



Merced County Farm News



Farm Bureau president outlines organization’s priorities



California Farm Bureau President, Jamie Johansson, speaking during the General Session of the 102nd Annual Meeting. Picture Credits: Caliofrnia Farm Bureau

By: California Farm Bureau

Calling for “farmer-led solutions” to issues confronting agriculture, California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson pledged the organization would respond to state government actions on the pandemic, climate change and other policies.

Speaking to members via webcast from the Farm Bureau

building in Sacramento during the 102nd California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Johansson said farmers and ranchers acted quickly and responsibly during the COVID-19 pandemic, to adjust working conditions and provide personal protective equipment to employees, and to assure a worried public about the continued availability and safety of food and farm products.

“Make no mistake about it, when it comes to worker safety and when it came to our families’ wellbeing, farmers and agriculture led the way,” Johansson said.

“We’ll continue to work as we move forward through this pandemic, looking into the future of what we need to do to take care of our employees,” he added, noting in particular the need to remove roadblocks to creation of more and better housing.

Describing agriculture as “the original green industry,” Johansson said state and federal climate policies must recognize the positive contributions farms and ranches make to the environment. He also urged the state to act quickly and decisively to address chronic water shortages and the increasing wildfire threat.

The annual scourge of wildfires “shouldn’t become normal,” Johansson said. “We should be outraged.” Noting that the state has directed significant resources toward wildfire prevention and forest management, he said Farm Bureau will review how effectively those resources have been used and will advocate for timely action.

Johansson celebrated the defeat of a November ballot initiative to create a

See 'Farm Bureau' Page 3

Assemblyman Adam Gray says he’s lost another committee assignment over water battles



By: Ken Carlson, The Modesto Bee

Assemblyman Adam Gray, D-Merced, said he

was removed from the chairmanship

of the Governmental Organization Committee over the No. 1 issue in his district — water.

The Merced Democrat lost a previous committee assignment because of his opposition to State Water Board proposals to take flows away from agriculture and other water users on the Tuolumne, Stanislaus and Merced rivers.

In April 2015, Gray was removed from the Assembly Water, Parks

and Wildlife Committee a day after a narrow committee vote approved his legislation to protect local communities that rely on water from those rivers.

“History repeats itself,” Gray said in a statement released Saturday. “I have spent my entire time in public office fighting Sacramento’s insatiable thirst for the Valley’s water. Every

See 'Gray' Page 6

Address

INSIDE:

5 100 Years Ago: Improving Life in the Farm Home

15 2020-2021 MCFB Board of Director Nominations

16 Member Spotlight: Hilmar Forest



Greetings from your Merced County Farm Bureau President. I hope this finds

from the
**President's
Corner**
Eric Harcksen

you and your family well and heading into a great Christmas.
We just finished up with the 102nd virtual California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. The meeting was held December 6-9, 2020. Through the virtual platform, individuals were able to log on in real time or can go back later to watch the keynote, a breakout

session or the awards ceremony. The keynote speaker was Vance Crowe who is a communications strategist. Crowe specializes in helping organizations realize why the general public doesn't agree with their perspective and provides way to resolve disagreements, community effectively and build a relationship across the way. Breakout sessions included:

- State and Federal Election Results and Impact
- COVID 19: The Monster that Ate 2020
- Empowering the Next Generation of Farm Bureau through YF&R
- Climate Change: Telling the

- Farmer's Story
- Nationwide – The Wildfire Impact on Your Management Plan
 - Post COVID Food Chain Resiliency
 - Our Water Future, Virtual or Real?
 - California Endangered Species Act Update and Wildlife Management
 - US Meat Processing: A Closer Look
 - Nationwide – Company Sponsored Retirement Plan Options for Your Business
 - Policy Roundtable
 - The Merits of Telling the Grower's Story

See 'President' Page 10

This is the time of year our office is setting the stage for the next twelve months. Discussion are based on what workshops, trainings and events our office would like to present for our membership and community. We also carry on reading necessary documents from various governmental offices that feel a document review period should be over a holiday break. Planning for 2020 has been a challenge and 2021 seems to be a continuous question.
Many of you were gracious enough to support our 2020 Annual Meeting and although we had to cancel due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) you were fully supportive. Sponsors said to keep the money and ticket holders said to reserve their tickets for the following year. At a time when there was so much uncertainty in how the pandemic would impact our lives, you stood and supported us. This may sound like something small to you, but it meant so much to our staff and board.
If the pandemic were to never take place, we would be informing you of the details of our 104th Annual Meeting. Well, the pandemic did happen, and we are still stuck in this rut of hand sanitizer and masks. For these reasons, our organization does not feel comfortable in going down

a path of planning an event that will eventually be blocked or canceled. We do plan to have our regular Annual Meeting in 2022 with the Former US Army Black Hawk Pilot Elizabeth McCormick as we had scheduled to do earlier this year.
Although our in-person celebration is canceled, we do plan to celebrate you and the supporters who have given to us in one way or another. Starting in January, MCFB will be hosting a year long sweepstakes. Two names will be pulled each month with the winners being rewarded with something from a local company or organization. MCFB will be using the 2020 donations to purchase the sweepstake prizes, in turn infusing the money back into the community who has supported us over the years. You will notice a suggested donation; however, one does not have to pay to participate in our sweepstakes. We appreciate all of the work you do to ensure our offices are open, enabling us to advocate and promote local agriculture. More information will come starting in January so please be on the lookout!
I also want to take a moment and bring your attention to a fundraiser we have a heavy hand in promoting and are proud to be helping in with benefits going to a local family who has been a loud voice and advocate

for Merced County agriculture and MCFB. Nolan Pedretti, son of Gino and Michelle Pedretti, is battling leukemia. Nolan is 4 years old, loves Lightning McQueen, Paw Patrol and super heros. While many around us have had to deal with some form of cancer, everyone collectively feels it more when a child is diagnosed.
MCFB has joined up with several community members and organizations and will be hosting a drive thru dinner fundraiser on Monday, January 25th. All details in the meal, costs, locations can be found on page 4 of the Farm News. I want to thank everyone in advance for reaching out to provide help or to ask how they can purchase tickets.
Back in September I closed my column with, "Buckle up friends, 2020 is still a long way from over." This was before some of the largest efforts on Prop 15, the highly debated presidential election and, unfortunately, well before we have closed on the pandemic. The year continues to build on itself and day by day it seems we have to brace for the next impact.
As we continue to move through this holiday season, albeit nothing like we are accustomed to, my condolences go out to each of you that have lost someone during this difficult year.

from the
**Director's
Desk**
Breanne Ramos



No matter if it were due to challenges with COVID or something they were already suffering from, the struggles of this year continue to exemplify one that was set for the record books as early as March. We wish everyone in our Farm Bureau family a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. 2021 cannot come soon enough.

Merced County Farm Bureau's Mission Statement

Merced County Farm Bureau is an independent, non-governmental, grassroots organization that advocates for the men and women who provide food, fiber, and nursery products for our community, state, and nation.
Merced County Farm Bureau exists for the purpose of improving the ability of individuals engaged in production agriculture to utilize California resources to produce food and fiber in the most profitable, efficient and responsible manner possible, guaranteeing our nation a domestic food supply.
Merced County Farm Bureau supports policies and legislation that promote and protect our Country's number one industry - agriculture for future generations and the security of our nation.

Farm Bureau

continued from page 1

split-roll property tax, saying farmers and ranchers “changed the debate” on Proposition 15 by describing its likely impacts on food production and prices. With the state government facing budget deficits, he warned of potential new efforts to raise taxes and

fees, saying the state can’t continue to balance the budget “on the backs of the California taxpayers.”

With a new administration about to take office in Washington, D.C., Johansson said Farm Bureau will advocate for balanced environmental, immigration and trade policies.

“We have challenges ahead of us, but we will continue to speak out and make a difference,” Johansson said.



RICO, PFITZER, PIRES & ASSOCIATES
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC. Lic 0499798

"Proudly celebrating over 50 years of excellence in our industry"



Bobby Rosa
(209) 856-8820
brosoa@rppins.com



Tammy Gray
(209) 856-8885
tgray@rppins.com



Leroy Rocha
(209) 856-8839
lrocha@rppins.com



Lucia Farao
(209) 856-8846
lfarao@rppins.com



Jeff Wolf
(209) 856-8821
jwolf@rppins.com



Ayesha Smith
(209) 856-8886
asmith@rppins.com



Leslie Machado
(209) 856-8814
lmachado@rppins.com



Zach Withrow
(209) 856-8843
zwithrow@rppins.com

Call us today for a personalized Insurance Consultation!
(800) 399-7473 • (209) 854-2000 • www.rppins.com



BENEFITS DIVISION
OF RICO, PFITZER, PIRES & ASSOCIATES
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC. Lic. 0L81506



NATIONWIDE
On Your Side
Elite Farm Certified Agency

Calendar of Events

December 23
MCFB Closing at noon

December 24-January 3
MCFB Closed for Christmas & New Years

December 31
Deadline to nominate for Golden Owl Award (pg. 19)

January 25
Drive Thru Dinner Fundraiser Benefiting Nolan Pedretti (pg. 4)

January 2021 - December 2021
MCFB Sweepstakes (pg. 24)

Merced County Farm News

Published monthly by
Merced County Farm Bureau
Phone (209) 723-3001
Fax (209) 722-3814
646 S, Hwy 59, Merced CA 95341
Email: dflake@mercedfarmbureau.org
(USPS 339-500)

Entered as Second Class matter, Jan. 20, 1948 at the US Post Office in Merced, CA. Subscription is included in membership. Singles issues are 50 cents. Merced County Farm News is printed by Mattos Newspapers Incorporated, 1021 Fresno Street, Newman, CA 95360, (209) 862-2222.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Merced County Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 1232, Merced, CA 95341; telephone (209) 723-3001; FAX (209) 722-3814. Merced County Farm Bureau does not assume responsibility for statements by advertisers or for products advertised in Merced County Farm News, nor does Farm Bureau assume responsibility for statements or expressions of opinion other than in editorials or in articles showing authorship by an officer, director or employee of the Merced County Farm Bureau or its affiliates.

