an executive action Obama signed in August 2012.

It gives unauthorized immigrants who came to the U.S. before age 16 – a group sometimes called “Dreamers” – a chance to stay in the U.S. to study or work, provided they meet certain conditions such as being enrolled in high

school or having a high school degree or GED equivalent, and not having a serious criminal conviction. Those approved for the program are given a work permit and protection from deportation for two years, and these benefits can be renewed.

Since 2012, about 800,000 such renewals have been issued. Requests for renewals have increased significantly each quarter since spring 2016 – from about 16,000 in the third quarter of fiscal 2016 to about 122,000 in the second quarter of fiscal 2017 – as an increasing number of program participants have become eligible to renew their benefits for another two years. Halfway through fiscal 2017, more than 200,000 unauthorized immigrants have renewed their benefits so

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## Rep. Denham Statement on President Trump Ending DACA

WASHINGTON – U.S. Representative Jeff Denham (R-Turlock) issued the following statement in response to President Trump's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. This action follows a letter sent to the White House on Aug. 22 in which Rep. Denham, Rep. David Valadao (CA-21) and several of their colleagues expressed support for the program.

"We should be dedicating our resources to securing our borders and deporting the violent criminals preying on our communities, not going after individuals who were brought to

America as children through no fault of their own. The government asked these young men and women to come out of the shadows, and they have passed background checks, opened bank accounts, gotten jobs, enrolled in our universities – all positive contributions to our society and our economy. To target them now is wrong. We have several widely-supported immigration reform bills already introduced this Congress, in both the House and the Senate, that would address a path forward for DACA recipients. We must act immediately to pass these if we're to meet the president's six-month deadline."

## Schweininger new CVHCC CEO

The Central Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has named Christine Schweininger as its new President/CEO. Christine will continue to oversee the Chamber's operations as well as work to ensure Chamber programs and services run with a high degree of excellence that their members have come to expect.

The CVHCC was established in 1998 in the San Joaquin County. Two years ago, the board relocated to Stanislaus County where it has established an office in Modesto. The CVHCC supports the economic development and growth of Hispanic and non Hispanic businesses in the Central Valley. One of our primary goals is to offer programs, services and networking opportunities for members and the community at large. The Chamber provides assistance in business start-ups, and links members-to-members through its many events and educational seminars held throughout the year. In addition, the Chamber serves as a referral source for the agencies and organizations needing information about the local Hispanic community.

For more information contact the Chamber Office at (209) 789-5123 or visit our website at [info@cvhcc.com](mailto:info@cvhcc.com)

In her current role as President of the Chamber, Christine has helped triple membership, open a new office in downtown Modesto,



Christine Schweininger

and has added several signature events including Employer Education Seminars and the Annual Installation Dinner. She has developed strong professional networks within the community and with other local Chambers to build new business opportunities for members.

"Christine has been instrumental in growing the Central Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to becoming the Hispanic networking partner it has become today. We are lucky to have her as our President/CEO"

- Lourdes Uranday,  
CVHCC Board Member

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## DACA

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far. (The latest government data include the first two quarters of fiscal year 2017, through March 31; the full fiscal year ends Sept. 30.)

In total, about 1.1 million unauthorized immigrants are eligible for the benefits, according to a 2014 Pew Research Center estimate, which means that about 78% of those potentially eligible have applied to the program. The total reflects the number of applications during the life of the program, not the number of applications approved or immigrants currently receiving benefits.

President Donald Trump is weighing whether to continue the program or end it. In the past, Trump has said he may create a way for those who have benefited from DACA to stay in the U.S., but he also made a campaign promise to undo all executive actions taken by Obama.

Separately, Congress is weighing legislation to give "Dreamers" a chance to legally stay in the U.S. A bill backed by a group of Democratic and Republican senators would offer protection from deportation and a work permit for three years to those eligible for DACA benefits.

Several U.S. senators who support the bill represent states with some of the highest number of DACA recipients, including California, Illinois and Arizona. California alone has 222,795 initial DACA recipients, the highest in the nation, followed by Texas (124,300) and Illinois (42,376).

Unauthorized immigrants from Mexico make up more than three-quarters of all DACA recipients. Since the program started, 78% of approved applications – both initial (618,342) and renewals (622,170) – have come from Mexicans.

perencia de primera mano," ella dijo.

Madueño argumentó que el Congreso necesita aprobar una reforma migratoria integral con un camino hacia la ciudadanía para "arreglar nuestro sistema de inmigración roto y hacer crecer nuestra economía."