Merced County Farm Bureau Staff

Breanne Ramos
Eexecutive Director
Lorraine Passadori
Program Director
Denelle Flake
Farm News Editor

Mariposa County Farm Bureau Staff

Danette Toso
Eexecutive Director

Board of Directors

Pres: Kelly Williams 376-2408
1st VP: Elnora George376-2419
2nd VP: Carla Kelly 742-6862
Directors
Abel Lopez 376-2208
James Palmer374-3470
Walter Palmer Jr.....374-3470
Trevor Lee Smith 769-9969
Danette Toso 376-2304
Tony Toso 376-2304

Board of Directors

Pres: Eric Harcksen620-1953
1st VP: Joe Sansoni 761-9284
2nd VP: Alan Sano559-905-1240
Sec/Treas: David Barroso 652-6437
Past Pres: Gino Pedretti III 756-1612
District 1
Chad Crivelli559-217-3435
Joe Mairino564-6791
District 2
Bob Vandenberg704-5568
Joe Mairino Jr564-6789
District 3
Mike Martin 675-1907
District 4
Jean Okuye 756-2421
Joe Brown349-1045
District 5
Brent Chipponeri.....652-3473
John Van Ruler 648-3877
District 6
Galen Miyamoto 761-5366
Bill Arnold. 761-0542
District 7
Wiebren Jonkman.....564-0870
Tom Roduner 769-9353
District 8
Bob Gaimpaoli 769-4973
Joe Scoto 761-0489
Directors at Large
Jim Johnston564-7551
Jeff Marchini 769-9116
Tim Lohman988-3545
Seth Rossow..... 617-7755
Dan Dewees.....658-4343
Louie Bandoni..... 761-0625
Michael Serrano485-1935

Tom Rogers
CFBF Director - District 9

Andrew Genasci
CFBF Field Representative

Sarah Baskins
YF&R State Committee - District 9

Stay Connected with MCFB

Follow us on instagram
@merced_farm_bureau

Like us on Facebook
Merced County Farm Bureau

Join our mailing list by emailing
info@mercedfarmbureau.org

Yuba County farmer wins Discussion Meet

By: California Farm Bureau

Following a discussion about agricultural technology, a contestant from Yuba County won the annual Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet at the 102nd California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

Madeline Meyer of Wheatland, a member of the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau, was named winner of the competition, which was held at the California Farm Bureau building in Sacramento and webcast live as part of the organization’s virtual Annual Meeting.

In the final round of the competition, contestants were asked to discuss the use of big data in agriculture. Meyer, an assistant manager at Tollcrest Dairy in Wheatland, encouraged farmers to make more use of the data available to them, in order to improve efficiency.

“Technology is here to stay, and it’s our job as young farmers and

ranchers to make it work for us, not the other way around,” she said.

Darin DuPont of Merced County was first runner-up in the contest. The other finalists were Ryan Amaral of Stanislaus County and Joseph Jackson of Tulare County.

As the winner of the Discussion Meet, Meyer earned \$5,000 courtesy of sponsors Farm Credit and Kubota. As first runner-up, DuPont received \$1,000.

Meyer will represent California at the American Farm Bureau Federation Open Discussion Meet, to be held virtually next month as part of the AFBF Annual Convention.



Merced YF&R member, Darin Dupont, CFBF Discussion Meet 1st Runner Up

102nd Annual Meeting Award Results

California Leopold Conservation Award
Burroughs Family Farms

CFB Innovator Award Finalist
Merced County Farm Bureau

Discussion Meet 1st Runner Up
Darin DuPont

DRIVE THRU DINNER FUNDRAISER
BENEFITING

NOLAN PEDRETTI

NOLAN IS THE 4 YEAR OLD SON OF GINO AND MICHELLE PEDRETTI. HE IS CURRENTLY UNDERGOING TREATMENT FOR ACUTE MYELOID LEUKEMIA.

JANUARY 25, 2021
\$100 PER TICKET | MEAL FOR FOUR
MEAL INCLUDES PORK LOIN, RED POTATOES, GREEN BEANS, HOMEMADE ROLL AND MIX BAKERY COOKIES
MIX BAKERY PICKUP 4-7PM
TIME FOR OTHER LOCATIONS WILL BE DETERMINED CLOSER TO DATE

TICKET SALES

MERCED MERCED COUNTY FARM BUREAU 646 S HWY 59 PO BOX 1232, 95341 (209)723-3001	CHOWCHILLA CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH 208 FIG TREE RD (559)665-1182	TURLOCK TICKETS CAN BE ARRANGED UPON REQUEST. CALL MCFB AT (209)723-3001	DOS PALOS CELESTE SILVA (209)704-9118 BREANNE RAMOS (209)617-9445	LOS BANOS CELESTE SILVA (209)704-9118 BREANNE RAMOS (209)617-9445
---	---	---	--	--

HELEN & LOUISE
1804 CANAL ST
(209)722-1454

PICK UP LOCATIONS

MERCED MIX BAKERY 1110 W. 16th ST	CHOWCHILLA CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH 208 FIG TREE RD	TURLOCK YOSEMITE FARM CREDIT 810 W MONTE VISTA AVE	DOS PALOS DPHS AG DEPT 1701 E BLOSSOM AVE	LOS BANOS ST JOSEPH CHURCH 1625 CENTER AVE
--	--	---	--	---

YOSEMITE FARM CREDIT

WISHING YOU A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON THAT IS

Merry & Bright

MODESTO (209)527-1900	MERCED (209)388-1116
TURLOCK (209)668-3522	LOS BANOS (209)827-3885
PATTERSON (209)892-6136	OAKDALE (209)847-7021

www.yosemitemfarmcredit.com

100 Years Ago: Improving Life in the Farm Home

By: Emily Lin, UC Merced Library

In last month's issue of the Farm News, I introduced the history of the development of the Merced County Farm Bureau as documented in the early reports of the county agent. These reports, as well as historical photographs, are now freely available in digital form through Calisphere (<https://calisphere.org/collections/27012/>). Working alongside the county agent was a home demonstration agent who was responsible for organizing activities to solve problems and improve practices which affected "physically, socially, or economically the homes of the community." In December 1920, after her first year in the county, agent Mary Van Camp reported that fifteen centers had been organized in the county with a membership of 401 women engaged in a program of work for each farm home department center.

What is striking to me about her report is the consistent emphasis on the development of local leaders. It was up to each center to decide what problems they wanted to raise attention to and promote training to address. Across the county, the "problems" identified were clothing, food, and improved health and sanitation. While the agent's role was to advise and provide demonstrations, she describes her role as putting "as much confidence in the ability of the local leader as she could[,] checking methods when undesirable and praising where methods used were good." That speaks volumes about the spirit behind Cooperative Extension and its approach. "It is interesting to note," Van Camp writes, "that each different leader is planning the work as best fits her environment." Her report records insights into the different needs of each community, how sharing models and practices can inspire local initiatives, and how to best foster and support locally-led problem solving.



A "before" picture depicting students eating on the ground outside.

The Start of School Hot Lunches

After a child feeding demonstration was conducted in a one room rural school in Livingston, local leadership organized to improve the school lunch situation. Teachers, a local nurse and physician, as well as the county superintendent of schools, worked together to introduce hot lunches and improve sanitation at the schools. With a number of photographs, Van Camp makes the point that children no longer needed to sit on the ground outside to eat their lunches. Instead, in cold weather children were served a hot dish, and "pupils mob the home demonstration agent on the road to tell her they have gained a pound."

Food Preservation and Clothing Techniques

We may not have expected that 2020 would bring a renewed interest in canning (news reports have noted shortages in canning supplies) as well as other at-home activities such as sewing and knitting. A hundred years ago, home demonstration agents played a key role in showing homemakers how to safely preserve food and how to make their own clothing efficiently. That knowledge would become even more valuable as communities later weathered the

Great Depression and shortages during the Second World War.

Van Camp reports on demonstrations on "cold pack sterilization, pressure cooker, water bath and steam bath" methods for canning vegetables and meats. A Mrs. L'Hommadiou of Stevinson even hosted a demonstration at her home on the use of a canning retort, where a 35 lb. pig was preserved alongside eight quarts of beans.

In another photograph in the report, she depicts a project leader demonstrating how to alter dress forms for clothing. A blur of movement in the foreground of the photo are the toddlers in the room watching as well.

For those interested in learning more about the history of canning techniques, the National Agricultural Library has a wonderful digital exhibit on The Evolution of Home Canning

Practices (<https://www.nal.usda.gov/exhibits/ipd/canning/>).

This spring, the UC Merced Library is teaming up with Merced 4-H to inspire local youth to create their own digital exhibits and tell their own local stories. We are accepting registration for a county-wide project to begin in January. Students 8th grade and up will learn to use digital archives, Arc GIS Story Map software, and other digital tools. We are excited to see what students come up with and what histories they uncover! Sign up now at <http://ucanr.edu/4Hstorymapping>.



New! 4-H Storymapping Project

Who – 8th grade and up


What – Participants will use digital tools to examine and analyze historical objects found in the [UC Cooperative Extension Archives](https://ucanr.edu/4Hstorymapping) dating back to 1916.

- Using the archives, youth will learn to look for an analyze data, identify research topics, and create digital exhibits.
- Learn to use ArcGIS Story Map software and other digital tools.
- Present final product/project to others!
- Explore careers in library science, agriculture, youth development, nutrition, fire science, and more.

For more information, contact
 Russell Hill – rdhill@ucanr.edu
 Emily Lin – elin@ucanr.edu

Sign up now–
<http://ucanr.edu/4Hstorymapping>


A collaboration between UC Merced Library and 4-H


 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
 Agriculture and Natural Resources
4-H Youth Development Program

First Meeting

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 from 3 -5 PM

Details for virtual meetings will be sent after signup


UCMERCED
 LIBRARY



Gray

continued from page 1

time I am punished by my own party's leadership for standing up for my district, it is a reminder that I was elected to represent the people who live and work in Merced and Stanislaus counties."

Gray said that Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon called him Friday evening to remove him from the government organization committee chairmanship, which he held for six years.

Rendon released a statement citing a different reason for appointing Assemblyman Jim Frazier, D-Fairfield, to oversee the government organization committee. Rendon said Frazier engineered an overdue state effort to fund transportation repairs through a gasoline-tax increase and "will apply his knowhow to a new policy area."

Gray was the only Democrat on the committee who voted against a budget trailer bill earlier this year that included language affecting the

relicensing of the Don Pedro dam. He said that Rendon during the phone call Friday referred to his vote against approving the state budget.

The Turlock and Modesto irrigation districts are in the process of relicensing the hydro power generation plant through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. It's an opportunity for state officials friendly with the environmental lobby to add conditions to the new license to benefit fish and recreation on the Tuolumne River.

Gray lost the committee assignment amid new developments in the water battles between state regulators and local irrigation districts, which have resisted State Water Board efforts to increase spring river flows for salmon restoration.

According to Gray and his staff, the state water regulators are trying to delay the FERC relicensing process so they can make demands for higher river flows for environmental purposes.

Some of the new demands for the Tuolumne go beyond the controversial flow requirements of the Bay-Delta water quality plan, which were approved by the state water board

two years ago. As an example, the irrigation districts would need to fill in massive holes in the river created by miners more than 150 years ago, Gray's staff said.

The state agency would also require holding a larger pool of water behind Don Pedro dam to cool the water that flows into the Sacramento-San Joaquin river delta some 70 miles downstream.

"You could have a dry year where there is still a lot of water behind the dam, but growers can't get a drop of it because of the cold water pool," said Adam Capper of Gray's staff.

According to Gray, the flow requirements would reduce agricultural water deliveries and shrink drinking water supplies in dry years. Staff for the State Water Resources Control Board released the new proposals after business hours Nov. 30, originally giving only 10 days for public comment, Gray said.

The comment period has been extended to Jan. 4, after which the requirements could be implemented without a water board vote. Gray's staff said the TID would be held to the requirements if FERC were to honor the state demands.

Gray said the state actions are

trying to skirt voluntary settlement agreements between the state and local irrigation districts — the solution favored by Gov. Gavin Newsom. According to Gray, the new regulations would have severe economic and social impacts on 460,000 residents in his assembly district.

In joint comments Monday, the MID and TID said Gray has been a strong voice for the Valley and it's unfortunate he was removed from the Assembly committee chair.

The irrigation districts said they're optimistic FERC will be fair in considering the state demands for the license renewal and will weigh the impacts on Don Pedro's operations, its customers and communities served by the hydroelectric project.

"We're reviewing the draft certification, but simply put, initial analysis indicates that the impacts are worse than the Bay-Delta (plan), as the State Water Board is reaching for more control over our project operations and water supply," the joint statement said.

The TID and MID are claiming the State Water Board hasn't followed the statutory process and has thereby waived its ability to add conditions to the new license for Don Pedro.

Joseph Barroso

March 24, 1941 - December 5, 2020

Published in Merced Sun Star from
Dec. 17 to Dec. 18, 2020.

Merced, California - Born March 24, 1941 in Rosais, Sao Jorge, Açores to Domingos & Maria Barroso where he lived with his 8 siblings. In 1960 he arrived in San Francisco with his brother Dominic Barroso. He worked in Hayward doing construction building pre slab cement walls. This is also where he met Renata in 1963 and they were married in 1965. They lived in San Mateo where Joe continued to work hard to provide for his family as they welcomed 2 children Julie & Mark. In 1969 he and his brothers Dominic and Mike ventured into the Dairy business bringing them to Atwater, CA. The following year, 1970, they moved to the Dairy on Le Grand road where their family continued to grow by adding two more children Nancy & David. He continued to actively work on the dairy until his final weeks of life. He was not

afraid of hard work or hard times, but faced them with faith and enthusiasm. He has built a legacy that his family is honored to be a part of and will continue to carry on in his memory. His family was his great sense of pride and joy. His love for them was unconditional. Joe had a smile that would light a room and a laugh that was contagious. He was genuine, courageous, loving, kind, smart, stubborn, humble and compassionate. He was the greatest teacher, role model and friend to many and will be deeply missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Domingos & Maria Barroso, Manuel Barroso of Sao Jorge, Johnny Barroso of Dos Palos, Tony Barroso of Atwater, Mike Barroso of Merced. He is survived by his wife Renee Barroso, children, Julie Barroso, Mark & Kris Barroso, Nancy Barroso & Jesus Campos, David & Jamie Barroso, Grandchildren, Vanessa Barroso, Jody & Megan Miller, Nicolas Barroso, Mark Barroso Jr., Kendra Barroso,

Leah Campos, Lauren & Andrew Barroso, Great Grandchildren, Tristan Barroso, Noelle & Atticus Miller, Siblings Maria Soares, Teresa Floriano, Gertude Barbosa, Dominic Barroso and numerous nieces and nephews.

Viewing will be offered at Ivers & Alcorn in Merced on Monday December 21st from 4 – 8 pm. Rosary at 11 am and Funeral Mass at 12 pm outside at St. Columba Church 213 Orange St. Chowchilla, CA.



Le Grand FFA Members Honored at Fall Awards Banquet

By Riley Lopez, Le Grand FFA Reporter

On November 19th, Le Grand FFA held their annual fall awards banquet. The much-anticipated event looked a little different this year, as it was held virtually. Officers recorded the banquet and award ceremonies prior to the banquet being released on social media for all FFA and community members to see.

Greenhand Degrees were awarded to first year members while second year members earned the prestigious Chapter Degree. The Greenhand Degree is bestowed upon first year members enrolled in an ag class who display proficient knowledge on the FFA, as well as core principles and beliefs of the organization. Chapter Degree recipients are second year members who have received the Greenhand Degree, operate a proficient SAE project, and display knowledge

and involvement in the FFA.

Also, during the event chapter officers recognized 54 Agricultural Mechanics and Ag. Internships students who received their OSHA-10 General Industry Safety and Health Certification. These student's certification allows them to participate in Agricultural-Based Internships during their senior year as well gain valuable industry experience.

Chapter Treasurer Marisa Ochoa then announced the annual Le Grand FFA's "Bulldog Staff Champion" achievement. This award is bestowed upon an LGHS staff member who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help the Le Grand FFA Chapter. Le Grand FFA is proud to announce the 2020 "Bulldog Staff Champion" recipient is Mrs. Ada Ochoa. Riley Lopez, Chapter Reporter proceeded to recognize and welcome Le Grand's Freshman Ag. Academy Cohort, consisting of 22 students from

the Class of 2024. The Agricultural Academy is a four-year program where students receive a solid foundation in the area of California agriculture. Students also select one of three Ag. Pathways to specialize in that prepares them for both college and careers in the agriculture industry.

The awards program also honored the scholastic achievements of Le Grand FFA members. Students who earned a GPA between 3.0 to 4.0 earned Bronze, Silver, or Gold Awards for their academic progress for the 1st Semester. Congratulations to our over 260 FFA Bulldog Scholars who have demonstrated hard work and determination to succeed academically during this challenging time.

Finally, to end our evening, Chapter Vice President, Alejandra Guardado presented a scholarship that we were unable to present at last year's banquet due to the COVID pandemic. Advisor, Amanda Galan said, "Last

year, Le Grand FFA suffered a great loss. We lost one of our own, Leslie Avila. Her family along with our FFA Chapter made a commitment to honor her life by developing a scholarship to help seniors and LGHS students pursue higher education as well as one of the things Leslie loved most about FFA, raising livestock. On behalf of the Avila Family, Le Grand FFA was proud to present eight \$100 college scholarships and three \$50 livestock scholarships." Le Grand FFA Officers and Advisors would like to thank all of our FFA members and community supporters for attending the 2020 Virtual Fall Awards Banquet and witnessing the accolades of our students.

For more information about Le Grand FFA or the Le Grand Agriculture Department, please the Le Grand FFA website at www.legrandffa.org or follow "lghsffa" on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or YouTube.

Happy Holidays from Livingston FFA



Livingston FFA holiday drive-thru event

By: Livingston FFA Chapter Reporter,
Jenna Bates

It's finally December and the Livingston FFA officer team wants to spread some holiday cheer. This year has definitely been challenging and

very different. 2020 is not going to stop us from having a happy holiday season. Our chapter loves giving back, so we held a canned food drive from November 16th through December 7th. We held a drive thru event on December 3rd from 4-5:30pm for students at home to have the opportunity to participate in this great community service project. Our members are absolutely amazing for donating so many cans. We donated over 600 cans to a local church. It will go to families that really need it this holiday season. The canned food drive was not our only festivity. Our chapter meeting for December was held on Tuesday, December 8th.

Not only did we mention old and new business in our chapter, but we played a super fun game of holiday tunes with our members. What is your favorite holiday song? Members enjoyed playing a festive game of kahoot all about christmas songs and holiday song facts. It didn't stop there. December is full of cool weather and holiday spirit. The FFA officers and advisors welcomed the members of our chapter to a drive thru event on December 8th from 4-5pm. We passed out holiday treats of hot cocoa and candy canes while pumping up that holiday spirit with festive signs and holiday cheer. Not only that, but the Merced-Mariposa FFA Section chose

to have a holiday spirit week from December 14th though the 18th. We love dress up days, so the Livingston FFA officers were more than ready to participate. We had to get our whole membership involved though. From posting on our social media to personally reaching out to individuals, we had wonderful participation within our chapter for the section dress up week. Holiday dress up days are perfect for this time of year during these kinds of circumstances. It's a super easy and fun way to get into that holiday spirit right before Christmas Break. The Livingston FFA wishes everyone a safe, healthy, and Happy Holidays!

Gustine FFA Holds Local Project Competition

By: Austin Bell, Gustine FFA Reporter

On Thursday, November 19th, Gustine FFA held its annual Project Competition. The twelve students who participated are Daniel Gomes, Garret Gomes, Ashlyn Alamo, Savanna Barcellos, Grant Hazan, Austin Bell, Kaitlin Dore, Tyler Borba, Joseph Lopes, Christina Moitozo, Emma Woods, and

Mikayla Silveira. This contest gives students the opportunity to showcase their SAE project and the knowledge that they have gained throughout it. The judges, Mark Abdallah and Rob Alamo judged the students based on things like knowledge of their project, organization, and how the presentation relates to the student's future plans. Project competition is an amazing way for FFA members to learn skills such

as Public Speaking. Mikayla Silveira says "It was a great experience, and I loved showing the judges how I do my job." The purpose of the local project competition is to give kids more practice presenting, and determine which 8 students get to move on to sectionals. The sectional contest is on December 2, and Gustine FFA wishes the best of luck to the 8 students who are moving on to sectional

competition:

Garret Gomes, Savanna Barcellos, Grant Hazan, Austin Bell, Kaitlin Dore, Tyler Borba, Emma Woods, and Mikayla Silveira.



Emma Woods at the Project Competition

California Farm Bureau Legislative Update

By: California Farm Bureau

December 11, 2020 -
LEGISLATURE RETURNS

The State Senate and Assembly returned to Sacramento to swear in new legislators and start the flurry of bill introductions that will continue until February for the 2020-2021 Legislative Session. Future Friday Reviews will be featuring newly introduced and high priority bills, so stay tuned!

AIR RESOURCES

Earlier this week, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed a new chairperson to lead the California Air Resources Board (CARB), replacing outgoing Chairwoman Mary Nichols. Liane Randolph has been appointed as the new Chair of CARB. Randolph had been a Commissioner at the California Public Utilities Commission since 2015 and was the Deputy Secretary and General Counsel at the California Natural Resources Agency from 2011 to 2014.