Agregó que deportar a los Dreamers no es la respuesta.

"Creo que los beneficiados de DACA llegaron a este país cuando eran niños y quedaron en las sombras de nuestro sistema de inmigración roto sin culpa por su cuenta," dijo Madueño. "Nuestro sistema

de inmigración está roto, pero deportar a los jóvenes que no han hecho nada mal del único país que han conocido nunca va a arreglarlo."

## Cuidado de la salud

El reciente intento en el Congreso de revocar la Ley de Asistencia Asequible también resonó con Madueño. Antes de que el acto, conocido como Obamacare, fuera aprobado, ella luchó para conseguir la salud adquisitivo ella misma debido a una enfermedad pre-existente de la niñez.

"Tengo una condición preexistente y me han negado el seguro de salud por casi cinco años," dijo Madueño.

"Soy uno de los millones en Estados Unidos que no tenía seguro de salud por mucho tiempo porque el seguro de salud para un propietario de una pequeña empresa con una condición preexistente no estaba disponible o era prohibitivo."

Aunque no es perfecta, señaló, la Ley del Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio proporciona una base sólida para que el país aproveche. El siguiente paso, dijo Madueño, debería ser el seguro de salud por pagador individual.

## Pequeñas empresas y empleos

Madueño es propietaria de una pequeña empresa desde hace más de 15 años. Posee Imagen PR, LLC, una empresa de relaciones públicas y marketing. Las pequeñas empresas son una fuente vital de empleo e ingresos para muchas comunidades, dijo, pero están sobrecargadas de impuestos y regulaciones.

"Como propietaria de una pequeña empresa, sé que los pequeños negocios son la columna vertebral de nuestra economía local, y sin embargo ni Sacramento ni Washington están de nuestro lado," dijo Madueño. "Necesitamos líderes que luchan por nosotros. Por nuestro valle.

Además de aliviar las cargas impositivas y regulatorias que enfrentan los pequeños empresarios, Madueño quiere elevar el salario mínimo para los trabajadores e incrementar las inversiones en

capacitación laboral, educación superior y capacitación vocacional.

También quiere tratar de atraer a las compañías de Silicon Valley para que construyan oficinas satelitales en el Valle Central para asegurar empleos más bien remunerados para la región y cree que tienen un incentivo para hacerlo ya que muchos de sus trabajadores viajan desde la zona.

"Si ya los tenemos aquí, ¿no tiene sentido crear las mismas oportunidades con las compañías del Silicon Valley?" dijo Madueño.

## Campaña de escucha

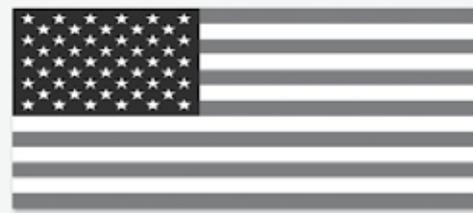
Además de ser elegida como alcalde de Riverbank en 2009, Madueño también fue vicepresidente de la organización sin fines de lucro El Concilio y vicepresidente de la Alianza de Cáncer de Ovario de California. Obtuvo una licenciatura en Comunicaciones de CSU Stanislaus. En 2006 fue una de sólo 20 mujeres seleccionadas para el Programa Nacional de Becarios del Instituto Hispana de Liderazgo en la Escuela de Gobierno John F. Kennedy de la Universidad de Harvard.

Para prepararse para su candidatura, Madueño ha asistido a varias reuniones públicas y se reunió con grupos comunitarios locales. También planea participar en una "campaña de escucha" para escuchar directamente de los residentes locales sobre cuáles son sus necesidades y preocupaciones más indispensables.

Durante los próximos meses, Madueño tendrá al menos 10 asambleas públicas en todo el distrito. Su primera asamblea fue programada para el 5 de septiembre.

"Los residentes con los que he tenido la oportunidad de reunirme son demócratas, republicanos, independientes, todos buscando lo mismo... poder proveer a sus familias," dijo. "La gente en este valle está luchando para llegar a fin de mes, para proporcionar una educación para sus hijos y para pagar los gastos básicos de vida. Esta campaña no se trata de mí. Se trata de ellos.