The Governor also appointed several new members to CARB, including; Gideon Kracov, who will occupy the seat assigned to the South Coast Air Quality Management District most recently held by Judy Mitchell. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District will now be represented by Tania Pacheco-Werner and replaces Alex Sherriffs. Davina Hurt, a member of the Belmont City Council, replaces John Gioia to represent the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and Dr. John Balms has been reappointed to the board. The appointments will need to be confirmed by the Senate.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Governor Newsom has announced the appointment of DeeDee Myers as Senior Advisor and Director of the Office of Business and Economic Development. Mrs. Meyers was previously a volunteer on Governor Newsom's public health crisis team, on the Task Force for Business and Jobs Recovery, the Executive Vice President at Warner Brothers, Managing Director of the Glover Park Group and was White House Press Secretary during President Bill Clinton's first term.

FEED

The California Air Resources Board will be hosting a seminar on December

17th from 3-5pm via webcast to discuss the findings from a Life Cycle Assessment on various feed and manure additives to reduce the release of short lived climate pollutants in an effort to achieve the methane emission reduction goals in SB 1383. Over 90 feed additives and 14 manure additives were examined; based on the results, only one additive, 1-nitropropanol (3NOP) was going to meet the requirements. More study is necessary on five other feed additives (nitrate, mootral, macroalgae, agolin and grape pumice) and three manure additives (biochar, macroalgar, and SOP lagoon additive) need to be conducted. More information will be released during the webcast.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) announced four vacancies on the Feed Inspection Advisory Board Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC). The subcommittee provides technical and scientific feedback to the Feed Advisory Board and CDFA on animal food nutrition, safety and efficacy data review of new and unapproved feed ingredients, research project oversight and other issues that will affect the Commercial Feed Regulatory Program, Livestock Drug Program and Safe Animal Feed Education (SAFE) Program. Applicants must demonstrate technical, applied and scientific expertise in the fields of toxicology, pathology, ruminant and non-ruminant nutrition, as well as possess general knowledge of the California feed industry.

HEMP

In anticipation of the approval of draft regulations on industrial hemp testing laboratory requirements, CDFA is accepting applications from laboratories interested in testing for THC concentrations. Those interested could be fast-tracked for the approval process but will not be approved until the regulations are final.

INSURANCE

As members are aware, California's recent span of catastrophic wildfires has greatly disrupted the availability of home insurance throughout the state. CFBF is grateful to our colleagues at Nationwide for their continued efforts to work with our membership on related insurance issues and for their continued support of our organization during these challenging times.

Unfortunately, what has developed in the last four months is nothing less than shocking to CFBF's farmers and ranchers who are no longer able to insure their respective farming or ranching operations.

Beginning in San Diego County, staff was made aware that insurance policies covering a farm and/or ranch were being canceled with increasingly regularity. While at first this seemed to be an isolated incident, it has since grown to include other jurisdictions that are identified as high fire risks. What makes this situation truly unique is that most CFBF members experiencing cancelations were still able to insure their farm home or ranch home via the California Fair Plan. However, the broader farm and ranching infrastructure (barns, machine sheds, packing facilities, cold storage buildings, greenhouses, etc.) were unable to secure insurance policy coverage from the private market, and the Fair Plan itself.

The understanding to many was that the Fair Plan would cover farms and ranches under their commercial policy guidelines. While not widely utilized by the commercial business community, it was anticipated that since farms and ranches (while agriculture) are still businesses and eligible for coverage. Unfortunately,

the governing statute that created the California Fair Plan specifically states that "farm risk" is not eligible for insurance and subject to denial.

Farm Bureau is working with California's insurance industry, Fair Plan representatives and Nationwide Insurance to address this issue and make certain that California's agricultural community does have an insurer of last resort. Staff, however, does need the assistance from our County Farm Bureaus and members. Specifically, we need to hear from all those who have since been notified that their respective farm or ranch has lost insurance coverage, the specific companies where coverage has been requested as a replacement and whether a policy was provided, and whether they have they applied for insurance coverage under the California Fair Plan.

TRANSPORTATION

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has announced that they are temporarily suspending all behind-the-wheel driving tests for at least two weeks beginning on December 14, 2020. The in-vehicle testing requirements applies to all first-time driver's license holders and commercial license applicants. The temporary suspension applies to both noncommercial and commercial tests.

WE SELL LAND



**AG & Ranch
DIVISION**

PROPERTY TEAM



Jeff Stephenson
(209)777-4970

Sarah Bell
(209)769-4698

Stephanie Morgado-Lewis
(209)917-2390

DRE#s 02021955, 01984144, 02020696

Merced County farmers earn conservation award



Ward and Rose Burroughs and their family earned the California Leopold Conservation Award in recognition of their stewardship work on their 2,600-acre farm near Denair. Photo/Paolo Vescia

By: Tracy Sellers, AgAlert

From restoring wetlands to generating renewable energy and embracing biodiversity, farmers and ranchers across the state work to make the land better not only for today, but for future generations. And each year, the Leopold Conservation Award celebrates the important role these landowners play.

Given in honor of distinguished conservationist Aldo Leopold, the award recognizes agriculturists who inspire others with their dedication to land, water and wildlife habitat management on private, working land.

The 2020 award was presented to Burroughs Family Farms of Stanislaus County, and announced Monday during the California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

"We're always open to learning," Ward Burroughs said. "When it comes to sustainability, that's when our real passion for learning comes out."

Stemple Creek Ranch of Marin County and Philip Verwey Farms of Kings County were also finalists.

In California, the award is presented by the Sand County Foundation, American Farmland Trust, California Farm Bureau and Sustainable Conservation. Additional sponsors are Farm Credit, The Harvey L. & Maud C. Sorensen Foundation, The Nature Conservancy in California, McDonald's and California Leopold Conservation Award recipient alumni.

Burroughs Family Farms
Merced County
Being resilient, pursuing innovation

and pushing the boundaries of conventional thinking have become the keys to success at Burroughs Family Farms.

"Our passion comes out in making the tough decisions and thinking outside the box," Ward Burroughs said.

For four generations, the Burroughs family has served as a model for environmental sustainability and economic viability on their 2,600-acre farm near Denair. Partnering with their children, Ward and Rose Burroughs own and operate California Cloverleaf Farms, Vista Almonds, B and B Pastures and Full Circle Dairy, and produce products including free-range eggs, organic milk, cheese, almonds and olives.

The Burroughs family has transitioned all of their operations to meet certified organic standards. In addition, rotational grazing of cattle and chickens in their orchards has reduced the need for mowing or burning—just one example of the holistic approach the family takes to farming.

Family members have worked throughout the years with a biologist who has helped them catalog the many native plants growing on their property. Through this work, they have found their grazing practices to be beneficial to those species, encouraging the family to continue their sustainable practices and share information about them with others. Burroughs Family Farms has hosted hundreds of educational tours for visitors interested in their ranching and conservation efforts.

The Burroughs family has also hosted a variety of research projects, including one on the benefits of reincorporating almond hulls back into orchards after processing for improved soil fertility. In addition, they irrigate crops and pasture with solar-powered well pumps, and their orchards have diverse cover crops and hedgerows to

capture carbon and attract the good bugs that prey on the bad bugs. "It's all about living systems," Rose Burroughs said. "It's about nurturing, protecting and preserving our most precious resources."

Stemple Creek Ranch

Loren Poncia wears many hats, including that of soil farmer and cattle rancher.

"I love seeing the biodiversity on the farm and having high-quality soil. I also love seeing healthy animals," said Poncia, who owns Stemple Creek Ranch with his wife, Lisa. "With everything we do, it's a constant dance with Mother Nature. We're trying to dance with her, and not step on her toes."

The family has operated for nearly 120 years on the same land where Poncia's great-grandfather started a dairy after emigrating from Italy. Although the family's agricultural heritage might be rooted in history, it's their modern outlook that has gained

attention. The Poncias focus on working from the ground up, and to that effect, they practice pulse or rotational grazing. Once the cattle eat the nourishing grasses on one pasture and return the rich carbon to the soil, they are moved to another pasture to begin the process again.

That brings us to another hat Poncia has added in recent years: that of carbon farmer. Because of the family's innovative agricultural practices, Stemple Creek Ranch was invited in 2013 to be one of the three demonstration farms with the Marin Carbon Project, a decade-long study of carbon-positive practices.

As a way to show off their passion for the land, the Poncias regularly invite guests to stay at their ranch near Tomales.

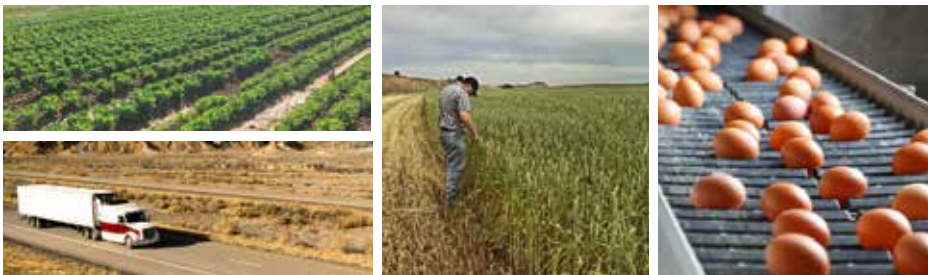
"To me, this (ranch) represents so much," Lisa Poncia said. "It's the love of our business and the love of

See 'Award' Page 10



Serving the Central Valley since 1913.

Commercial | Agriculture | Personal | Health & Benefits



WIS&G

Winton-Ireland, Strom & Green

Insurance Agency

Turlock

209.667.0995

Modesto

209.529.3480

Livingston

209.394.7925

Lic. #0596517

Award

continued from page 9

our family. Being able to share it with others means I am swelled with pride."

Philip Verwey Farms

"We feel like we're in a position of gratitude and we feel like we'd like to leave our land for the next generation better than we found it," Philip Verwey said.

Although it may seem a simple

sentiment, it's one he and his wife, Shelley, work tirelessly to accomplish. To achieve that goal, they run their 9,500-cow dairy in Hanford with three intertwined principles to guide them: Take care of the land, take care of the animals and take care of the people.

"We know if we invest in the infrastructure and it is sustainable financially and environmentally, then the way I see it, why not do it?" Verwey said.

The farm features a 10-acre covered-lagoon manure digester,

generating renewable electricity that in turn powers the dairy and irrigation wells on 2,300 acres of surrounding cropland—and provides power to the local community. The Verweys have also replaced diesel-powered feed mixers with electric mixing stations, which have increased efficiency and decreased air emissions.

Cow comfort and health are priorities at any dairy; here, the animals have round-the-clock access to food, water and a mattress.

When it comes to employees, the

Verweys treat them as team members building a career, and encourage and support career growth.

"It gives us a great deal of satisfaction to know the healthy work environment we create for all and that we are providing healthy and sustainable products for people around the world," Shelley Verwey said.

Editor's Note: 'Stanislaus County farmer' replaced with 'Merced County farmer'. Burroughs Family Farms operates in both counties.