## ENGLISH TO SPANISH



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## Congreso

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mayores hicieron la caminata con sus padres. Así que el debate político en curso sobre si un muro debe ser construido a lo largo de la frontera de los Estados Unidos, o si los que cruzaron la frontera como niños pequeños con sus familias deben ser deportados, no puede dejar de atañerla.

"Necesitamos liderazgo que entienda el verdadero significado de la reforma migratoria, que cree que los inmigrantes son el fundamento mismo de nuestra existencia en Estados Unidos y que tiene la capacidad de tocar estos temas con ex-

# Congress

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nities, overburdened small businesses and education.

As a Modesto native, married mother of three boys and a small business owner herself, Madueño feels she has a deep understanding of the issues and a strong connection to local residents, particularly having been born to immigrant parents who worked the fields as they struggled financially to raise six children.

Some of the most pressing issues facing the district have played an integral role in her personal life, she noted, which fuels her passion to advocate for and find solutions to address them.

## Immigration

Madueño's parents immigrated from Penjamillo, Michoacán, Mexico before she was born. Her three older siblings made the trek with her parents. So the ongoing political debate about whether a wall should be built along the U.S. Mexico border, or if those who crossed the border as young children with their families should be deported, can't help but hit home.

"We need leadership who understands the true meaning of immigration reform, who believes immigrants are the very foundation of our American existence and who has the ability to touch on these issues with first-hand experience," she said.

Madueño argued that Congress needs to pass comprehensive immigration reform with a path to citizenship to "fix our broken immigration system and grow our economy."

She added that deporting Dreamers was

not the answer.

"I believe DACA recipients came to this country when they were children and were left in the shadows of our broken immigration system through no fault of their own," Madueño said. "Our immigration system is broken, but deporting young people who have done nothing wrong from the only country they've ever known is not going to fix it."

## Healthcare

The recent attempt in Congress to repeal the Affordable Care Act also resonated with Madueño. Before the act, known as Obamacare, was passed, she struggled to get affordable healthcare herself due to a pre-existing childhood illness.

"I have a pre-existing condition and I was denied health insurance for nearly five years," Madueño said.

"I am one of millions in America who had no health insurance for a long time because health insurance for a small business owner with a pre-existing condition was not available or was cost prohibitive."

Although it isn't perfect, she noted, the Affordable Care Act provides a strong foundation for the country to build upon. The next step, Madueño said, should be single payer health insurance.

## Small Businesses and Jobs

Madueño has been a small business owner for more than 15 years. She owns Imagen PR, LLC, a public relations and marketing firm. Small businesses are a vital source of jobs and revenue for many communities, she said, yet they are overburdened with taxes and regulations.

"As a small business owner, I know that small business are the backbone of our local economy – and yet neither Sacramento nor Washington is on our side," Madueño said. "We need leaders who will fight for us. For our valley."

In addition to easing the tax and regulatory burdens that small business owners face, Madueño wants to raise the minimum wage for workers and increase investments in job training, higher education and vocational skills training.

She also wants to try to entice Silicon Valley companies to build satellite offices in the Central Valley to secure more high-paying jobs for the region and believes they have an incentive to do so since many of their workers commute from the area.

"If we're already housing them here, doesn't it make sense to create the same opportunities with Silicon Valley companies," Madueño said.

## Listening Campaign

In addition to being elected mayor of Riverbank in 2009, Madueño also served as vice president of the nonprofit organization El Concilio and vice president of the

Ovarian Cancer Alliance of California. She earned a bachelor's degree in Communications from CSU Stanislaus. In 2006 she was one of only 20 women selected for the National Hispana Leadership Institute Fellows Program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

To prepare for her candidacy, Madueño has attended a number of public meetings and met with local community groups. She also plans to take part in a "listening campaign" to hear first-hand from local residents about what their most pressing needs and concerns are.

During the next couple of months, Madueño will hold at least 10 town halls throughout the district. Her first town hall was scheduled for Sept. 5.

"The residents I have had the opportunity to meet with are Democrats, Republicans, Independents – all looking for the same thing...to be able to provide for their families," she said. "People in this valley are struggling to make ends meet, to provide an education for their children and to pay for basic living expenses. This campaign is not about me. It's about them."



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# Aún peligran los cuidados de salud para los niños de California

By Viji Sundaram - NAM

Conseguir revocar y reemplazar, o si no ...

Ese ultimátum del Presidente Trump a Mitch McConnell, el líder de la mayoría en el Senado, ordenándole eliminar a Obamacare, puede ser tan solo hacer alarde de su poder, sin embargo la mayoría de los Republicanos en el Senado aún se empeñan en derrocar la ley de asistencia médica a pesar de tres intentos fallidos de hacerlo el mes pasado.

“Mientras que nos sentimos aliviados de que se han detenido las propuestas, sabemos que las amenazas continúan”, dijo Anthony Wright, el director ejecutivo de Access California, en una sesión informativa organizada por New America Media.

Si el Senado hubiera tenido éxito en la reestructuración de Obamacare, hasta 6 millones de californianos se hubieran visto no asegurados, dijo Wright. Actualmente, un tercio de los californianos depende de Medi-Cal (el nombre en California de Medicaid, el programa de seguro médico para personas de bajos ingresos).

Cuando los senadores vuelven de su descanso de agosto, tendrán que aprobar un presupuesto antes del 30 de septiembre. La reforma tributaria y asistencia médica serán una parte íntegra de ese debate.

Mayra Álvarez, panelista y presidenta de The Children's Partnership, advirtió que si el presupuesto propuesto fuera aprobado, los cortes en el programa de asistencia médica impactaría

a millones de familias pobres y de clase obrera y sus hijos.

Juntos, Medi-Cal y el Programa de Seguro Médico para Niños (CHIP, por sus siglas en inglés) cubren a más de 5.7 millones de niños en California. CHIP, un programa de 20 años, cubre a niños cuyas familias son de bajos ingresos pero no lo suficientemente pobres como para cumplir los requisitos para Medi-Cal. A menos que se reautorice su financiación por el gobierno federal, caducará el 30 de septiembre.

“Medi-Cal y CHIP son el sustento para familias que no se pueden permitir un seguro médico”, dijo Álvarez, destacando que los niños de color son los que se encuentran desproporcionadamente representados en los programas.

Entre los muchos beneficios que reciben los niños de los dos programas se encuentran servicios de prevención gratuitos, incluyendo cuidados dentales, exámenes de la vista, y servicios de salud mental. Eso los pone en camino a ser adultos sanos y productivos.

Medi-Cal ampliado, hecho posible con Obamacare, ha ayudado a cubrir a niños con autismo y cardiopatía congénita. Ha cubierto a niños en familias de acogida, dijo Álvarez.

Medi-Cal financiado por el estado ha cubierto a 190,000 niños indocumentados menores de 19 años desde que se lanzó en mayo del año pasado. Aunque el programa no recibe dólares federales, cualquier corte al Medi-Cal tradicional pondrá más presión en el presupuesto estatal, poniendo en peligro



el programa financiado por el estado.

Andie Patterson, directora de Government Affairs con la California Primary Care Association, dijo que si los Republicanos no reautorizan la financiación de los centros de salud antes del 30 de septiembre, California puede perder \$334 millones en financiación federal. Eso significaría que unos 324,000 pacientes no tendrán acceso a servicios de asistencia médica primarios y preventivos.

Patterson dijo que previo a Obamacare, muchos pacientes que venían a los centros de salud comunitarios no estaban asegurados, lo que les forzaba a funcionar en rojo.

Eso cambió muchísimo cuando Obamacare permitió ampliar Medi-Cal, agregando a unos 3.7 millones californianos más a sus listas. Hoy, casi el 57 por ciento de los pacientes de Medi-Cal, o uno de cada siete californianos, utiliza los centros de salud comunitarios, dijo.

“Cualquier amenaza a Medi-Cal debilita la supervivencia de los centros de salud”, dijo Patterson.

También amenazadas por los Republicanos son las clínicas de Planned Parenthood. Los Republicanos han dicho que dejarían de financiarlas durante por lo menos un año. Y aunque han dicho que desviarían esos fondos a centros de salud para que pudieran brindar atención a los pacientes de Planned Parenthood, “los centros de salud de California se oponen fundamentalmente a la idea”, dijo Patterson.

Dijo que esas clínicas atienden a unos 800,000 pacientes por año, la mayoría de familias de bajos ingresos.

“Será imposible absorber a esos pacientes o ofrecerles los mismos servicios”, dijo.

Patterson dijo que las clínicas CPCA están instando a sus pacientes a presionar a sus legisladores federales a que no derroquen Obamacare.

A una pregunta de un periodista que preguntó sobre la seguridad de las 1.5 millones de familias de estado mixto, muchos de los cuales han inscrito a sus niños en Medi-Cal, Álvarez dijo que por el momento nada ha cambiado y las familias deben seguir aprovechando el programa.