President

continued from page 2

- The Membership Experience
- How to Help Your Local Teachers Include Agriculture in their Classrooms
- Mental Health

As you can see, there was a large amount of information given in a few short days. Please take advantage of viewing these at your convenience. You can view the videos at <https://cfbf.visaia.tv/>. If you were not registered for Annual Meeting,

please call MCFB staff to acquire the password information.

California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting closed on Wednesday, December 9 with the House of Delegates. In a normal year, we would have voted on bylaw and policy amendments, however elected to take the majority of those to the 2021 Annual Meeting taking place in Garden Grove. Joe Sansoni, Alan Sano and I were seated as the delegates for this year's virtual session. Merced County also did well in the awards categories. I would like to congratulate our very own Ward and Rosie

Burroughs of Burroughs Family Farms on receiving the Leopold Conservation Award. Darin DuPont, one of our Young Farmers and Ranchers members, took 1st runner up in the YF&R Discussion Meet. MCFB was also a finalist for the Innovator Award for the work on FARM2U however the award went to Sacramento County Farm Bureau.

American Farm Bureau will also be holding their Annual Meeting virtually and will be taking place January 10-13, 2021. Registration is free and the keynote speaker is Mike Rowe of Dirty Jobs! You can register at <https://annualconvention.fb.org/>.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Here is to a better 2021 coming!!!

Member Benefit

DUNGAREES
MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM



As a California Farm Bureau member, you receive:

- 10% discount on orders under \$200
 - 15% discount on orders over \$200
 - 20% discount on orders over \$500
 - Free shipping on all orders over \$55 (contiguous U.S. only)
- Call 1-800-698-3276 or your local county Farm Bureau to get the discount code.**

WESTERN VALLEY
INSURANCE
WesternValley.com

FARM • RANCH • AGRIBUSINESS

810 West K Street, Suite A, Los Banos, CA 93635 • Ph-209.826.5667
www.westernvalley.com

Lic# 0649647

Delbert Jerald "Jerry" Shannon

March 7, 1942 - November 12, 2020



Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Elizabeth Shannon. Jerry is survived by his wife of 54 years, Claudia Shannon.

He is also survived by his son Christopher (Betty) Shannon. His four daughters, Linda Burdick, Sis (Brad) Buttrey, Joni (Rob) Grubb and Patti Burdick. His sister Kathleen Gary. Jerry "Papa Jer" will be sorely missed by his seven grandchildren, Kari (Wayne) Slate, Michael (Lidia) Burdick, Kaden Rocha, Clair Killman, Tyler Hayes, Brittany Hayes and Dilbert Jerald "DJ" Shannon. He is also survived by seven great grandchildren, Garrett Slate, Jared Slate, Jaden Rocha, Jordyn Rocha, Jax Rocha, Giada Burdick and Trevis Burdick. His nephews, David (Tammy) Chiesa and Don (Kellie) Chiesa, along with several great nephews and great nieces.

Published in Merced Sun Star from Nov. 19 to Nov. 27, 2020.

Merced, California - Jerry Shannon, 78, died on Thursday, November 12, 2020 in Merced, California after a hard fought battle with recent health issues. Jerry was born in Fresno, California on March 7, 1942, but lived most of his life in Merced, where he followed in his father Ralph's footsteps and worked at, owned and operated Shannon Pump Company for over 50+ years.

A celebration of life for all of Jerry's extended family, friends and customers will be held at a future date which will be announced.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial donations be made in Jerry's name to the Valley Children's Hospital or to a charity of your choice.

Farm Bureau welcomes Vilsack appointment

By: California Farm Bureau

Noting the considerable challenges facing farmers and ranchers, the California Farm Bureau welcomed the appointment of Tom Vilsack as the next U.S. secretary of agriculture. President-elect Joe Biden nominated Vilsack to return to the office he occupied from 2009-17.

“Given all the stresses placed on the food and agricultural system by the pandemic in particular, it will be good to have an experienced person resume administration of the Agriculture Department,” California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson said. “Tom Vilsack will be able immediately to guide USDA for the benefit of farmers, ranchers, rural residents and all the people who depend on our nation’s agricultural production.”

“During his previous service, we worked frequently with Secretary Vilsack, so we know he recognizes the special importance of California farms and ranches to American agriculture, and to customers both in the U.S. and around the world,” Johansson said. “In his current role with the U.S. Dairy Export Council, he has concentrated on access for American farm goods in international markets, and we look forward to continuing that emphasis

with him when he returns to USDA.”

Johansson said Farm Bureau would also work with the incoming agriculture secretary on climate policy.

“Farmers and ranchers should be viewed as assets in climate policy,” he said. “We will stress the need for incentive-based programs that allow farmers and ranchers the flexibility to maintain active stewardship of their land while producing food and farm products efficiently.”

Letters to Santa can be dropped off at Hilmar Cheese Company’s visitor center

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

Via Facebook video announcement November 6, Santa let everyone know that the Hilmar Cheese Company was a place where you could bring your letter or picture for Santa and the visitor center team was provided special candy canes to give each child

as a thank you.

Bring your letter or photo to the curbside pick-up area and call and a special Santa candy cane will be delivered to your vehicle.

The Visitor Center is only open for contactless curbside service. Customers can call the number on the door when they arrive or place their order in advance and an employee will bring out each order. The Hilmar Cheese Company Visitor Center is

located at 9001 Lander Ave. in Hilmar, CA and open Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:30pm.

Also, the company suggests customers order early for holiday cheese pies. Turtle Cheese pie orders for Christmas are due Friday, December 18.

Even though the Visitor Center is closed on the inside to the public, holiday and logo merchandise, gourmet foods and cheeses, catering

trays, cheese pies and more are available for purchase through curbside service. Shop online at hilmarcheese.com/shopping or place orders over the phone by calling 209.656.1196 or e-mail hccorder@hilmarcheese.com.

Follow @hilmarcheese on Instagram and /hilmarcheesecompany on Facebook to stay up-to-date with updates, specials, merchandise offerings and more!

Farm Bureau congratulates new Agriculture Committee

By: California Farm Bureau

Renewing its commitment to bipartisan efforts that benefit farmers and ranchers, the California Farm Bureau congratulated the new leadership of the House Agriculture Committee.

The House Democratic Caucus selected Rep. David Scott, D-Ga., to be the Agriculture Committee chair in the 117th Congress—the first African American to hold the post. The Republican caucus selected Rep. Glenn Thompson, R-Pa., as ranking member of the committee.

“Because California agriculture is unique, farmers and ranchers here interact differently with federal farm programs than our counterparts in other regions,” California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson said. “And because California grows such a large share of so many U.S. crops and

commodities, challenges facing farmers here can have an outsized impact on the availability of food and farm products for all Americans.

“We look forward to discussing our priorities with the new House Agriculture Committee leadership as we work toward our common goal of strengthening American agriculture.”

You watch the orchard—we’ll watch the numbers.

Our accountants and advisors serve clients in countless fields—including yours. We find unique business solutions so you can focus on the things you do best.

When it comes to growing trust, you can count on us.

grimbleby coleman
certified public accountants, inc.
it's the people behind the numbers.®

2020 BEST PLACES TO WORK
Central Valley

2019 BEST PLACES TO WORK
Central Valley

2018 BEST PLACES TO WORK
Central Valley

2017 BEST PLACES TO WORK
Central Valley

AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF
IBDO
ALLIANCE USA

Contact us today at 209-527-4220 or gccpas.net

Can cultivators replace hand weeding in tomatoes?

from the Farm Advisor

Scott Stoddard
UC Cooperative Extension,
Merced County



Conventional processing tomato weed management in California often includes pre-plant herbicides (trifluralin [Treflan] and/or metolachlor [Dual Magnum]), followed by cultivation, and hand hoeing. Rimsulfuron (Matrix) herbicide can also be used in conventional systems and can be applied either pre or post transplant. Post-plant applications of Matrix can selectively remove nightshades if applied when the weeds are very young, no more than 2 true leaves, however, long plant-back restrictions, especially for cotton, may limit its use. Therefore, the use of hand crews is often needed to remove weeds that emerge in the plant row, where standard cultivation equipment is ineffective.

Automated weeders, or robotic weeders, use cameras and computers to distinguish crops from weeds. They are equipped with either spray nozzles or cultivators to remove weeds within the crop row. Commercially available for about 10 years, these complex machines are very expensive but have shown promising results in transplanted crops in Salinas and Yuma, AZ. Gaining popularity in the Central Valley is the finger weeder,

a relatively simple and low-priced mechanical cultivator designed to remove weeds within the crop row. The system uses interlocking rubber fingers to remove small weeds in the plant row once transplants are established. Finger weeders can be added to existing cultivators and modified for individual grower needs.

In lettuce and broccoli, research by UCCE advisor Richard Smith in Monterey County showed that robots and finger weeders did not eliminate the need for hand crews, but they did significantly reduce the amount of time required to hand weed these crops, by an average of 50%, if used at the proper time. Given the current situation of labor availability and cost, 50% reduction in time is a huge improvement. However, there has been little research evaluating these tools in processing tomatoes and how well they may complement or replace a traditional herbicide program.

With California Tomato Research Institute support, I conducted an on-farm trial to evaluate crop safety, weed control, time, and costs associated with using mechanical cultivators as part of a conventional weed management program in processing tomatoes. I had 4 treatments:

- 1). Matrix herbicide 2 oz/A on 30" band over-the-top on May 8 and May 22 (total 4 oz/A)
- 2). Robovator robotic cultivator on May 8 and 12
- 3). Stekatee finger weeder on May 8
- 4). No Matrix and no in-row cultivation.

In summary, Matrix herbicide or the finger weeder reduced hand weeding time and cost by 83% as compared to doing neither (only pre-plant treflan + Dual). The Stekatee finger weeder did an excellent job of weed control on all plots with no crop injury. My hand weeding cost estimate, based on a 4-person crew and \$13.50 per hour, was \$44.10 per acre. Matrix herbicide performed as expected, with good nightshade control and minimal crop injury. Weeding costs were estimated at \$95.40 per acre (statistically the same as the finger weeder). This treatment also had the best overall yields, at 71 tons/A. We had difficulty, however, with the Robovator, as the vision system was not working correctly and crop injury was very



Figure 1. Finger weeders use long, flexible rubber fingers to "reach" across and remove weeds from within the plant row. It can be extremely effective if done when the weeds are very small (1 or 2 days old).

high, exceeding 30% in some locations. While weed control was improved, the hand weeding cost was still over \$250 per acre.

For growers not using Matrix, these cultivators show a lot of potential. While the Robovator may have caused some plant losses in this trial, it worked very well in other areas with fresh market tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, and cabbage. More work is planned for next year.