“La información [de los formularios de solicitud] solo se usa para decidir la elegibilidad, no se usa para fines de cumplimiento”, dijo, destacando que los defensores de la asistencia médica están haciendo todo lo posible para comunicar esto a las comunidades.

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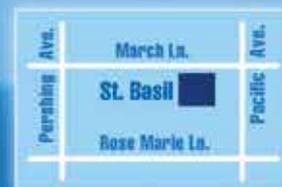
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# Salaries have risen for high-skilled foreign workers in U.S. on H-1B visa

By Neil G. Ruiz - Pew Research  
U.S. employers planned to pay high-skilled foreign workers with H-1B visas a median salary of \$80,000 a year in fiscal year 2016, up from about \$69,000 a decade earlier, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of new U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services data.

This is the first time the U.S. government has made salary information about H-1B applicants publicly available. Most H-1B applicants get approved for visas, so the data provide a window into the salaries of high-skilled foreign workers employed in the United States.

The 2016 median salary reported for H-1B visa applicants was higher than the median salary paid to some U.S. workers in similar high-skill occupations. For example, U.S. workers in computer and mathematical occupations had a median salary of \$75,036 in fiscal 2016, a slight increase from 2007, when the median salary was \$73,979 (adjusted to 2016 dollars), according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data on all U.S. workers. The majority (60%) of all H-1B applicants from fiscal 2007 to 2016 were seeking employment in computer and mathematical occupations.

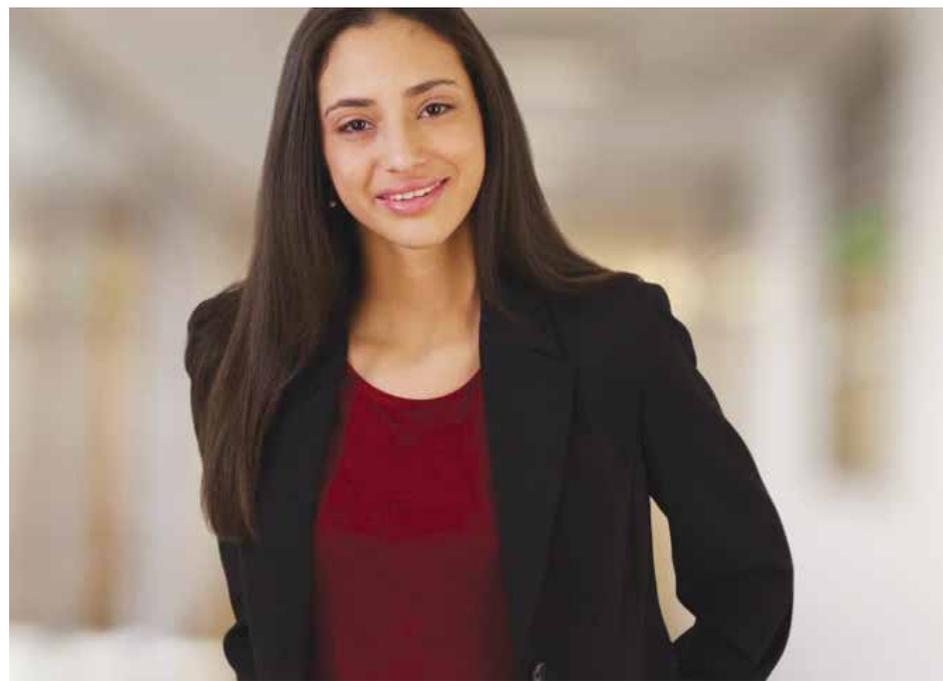
The H-1B visa program is the primary way employers in the U.S. hire high-skilled foreign workers. The program allows employers to hire foreigners to work for up to six years in jobs that require highly specialized knowl-

edge, and workers' employment may be extended if they have green card applications pending. To participate, employers first submit applications to the U.S. Department of Labor attesting that no U.S. citizen worker would be displaced by the prospective foreign worker. The application is then reviewed by USCIS before the State Department interviews the foreign worker and issues the visa.

Several bills have been proposed in Congress this year to change the H-1B program, and the Trump administration has said it backs a plan that would reverse decades of U.S. immigration policy by admitting more high-skilled immigrants and fewer low-skilled immigrants.

The new USCIS data, released as part of the administration's review of the nation's immigration policy, do not allow for precise estimates of the total number of H-1B visa holders in the U.S., in part because figures for first-time and renewal applicants are not separated. (The data also combine visas subject to an annual cap and those not subject to the cap.)

The USCIS data show that overall demand for H-1B visas has increased sharply over the past decade. The number of total H-1B visa applications filed by employers on behalf of foreign workers increased from 246,126 in fiscal 2009 to 399,349 in 2016, and is on pace to reach a new high in 2017. Overall, U.S. employers filed more than 3.4 million H-1B visa applications



from fiscal 2007 through the end of June 2017 (the first nine months of fiscal 2017).

The U.S. government also released H-1B visa salaries that individual employers plan to pay foreign workers, as indicated on applications approved by USCIS (and still subject to State Department review).

The biggest names in technology planned to pay the highest average salary to H-1B visa holders in fiscal 2016. But they also expected to hire fewer workers than other companies, according to data on applications approved by USCIS. Facebook planned to pay an average salary of \$140,758 on 1,107 H-1B visa applications (a total that includes both first-time

and renewal applications), the highest average salary paid among the 30 companies with the most visa approvals. Apple planned to pay a \$138,563 average salary on 1,992 applications, while Google paid a \$131,882 average salary on 2,517 applications.

The top prospective employers of foreign workers on H-1B visas provide information technology and other business services. Cognizant Tech Solutions, an IT consulting company based in New Jersey, had 21,459 applications approved in fiscal 2016, the most of any company. The next two top H-1B employers are companies based in India with offices in the U.S.: Infosys (12,780 applications approved) and Tata Consultancy (11,295).



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## Port of Stockton Commission Chair Elizabeth Blanchard Named President of the Association of Pacific Ports

STOCKTON, Calif. – The Port of Stockton today announced that Port Commissioner Dr. Elizabeth Blanchard has been named President of the Association of Pacific Ports (APP) for 2017-18. The appointment was announced at the recent 104th Annual Conference of the APP held in American Samoa. Her tenure as APP President officially began August 1. The Port of Stockton also announced that it will host the 105th Annual Conference of the APP July 15-18, 2018.

Dr. “Liz” Blanchard has been involved with the APP since she was named Port Commissioner at the Port of Stockton in 2008. She has been serving on the APP’s Executive Committee since 2010. Dr. Blanchard also is the current Board Chair for the Port of Stockton.

“The APP does valuable work, providing a forum where port directors can collaborate and develop best practices that increase port efficiency and keeps commerce moving,” said Dr. Blanchard. “I have been representing the Port of Stockton as a member of the APP for nearly a decade and participation has yielded benefits that have helped us streamline shipping from California’s Central Valley. I am honored to be named APP President for 2017-18.”

Dr. Blanchard holds a doctorate in psychology from the University of the Pacific and is a retired Professor



Dr. Elizabeth Blanchard

Emeritus of the San Joaquin Delta College Psychology Department and the University of the Pacific School of Education. She also is currently President of the Disabled American Veterans Charities of San Joaquin County. Dr. Blanchard also currently serves on six other community and organization boards and served for eight years on the Stockton City Planning Commission and for two years on the San Joaquin County Planning Commission.

Founded in 1913, the APP is a trade association that provides education and information to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of Pacific Ports. APP programs are designed to enhance the technical capabilities and governance expertise of port officials through meetings, seminars, and the exchange of information.

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# RTD announces a new Chief Operating Officer

Stockton, CA – San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) is pleased to announce that Jean Foletta-Morales has joined the agency as Chief Operating Officer (COO). In this new position, she will oversee transportation, maintenance, paratransit operations, and maintenance at RTD.

Ms. Foletta-Morales began her career in transit 18 years ago working as the Marketing Manager for RTD. She later worked in fixed route, paratransit, and mobility management

operations while at RTD.

“We are excited to welcome Jean Foletta-Morales back to RTD,” said RTD CEO Donna DeMartino. “She is a true public transit professional with a very well-rounded background. I am looking forward to seeing her improve our operations even further as we continue our drive to provide Extraordinary Customer Service.”

Ms. Foletta-Morales successfully started the first Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) in

Stanislaus County and served as the Transit System Manager for the City of Elk Grove. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from California State University Stanislaus and has served on the California Association for Coordinated Transportation (CalACT) Board of Directors. Ms. Foletta-Morales was awarded the American Public Works Association Professional Manager of the Year Award for Transportation in 2015.