SUPPORT WHEN YOU NEED IT

During these challenging times, we remain your steadfast partner — offering services, resources and expertise to keep your business running while lessening your risks.

Your partner through what ifs and what's next.



AMERICAN AGCREDIT

Call 800.800.4865 today or visit AgLoan.com

License #OD48069

A part of the Farm Credit System. Equal Opportunity Lender/Employer/Provider.

CROP INSURANCE APPLICATIONS DUE DECEMBER 31, 2020

■ ALMONDS ■ SAFFLOWER ■ PISTACHIOS

New UCCE Agronomy and Weed Management Advisor in Merced



By: José Luiz Carvalho de Souza Dias, UCCE Merced County

Hi everyone. My name is José Luiz Dias and I recently joined the University of California Cooperative Extension as an Agronomy and Weed Management Advisor in Merced County. Additionally, I will also be covering weed management applied research and extension in San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties.

Background.

I am originally from Ribeirão Preto, a city located in the state of São Paulo, Brazil. Although I did not grow up on a farm, I grew up surrounded by it, as my uncles are sugarcane and coffee producers. Since I always enjoyed spending the weekends and summer vacations on the farm, I decided to get major in Agronomy in college. While working on my undergraduate degree, I was lucky enough to secure an internship at the Range Cattle Research and Education Center – University of Florida, to work with Dr. Brent Sellers on forage weed management. After working for two years in the sugarcane industry, I went back to school to earn a Ph.D. in Agronomy - Weed Science from the University of Florida. After graduation, I was a post-doc at the University of Wisconsin – Madison for over one year.

My previous research experiences.

While at the University of Florida, I conducted research on herbicide tolerance of perennial forages, performed herbicide screening trials for the control of bittersweet, and evaluated IPM practices to control giant smutgrass weeds in bahiagrass pastures in Florida. We investigated

the efficacy of integrating prescribed burning, grazing management, and hexazinone applications for giant smutgrass control; the effectiveness of integrating physical control methods such as mowing with chemical control measures (glyphosate and hexazinone) applied with a weed wiper; and the effects of application time, hexazinone rate, and rainfall on hexazinone effectiveness. During my time in Wisconsin, I had the opportunity to work with agronomy and weed science applied research in different cropping systems such as alfalfa, silage corn and cool season grass-clover pastures.

My Program Priorities

Since I have a weed science background, I am very interested in working directly with growers to help with their weed control issues, especially with integrated weed management and herbicide resistance. Some of the main crops I will cover include alfalfa, small grains, silage and grain corn, dry beans, and cotton. I am also interested in addressing other agronomic needs such as variety performance, nutrient and soil fertility management, soil salinity, water use-efficiency and integrated pest management.

Example of UC Cooperative Extension work.

During my first month in this position, I helped retired farm advisor Bill Weir with one of his cotton trials. Bill was a UCCE farm advisor in Merced county for 36 years, and even though he has been retired since 2002, he still enjoys applied field research. The trial was conducted at the Los Banos area in 2019 and 2020 to identify the most effective PIX plant growth regulator rate on Hazera cotton. Research has shown that plant growth regulators have the potential to provide several benefits in cotton, including crop earliness, increased square and boll retention, higher nutrient uptake, and improved lint yield and quality. However, Hazera cotton is a relatively new variety (a hybrid part Pima and part Acala) and little is known regarding the proper use of growth regulators to maximize its yield potential. The treatments consisted of four increasing rates of PIX (8, 12, 16 and 24 fl oz acre-1) applied on June 26th, 2019 and July 30th, 2020, when plants were 13-14 nodes high.

Treatments were replicated six times and plots harvested on October 23rd, 2019 and November 13th, 2020, using a John Deere CP690 spindle harvester. Based on these preliminary results, the most effective and economic PIX rate to maximize Hazera hybrid cotton lint yield was 12 fl oz acre-1. We plan to continue more trials on PIX efficacy on Hazera cotton cultivars in 2021.

Collaborative work.

An extension program can only be effective and deliver meaningful results if we work together with industry and growers. Please help me help you by sharing what you think are the most significant problems facing agronomic cropping systems in Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus counties. You can contact me at the Merced County office at (209) 385-7403, or via email at jdias@ucanr.edu.



Figure 2. A) José Luiz counting the stand of alfalfa interseeded into silage corn during the spring of 2020 in Prairie Du Sac, WI; B) Bill Weir and Bob Hutmacher at the Hazera cotton trial during the 2020 harvest; and C) John Deere CP690 spindle harvester.

Merced County Farm Bureau/East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
is looking for a

PROJECT ASSISTANT/ GROWER RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVE

Please email bramos@mercedfarmbureau.org for job description.

Email resume & cover letter to
bramos@mercedfarmbureau.org

Investors can now trade on and profit from California water — how might that work out?

By: Kurtis Alexander, The San Francisco Chronicle

It's not just Californians paying attention to the state's water supply anymore. It's Wall Street.

In a sign of the growing value of water in a warming world, investors began trading futures of the coveted commodity, tied to California water prices, for the first time last week.

The novel marketplace allows speculators to make money betting on future prices of California water while allowing farmers, businesses and municipal suppliers to hedge against price swings and stabilize their costs.

How well this will work remains to be seen. While many say a commodities market can help those in need of water, finance and water experts say the new financial instrument may provide only limited risk protection and could even put upward pressure on water prices.

"It's a cool concept," said Jon Reiter, founder of the agriculture and water consulting company Cavalrei in Fresno. "I think it has a lot of potential, and I think this is the right direction to move in, but there are some challenges that still need to be worked out."

Unlike oil, grain and other traded commodities, the new water futures aren't about the physical exchange of a product. They're about exchanges of money based on the value of the product. The trading of actual water will continue as it always has in California, between limited numbers of irrigation districts and urban suppliers that generally make insider deals to accommodate one another's varying needs. Wealthy outsiders won't be siphoning off the state's water supplies.

But the financial wheeling and dealing, say the creators of the water futures, stands to improve the efficiency of real-world water transactions, starting with making prices more transparent, and perhaps ultimately facilitating more exchanges and putting water to better use.

"All of (this) can help California water users to more efficiently align supply and demand of this vital resource," Tim McCourt, a managing director at Chicago-based CME Group, which launched the new commodity exchange Dec. 7, said in an email to The Chronicle.

In the futures exchange, investors buy into contracts that represent a specific amount of water at prices based on the Nasdaq Veles California Water Index (NQH20). The index tracks water sales across parts of California where water trading is common. Investors eventually cash out of the contracts, either benefiting from an uptick in the index or losing out if the index slides.

California water prices have typically gone hand-in-hand with precipitation, going up in dry times and down in wet periods.

"The futures are like a bet on the weather," said Ellen Hanak, a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California who specializes in water.

For farmers and other water users interested in managing risk, there's the ability to lock in future water costs, at least theoretically. The water users can buy into the market at one price, and if the price goes up, sell the contract and use the proceeds to purchase real, higher-priced water. If the price goes down, the loss is made up by the lower cost of real water.

"We have some very sophisticated agricultural operations in this state with a lot of dollars involved, and they might be interested in using this as a hedge," Hanak said.

Still, she and others say there are inevitable problems with a futures market that make it an imperfect place to reduce risk and invest.

Most fundamentally, establishing prices for futures that reflect true water costs in California is difficult given how much water prices vary with geography and water rights. What water users pay won't always be in line with market prices, which are a weighted average, inevitably skewing investment decisions.

There's also the possibility of speculators in futures driving up the actual cost of water.

"Our biggest concern is that if this becomes a profit-driven and popular way to trade on the value of water, it could eventually impact real water prices," said Mike Wade, executive director of the California Farm Water Coalition.

Ultimately, whether this marketplace has a chance of succeeding depends on participation.

During the first week of trading, 36 contracts were secured. Water was priced at just under \$500 an acre-foot, the amount of water that would cover an acre of land 1 foot deep, or about 326,000 gallons. That's enough for two households for a year.

"With nearly two-thirds of the world's population expected to face

water shortages by 2025, water scarcity presents a growing risk for businesses and communities around the world, and particularly for the \$1.1 billion California water market," CME's McCourt said. "Developing risk management tools that address growing environmental concerns is increasingly important."



WALTER MORTENSEN INSURANCE

INSURICA INSURANCE MANAGEMENT NETWORK

From small farms to large commercial operations, the INSURICA Agriculture Experts have grown up in agricultural communities.

We've designed insurance programs to provide broad and flexible coverage for both your personal and business needs.

Tom Murphy | 209.353.2700 | tmurphy@INSURICA.com | INSURICA.com

Pazin & Myers, Inc.
129 West 15th Street
Merced, Ca 95340
Serving Merced and Mariposa Counties for over 35 years!



(209)725-2050



Meeting all of your residential, farming, commercial, and retail needs...

GASOLINE - DIESEL - QUALITY LUBRICANTS

2020-2021 MCFOB Board of Directors Nominations

President <i>Eric Harcksen</i>	District 5 <i>Brent Chipponeri</i>
1st Vice <i>Joe Sansoni</i>	<i>John Van Ruler</i>
2nd Vice <i>Alan Sano</i>	District 6 <i>Galen Miyamoto</i>
Secretary/Treasurer <i>Dave Barroso</i>	<i>Bill Arnold</i>
Past President <i>Gino Pedretti III</i>	District 7 <i>Tom Roduner</i>
District 1 <i>Joe Maiorino</i>	<i>Wiebren Jonkman</i>
District 2 <i>Bob Vandenberg</i> <i>Joe Maiorino Jr.</i>	District 8 <i>Bob Giampaoli</i> <i>Joe Scoto</i>
District 3 <i>Mike Martin</i>	Directors At-Large <i>Jim Johnston</i> <i>Jeff Marchini</i> <i>Tim Lohman</i> <i>Dan DeWees</i> <i>Louie Bandoni</i> <i>Michael Serrano</i>
District 4 <i>Jean Okuye</i>	

Member Spotlight

Hilmar Forest



Sam Minturn, owner of Hilmar Forest.

By: Denelle Flake, Farm News Editor

In 1970, Sam and Janet Minturn broke soil and planted their first Monterey Pine seedlings in creation of Hilmar Forest. It started as a family operation with Sam, Janet, and their children. As their children grew up, Sam, a former fifth-grade teacher would hire his two best students to help on the Christmas tree farm once they entered high school. Now, continuing the family tradition, Sam and Janet’s grandkids also help around the farm.

Today, Hilmar Forest mainly grows a variety of cedars ranging from Incense Cedars to Deodar Cedars. They receive seedlings at less than

a year old from a couple nurseries, one located in Sonora and another near the Oregon border. Sam shared, “Most of the trees grown on Christmas tree farms in Central and Southern



Planting a seedling.