Jean Foletta-Morales

# Fathers & Families of San Joaquin to have Book Drive

Fathers & Families of San Joaquin is currently having a book drive for the month of September, in order to have a successful FFSJ literacy fair this upcoming October 14, 2017.

Fathers & Families has been invested in the lives of our youth for over a decade through the San Joaquin County Alliance for Boys and Men of Color (SJC ABMOC). Our efforts of improving life outcomes of our boys and young men of color are pivotal for all the communities of Stockton, and greater San Joaquin

Valley. The educational workgroup of the alliance, uses “My Brother’s Keeper” (MBK) educational ‘milestones’ for our youth in hopes of impacting suspension rates, discipline practices, and school push outs that make School-To-Prison pipeline a harsh reality.

Through our #ReadingsLIT campaign, we host community forums that promote literacy through book giveaways to low-income families.

At our last campaign, held on Saturday January 28, 2017, we gave away over

700 books. In addition to the books that were donated, the Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library issued 20 new library cards to families.

In our continued effort to ignite a strong commitment towards literacy for our youth, we will be hosting another #ReadingsLIT campaign themed, “Reading Today, Success Tomorrow” on Saturday, October 14, 2017, from 11am to 2pm.

Our goal is to galvanize a base of 150 children of all ages to commit to literacy

and ultimately get families to fall in love with reading books.

My petition to you in this missive, is for books or donations for book purchases. Any suggestions towards local authors, invested partners/educators, or individuals/groups, please notify us via email or RSVP at fashaolu@ffsj.org or jschwanker@ffsj.org FFSJ appreciates any help that you may be able to assist us in. Thank you for your time and consideration for the success of our literacy fair.

# Successful Renewal of the Downtown Stockton District

The Downtown Stockton Property Based Business Improvement District (PBID) was successfully renewed for another 10-year term to fund services provided to the downtown property and business owners by the Downtown Stockton Alliance (DSA).

Results of the recent ballot were announced by the City Clerk’s office during the City Council meeting on July 25, 2017. 82% of the ballots returned by downtown property owners were in favor of the recertification, allowing DSA to move forward with 10 more years of management of the Downtown Stockton District.

The PBID district supplies environmental, economic development, advocacy and administration services in the 123-square block area of Downtown Stockton. The District is funded by assessments on properties within its boundaries, collected largely by the County of San Joaquin and distributed

to the DSA for provision of services outlined in the Downtown Stockton Management District Plan. “Approval for another 10 years of service to the downtown property and business owners through the PBID is a major milestone for DSA and we will continue to provide excellent service.

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# California Kids Still Face Risks to Health Care

By Viji Sundaram - NAM  
SAN FRANCISCO -- Get repeal and replace done, or else!

That ultimatum by President Trump to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell ordering him to get rid of Obamacare may be mere sabre rattling, but nevertheless the majority of Republicans in the Senate are still bent on upending the health care law despite three failed attempts to do that last month.

"While we are relieved that the proposals have stalled, we know the threats continue," said Health Access California's Executive Director Anthony Wright, speaking on a telebriefing hosted by New America Media.

Had the Senate succeeded in restructuring Obamacare, as many as 6 million Californians would have become uninsured, Wright said. Currently, one-third of Californians depend on Medi-Cal (California's name for Medicaid, the health insurance program for low-income people).

When senators return from their August recess, they would have to pass a budget by the Sept. 30 deadline. Tax reform and health care will be an integral part of that debate.

Panelist Mayra Alvarez, president of The Children's Partnership, warned that if the proposed budget were passed, cuts to the health care program would impact millions of poor and working class families and their kids.

Medi-Cal and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) together cover more than 5.7 million children in

California. CHIP, a 20-year-old program, covers children whose families are low-income but not poor enough to qualify for Medi-Cal. Unless its funding is reauthorized by the federal government, it will expire Sept. 30.

"Medi-Cal and CHIP are lifelines for families who cannot afford insurance on their own," Alvarez said, noting that children of color are disproportionately represented in the programs.

Among the many benefits children receive from the two programs are free preventive services, including dental care, vision exams and mental health services. That puts them on a trajectory to become healthy and productive adults.

Expanded Medi-Cal, made possible through Obamacare, has helped cover children with autism and congenital heart disease. It has provided coverage to children in foster care, Alvarez said.

State-funded Medi-Cal has covered 190,000 undocumented children under 19 since it launched in May last year. Even though the program doesn't receive federal dollars, any cuts to traditional Medi-Cal will put extra pressure on the state budget, putting the state-funded program in jeopardy.

Andie Patterson, director of Government Affairs with the California Primary Care Association, said that if Republicans don't reauthorize funding for health centers by Sept. 30, California stands to lose \$334 million in federal funding. That would mean around 324,000 patients will not have access to primary and preventive health care services.



Patterson said that prior to Obamacare, many of the patients who came to community health centers were uninsured, forcing them to operate in the red.

That changed significantly when Obamacare allowed Medi-Cal to expand, adding around 3.7 million more Californians to its rolls. Today, nearly 57 percent of Medi-Cal patients, or one in seven Californians, use community health centers, she said.

"Any threats to Medi-Cal undermines the survival of health centers," Patterson said.

Also under threat from Republicans are Planned Parenthood clinics. The Republicans have said they would stop funding them for at least one year. And even though they have said they would redirect those funds to health centers so they could provide care to Planned Parenthood patients, "health centers in California are fundamentally opposed to the idea," Patterson said.

She said about 800,000 patients, the majority from low-income families, are served annually by those clinics.

"It will be impossible to absorb those patients or provide them the same services," she said.

Patterson said CPCA clinics are urging their patients to put pressure on their federal legislators to not upend Obamacare.

To a question from a reporter asking how safe were the 1.5 million mixed status families, many of whom have enrolled their children in Medi-Cal, Alvarez said that as of now, nothing has changed and families should continue to take advantage of the program.

"Information [provided on the application forms] is only used to determine eligibility, not used for enforcement purposes," she said, noting that health care advocates are making every effort to let communities know this.

## \$36 Billion May Be Low Estimate for Growing Elder Fraud

By Kelli B. Grant - NAM

Fraud is becoming a bigger threat to your retirement security — even if you think you're too sharp to fall for a scam.

One 2015 report estimated that older Americans lose \$36.5 billion each year to financial scams and abuse. The problem is growing, and researchers say older adults experiencing cognitive decline are just a segment of the victims.

Three in 10 state securities regulators say they have seen an uptick over the past year in cases and complaints involving senior financial fraud and exploitation, according to a new survey from the

North American Securities Administrators Association. Only three percent reported a decline.

Thieves are following the money, said the association's president, Mike Rothman.

"This population that's retiring is one of the wealthiest, if not the wealthiest generation, in terms of their retirement savings," said Rothman, who is also the Minnesota commissioner of commerce. "Criminals know this as well."

It doesn't help that seniors can also be more vulnerable.

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## Salgado to join Latino Times sales team

Armando Salgado, born in El Paso, Texas, came to Stockton California in 1965. He graduated from Edison High School and attended San Joaquin Delta College. Mr. Salgado worked for Sims Metal Management in the Sacramento Division for 41 years, rising to the rank of Assistant Manager in Rancho Cordova. In 1998 he obtained the position of Operations Manager for the Stockton Division for 15 years and his tenure position as Director of Community Relations for the Central Valley and Sparks Nevada which ended in 2013.

He served on the San Joaquin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce as a Board-Member for six years. He has volunteered in a variety of committees such as government relations, Golf Tournament Assistant Chair and other various positions. He later worked his business with Ambit Energy and retired in 2015. Mr. Salgado was also an active participant in the Mexican American Bowling Association here in Stockton.

Mr. Salgado has decided to come out of retirement to join the workforce with Latino Times as Director of Sales.

## Local Latina Business Leaders Recognized At Hispanic State Conference



Lisa Vela



Christine Schweininger

Stockton's own Lisa Vela, General Manager for Entravision Communications, received the Regional Business Award representing the Central Region at the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce 38th Annual State Convention held in Sonoma. We congratulate Lisa on this prestigious award.

Congratulations to the Central Val-

ley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on receiving Chamber of the Year at the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce 38th Annual Convention. The Central Valley Hispanic Chamber, led by Christine Schweininger, President/CEO, represents Stanislaus County and was chosen the award out of 55 chambers throughout the State.

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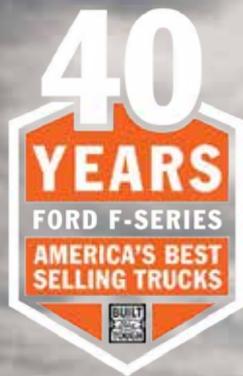
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