California are Monterey Pines, but I have strayed away from them due to problems with diseases.” On average, it takes their trees three to five years to reach eight feet in height.

For those that want a fir tree for Christmas, Hilmar Forest also offers a variety of pre-cut fir trees that they acquire from the wholesale market and price them individually. Trees such as the Douglas Fir, would take 10-15 years to reach eight feet to grow in this region of California, therefore they are



Pre-cut trees

sourced wholesale from states like Oregon and Washington. Sam likes to remind people the difference between purchasing a real tree and an artificial tree. Sam stated, “Real Christmas Trees are nature’s way of helping us.

their own. If you want to cut your own, you are given a four-foot handled saw can drive around with your family to find the perfect tree! Hilmar Forest is now closed for the 2020 season but will open for the 2021 season the day after Thanksgiving. Make sure to give them a visit next year and when purchasing your Christmas tree, remember to support local farmers!

Merced County Farm Bureau Heritage Members

Platinum Heritage Members



Gold Heritage Members

Grimbleby Coleman
CPAs

Holt Ag Solutions

Minturn Nut Company

Turlock Irrigation
District

What does poll show about vaccines, mask mandate and a replacement for Harris' Senate seat

By: Dane Strother, Special to CalMatters

Californians overwhelmingly want Gov. Gavin Newsom to appoint the best person possible to fill Vice President-elect Kamala Harris' Senate seat regardless of race or sex, and people are more overwhelmed by living with COVID-19 than they expected, according to a recent poll by Public Policy Polling.

Though the governor wrestles with whom to pick and is buffeted by constituencies of varying ideology and races, some 70% said ethnicity didn't matter and 69% said the sex of the appointee is irrelevant. These are among the findings of the poll conducted by Strother-Nuckels Strategies of 761 California voters.

Who exactly voters support for the Senate seat is undefined. Congresswoman Karen Bass received 14% in a list of nine potential candidates with Secretary of State Alex Padilla at 11% and Attorney General Xavier Becerra receiving 10%. The three are within the margin of error of the poll. However, among African Americans, Bass garners a plurality of the vote preference at 44% with the next closest choice of Rep. Barbara Lee at 11%. Among Latinx voters, there is no such plurality with Padilla at 22% and Becerra at 18%.

And while the public at large may not care, Newsom would certainly be hard pressed not to select a woman or person of color to fill the seat.

There is also certainty of Californians' concern with COVID.

When asked if personally dealing with COVID and all that comes with it had been more difficult than one thought, 28% said much more difficult, 32% said somewhat more difficult and 36% said less or not difficult at all.

With the start of vaccinations, 41% said they will definitely get the

shot and 26% likely. Some 25% are unlikely or will refuse. When asked if they thought their neighbors would be vaccinated 22% said certainly and 39% said likely with 20% not sure what their neighbor would do. Only 49% of those who voted for President Donald Trump will certainly or likely get a vaccine as opposed to 77% of those who voted for Joe Biden.

Even with vaccinations starting this week, people have a far different view of dealing with COVID-19 than the beginnings of shutdowns in March when 46% of people expected life to return to normal in three months or less, according to an SNS poll. Today 49% believe a return to norm will take longer than six months and 15% don't ever expect a full return.

Perhaps accordingly, 72% support Newsom's outdoor mask mandate though it breaks heavily along party lines with 90% of Democrats supporting masks and only 46% of Republicans. Independents are in the middle with 61% supporting the edict.

As to what the first thing someone will do upon being vaccinated, the answers differ per political persuasion. Nineteen percent of Republicans will have a meal indoors at a restaurant. Twenty-two percent of independents will take a vacation and 20% of Democrats will hold a large gathering of family and friends.

And as this article is about a poll it's sobering to note that only 52% believe polls are accurate. Only 25% of Republicans and 39% of No Party Preference voters believe in the science of polling. Some 70% of Democrats believe the numbers.

It's worth noting this poll accurately found that 63% of voters supported Biden which may give some of the naysayers pause. But then nothing is clearly 20/20 in this year of 2020.

Read the full results of the December poll along with the crosstabs at www.Strother-Nuckels.com.

State Senator Andreas Borgeas named Chairman of Senate Agriculture Committee

By: Marie Edinger, Fox 26

FRESNO, Calif. (FOX26) — State Senator Andreas Borgeas is now the only Republican committee chair in the state's legislature.

Pro Tempore Toni Atkins called Borgeas Monday to ask if he'd like to be Chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee.

"I think a lot of folks need to know how the committee system works in California. Much like it is in DC, the majority party always has the chairmanships on all the committees," said Borgeas Tuesday, the day after he got the news about his new appointment. "That's the way it's worked for as long as anybody can remember. And for a Republican in - not just a minority, but a super-minority party of California - the opportunity to be given a chairmanship is absolutely exciting, especially for our region."

Borgeas came to Fresno after law school to clerk for a federal judge, where he worked on water-related litigation.

"And, naturally, being a Senator for our community... there's an extraordinary amount of agriculture interest and processing that happens in our backyard."

In an interview with the new Agriculture Chairman on Tuesday, FOX26 News Reporter Marie Edinger said to Borgeas, "People in the Central Valley often bring up feeling under-represented. They feel the Central Valley doesn't have a voice when it's held up to the rest of California. Do you feel this could change that?"

"That is very true," he answered. "My earlier capacities as a City Councilmember and a member of the Board of Supervisors, I know full well what it's like when we don't have large amount of seats at the table. We are a sizable region, a very important region in terms of food production, but from

a practical standpoint, the powers that be tend to look upon the Coastal communities as having more political and economic clout - whether it be San Diego, LA, or the Bay Area. And from a population standpoint that determines the number of electors in Sacramento, that's clearly the case."

State Senator Borgeas' district covers all or part of 11 different counties. Other people with the same title represent only one county, which Borgeas feels is a good demonstration of how the population in California is distributed.

"That means we need to work as Valley legislators - both the Senate and the Assembly, as well as Congress - we have to build coalitions, because we are not strong enough alone."

That same viewpoint - that no one is strong enough alone - is why the new Agriculture Chairman is comfortable working on a bipartisan basis.

The Senator describes himself as being a solutions-oriented person.

We're in the process right now of consulting with farmers, with processors, and area experts that have the background to guide me to, 'What are the opportunities we can make available through this Chairmanship and advance the interests and prosperity of our region?'"

Senator Borgeas' committee assignments now include the following:

- Agriculture Committee (Chair)
- Judiciary Committee (Vice-Chair)
- Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
- Governmental Organization Committee
- Insurance Committee
- Natural Resources and Water Committee
- Joint Legislative Audit Committee
- Special Committee on Pandemic Emergency Response

Democrats squeezed as COVID-19 relief talks continue

By: Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Top Washington negotiators continued to reach for a long-delayed agreement on COVID-19 aid Monday, but rank-and-file Democrats appeared increasingly resigned to having to drop, for now, a scaled-back demand for fiscal relief for states and local governments whose budgets have been thrown out of balance by the pandemic.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) spoke with Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin by phone Monday evening and continues to press for help for struggling states and localities. But top Democratic allies of President-elect Joe Biden came out in support of a \$748-billion plan offered by a bipartisan group of lawmakers and hinted that they won't insist on a pitched battle for state and local aid now.

"We cannot afford to wait any longer to act. This should not be Congress' last COVID relief bill, but it is a strong compromise that deserves support from both Republicans and Democrats in the Senate," said Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.). "We cannot leave for the holidays without getting relief to those Americans who need it."

The message from Coons, a confidant of Biden, and a similar message from Senate Majority Whip Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.), came as a bipartisan group of lawmakers unveiled a detailed COVID-19 aid proposal on Monday in hopes it would serve as a model for their battling leaders to follow as they try to negotiate a final agreement.

But the group was unable to forge a compromise on GOP-sought provisions shielding businesses from COVID-related lawsuits, a key priority of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. The Kentucky Republican is pressing a lowest-common-denominator approach that would drop the lawsuit-shield idea for now if Democrats agree to drop a \$160-billion state and local aid package.

Pelosi has insisted for months that state and local aid would be in any final bill, but as time is running out, Democrats appear unwilling to hold the rest of the package hostage over the

demand. Several Democrats appeared at the bipartisan news conference endorsing the \$748-billion package.

"I found it interesting that they separated out the state and local and liability provisions. Sen. McConnell had suggested that earlier," said Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas). "Seems to me that we're making some progress on it."

Cornyn, a McConnell lieutenant, spoke after a dozen or so lawmakers unveiled two bills. One is the \$748-billion aid package containing money for struggling businesses, the unemployed, schools and vaccine distribution. There is also \$45 billion for transportation and transit assistance, funding for rural internet service and help for the Postal Service, among other provisions. The other bill proposes a \$160-billion aid package for state and local governments and a modified liability shield that is backed by Republicans and Democratic moderate Joe Manchin III of West Virginia but is probably too politically freighted to advance.

The path forward for the proposals — and for COVID-19 aid in general — remains unclear, though Cornyn said the bipartisan plan has lots of "good stuff" for any year-end agreement.

Any agreement is likely to be forged in parallel negotiations between Pelosi and Mnuchin — closely watched by McConnell.

Outstanding issues in the leadership talks include a potential second round of direct payments to individuals, a plan for \$300-per-week bonus unemployment benefits, state and local aid and the GOP-sought liability shield against COVID-19-related lawsuits.

Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) said she hoped Capitol Hill leaders and the administration will use the proposals as the basis for a COVID-19 relief package "that is urgently needed by our struggling families, our hard-hit small businesses, our stressed-out healthcare providers, our overwhelmed Postal Service, our challenged schools and so many others."

Lawmakers also worked to finalize a year-end catchall funding package that will be the basis for the last significant legislation of the Trump presidency.

There's a hoped-for deadline of midnight Friday to deliver the

completed package to President Trump; that's when a partial government shutdown would arrive with the expiration of last week's temporary funding bill. But there's no guarantee that the massive year-end measure will be completed in time. If the talks drag, further temporary bills could be needed.

Negotiations on the \$1.4-trillion catchall spending bill are "essentially finished," said a congressional aide participating in the talks. While details are closely held, "the status quo is prevailing." That means Trump would get another \$1.4 billion or so for a final installment to continue construction of his long-sought U.S.-Mexico border wall.

Republicans have succeeded in killing a \$12-billion plan to break last year's budget mini-agreement by using accounting maneuvers to pad veterans' healthcare funding to accommodate big cost increases from expanding access to private providers. Instead, a different set of moves is being employed to provide for equivalent spending increases for other domestic programs.

The post-election lame-duck session is the last chance to wrap up the unfinished work this year, a goal of all involved, though they have been

slow until now to forge the often-tricky compromises required to pull the measure together.

Pelosi has not thrown in the towel on her drive to obtain state and local aid, which was part of the nearly \$2-trillion CARES Act passed unanimously by the Senate in March. But many Republicans are adamantly against the idea now.

Biden wants as much COVID relief as possible but has no direct influence on the negotiations. While he'll empower Democrats after taking office next year, GOP leaders like McConnell are playing hardball and have forced Pelosi to scale back her demands. And while McConnell supported a \$300-per-week bonus unemployment benefit this summer, he has pulled back since the November election.

The No. 2 House Democrat, Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland, displayed flexibility in an appearance Sunday on CNN that Republicans interpreted as a harbinger of further Democratic retreat.

"The legislative process is a give and take, and the items that I just mentioned are absolutely critical to get done, and although I think state and local assistance is critically important, the others are critically important, too," Hoyer said.

Thank you for being
a member of the
Merced County
Farm Bureau. We
apprecaite your
continued support
during 2020!

Honoring ag educators across California



Presented by Nationwide® the California FFA and the California Farm Bureau Federation, the Golden Owl Award® honors California ag educators for their tremendous contributions to helping the next generation of agricultural leaders.

Nominees have an opportunity to win great cash prizes and the title of California Agricultural Educator of the Year.

\$500 each to six honorees
&
\$3,000 to the grand prize winner
(California Ag Educator of the Year)



We're accepting nominations August 1 through December 31.

Simply submit your nomination online at **GoldenOwlAward.com** or fill out the nomination form on the back and email to **ferreis2@nationwide.com** or mail to:

Golden Owl Award Nomination
Nationwide
Steve Ferreira
1100 Locust St., MC D1-3W-3055
Des Moines, Iowa 50391





Merced County Business Member Directory

Businesses Supporting the Farm Bureau

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

REPAIRS & SERVICES

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

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS

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

LANDSCAPE

Bergman Landscape 669-9138

FARM EQUIPMENT

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

REAL ESTATE

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

GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS

Blue Diamond Growers..... (559) 474-2996
California Sweet Potato Growers..... 394-7935
California Women for Agriculture 723-5878
Central CA Irrigation District..... 826-1421
Cortez Growers Association..... 632-3118
Dos Palos Co-op Gin..... 387-4151
Farmers Rice Cooperative (916) 923-5100
Gustine Drainage District 854-6782
Hilltop Ranch Inc. 874-1875
Livingston Farmers Assoc..... 394-7941
Merced Boosters 761-0815
Merced Irrigation District..... 722-5761
Turlock Irrigation District..... 883-8205
Merced College Ag Division 384-6250

FARM SERVICES

A-Bar Ag Enterprises 826-2636
Caddy Shack Rodent Servc. (559) 363-3315
Cal Ag Safety..... 351-0321
Cal Corn Growers Inc..... (559) 665-5775

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

FOOD PROCESSING

A V Thomas Produce 394-7514
Del Rio Nut..... 394-7945
Minturn Huller Co-op..... (559) 665-1185
Parreira Almond Processing Co..... 826-1262
Sensient Natural Ingredients (800) 558-9892
Yosemite Farms..... 383-3411

HARVESTING & HAULING

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

IRRIGATION, WELLS, & SEPTIC

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

INSECT & WEED CONTROL

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

FARM SUPPLIES

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

FUEL SERVICES

W.H. Breshears, Inc..... 522-7291
Western States Petroleum Assoc. (661) 321-0884
Valley Pacific Petroleum..... 948-9412
Van De Pol Petroleum 667-0236

INSURANCE

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

FINANCIAL SERVICES

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

SOLAR

Coldwell Solar 259-9260

MISCELLANEOUS

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

Hope



from the
Mariposa CFB
Danette Toso

As the ranchers in Mariposa County loaded hay on to their vehicles, drove over the parched, dusty ground to feed their livestock, I believe everyone was praying for rain. Our county was passed over for precipitation this fall and the prospect of any viable levels in December is forecasted as slim. This year has been anything but normal, so I guess the weather shouldn't be any different. When faced with the added expense of yet another load of hay, it can be challenging to keep a positive

attitude in this agricultural life we've chosen, but as always, we will prevail. I realized just how dry it's been when I woke up in the middle of the night to a strange sound on the roof. At first I thought it was my Guineas, (or roof chickens as Tony calls them) but to my amazement, it was rain! We received an early Christmas gift this month with two days of light rain, (we'll take whatever we can get!). It amazes me each and every year just how quickly the grass starts to pop up after just one shower, and a light green tinge begins to color the red clay hills. We have hope in these fragile green shoots and that's just what we need as ranchers, hope. We hope that there is more rainfall to come soon, we hope that our livestock continues to thrive, and we hope that our world turns right side up again in 2021.

I hope that you have a very Merry Christmas filled with peace, love and joy. I hope that you have a Happy New Year full of promise, prosperity and precipitation. As always, I encourage farmers, ranchers and conservators to invite friends, neighbors and family members to join the collective voice of the Farm Bureau. Together, we can make our organization stronger than ever, one member at a time.

VALLEY PACIFIC



Delivered Fuels | Lubricants | CFN Cardlock



Visit our Merced Cardlock Location:
385 S Hwy 59, Merced, CA 95341

We proudly sell products from these brands and more!



We Fuel California
Family Owned & Locally Managed Since 1947
(800)266-3782 | www.vpps.net



Mariposa County Business Member Directory
Businesses Supporting the Farm Bureau

To be included in the directory, join Mariposa County Farm Bureau as a business member by calling 742-5875.

AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES

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

ASSOCIATIONS

- 35-A District Agriculture Assn.....966-2432
- Mariposa Chamber of Commerce....966-2456
- Mariposa County Farm Advisor966-2417
- Mariposa County Farm Bureau742-5875

CONSTRUCTION

- Bucks Construction.....878-3702
- Tobey Guenthart Construction374-3334

FINANCIAL SERVICES

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

HARDWARE STORES

- Coast Hardware.....966-2527
- Foster Ace Hardware966-2692

MEDICAL

- Mariposa Physical Therapy.....742-7242

MISCELLANEOUS

- Allison Sierra Inc966-4082
- Happy Burger Diner966-2719
- Mariposa Friends of the Fairgrounds Foundation.....742-4680
- Hugh A. Yamshon Ranch
- Mariposa Gun Works742-5444
- Miners Roadhouse 14966-2444
- Pony Expresso966-5053

REAL ESTATE

- Cathey's Valley Real Estate.....742-2121

SERVICES

- Chases Foothill Petroleum.....966-3314
- Edward Lien & Toso Ag Appraisers...634-9484
- Palmer Tractor374-3470
- Ranch Fence, Inc.....966-5914
- Valley Pacific Petroleum.....948-9412
- Yosemite Glass & Window Inc.966-3292

WINERIES

- Mount Bullion Vineyard.....377-8450
- Rauch Ranch Vineyard & Winery742-7162

Support Farm Bureau Member Businesses

► MCFB Farm & Ranch Connection

M-MIG CONSTRUCTION INC.
Serving Merced & Surrounding Counties

**Specializing in Dairy Construction
Steel Buildings**

Locally Owned & Operated
Matthew Mgliazzo-Owner
Contractors Lic. #870007
291 Business Park Way, Atwater



Construction
www.mmigconstruction.com
209-724-9488



Verdegaal
FARMS INC.
ALMOND SHELLING

Since 1986

- State of the Art Equipment**
 - 80' Truck Scale**
 - Maximized Returns**
 - Owner Operated**

New for 2012

- Inshell line complete with Satake color sorter
- High Capacity dryer for bin or bulk loads

Peter Verdegaal **Office**
209-628-1008 **209-356-0210**

8016 Winton Way, Winton
*Serving Stanislaus &
Merced Counties*



VAN DE POL
FUELS & LUBRICANTS

More than a distributor of fuel & lubricants,
we're your strategic partner - delivering
great service, rooted in family values.

Performance delivered.

Fuels | Lubricants | Renewable Diesel
Industrial Fluids | Diesel Exhaust Fluid
209.667.0236 | vandepol.us

Serving your Agricultural, Trucking,
Automotive, and Heavy Duty needs

AC King

 a division of ***SAR PLUS*** 

209-722-3558

You Call ... We Come!

**We carry RedDOT & DTAC
Fully stocked parts department
Hoses built on site**

LEONARD RICH

COMPLETE AUTO BODY COLLISION SERVICE
 Domestic and Foreign
COMPLETE UPHOLSTERY SERVICE
 Vinyl Tops, Convertible Tops
 Tonneau Covers
 923 Martin Luther King Jr. Way • Merced, CA
Leonard Rich • (209) 723-1022

Thank you for adverstising in the Merced County Farm News.

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

► Merced Farm & Industrial Businesses on Highway 59



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

Stanislaus Farm Supply	723-0704	Valley Pacific Petroleum.....	948-9412
Merced County Farm Bureau	723-3001	Shannon Pump Co.	723-3904
Agri-Valley Irrigation Co.	384-8494	Kellogg's Supply	722-1501
Kirby Manufacturing	723-0778		

► MCFB Farm & Ranch Connection

AG

209-445-8503

Towing

Towing Services

Roadside Assistance

Flat Tire Changes

Lockouts & Jumpstarts

Fuel Transferring

Winching

Car Wreck Towing

Residential Transportation

24/7 Towing Services

Ray's Gardening

678-3189

A Tradition in Trust Since 1919



PEARSON
REALTY

AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES

CALIORNIA'S LEADING FARM & RANCH SPECIALISTS

Specializing in:

Agricultural Land

Transitional Land

1031 Exchanges

Cattle Ranches

Recreational/Hunting

For a free consultation
please contact:

JIM WATSON

Pearson Realty, Ag Division

Over 15 Years Experience & Service

Office: 209.378.2300 | Mobile: 209.349.2225 | jwatson@pearsonrealty.com



SUNNYACRES

NUT COMPANY, INC.

Newly expanded hulling and shelling, including a new inshell line



Space available for quality growers
12245 Sunny Acres Ave, Turlock CA
209-667-6200 • Sunnyacresnut@gmail.com

est. 1973

Custom Weed Control
Enterprises Inc.

WEED CONTROL

"We Use Environmentally Safe
Proven Methods."

Problem
Weed
Specialist

RESIDENTIAL

AGRICULTURAL

COMMERCIAL

INDUSTRIAL



Discing & Clean-up - Pre-Asphalt Application
Call Us First! 209 723-2161



IRRIGATING THE VALLEY SINCE 1967
Madera, CA - 559.673.4261

SHANNON

PUMP CO.

Sales & Service

Vertical turbines Domestic pumps

End suction booster pumps Sewage & stormwater pumps

Multi-stage pumps prefabricated booster systems for domestic, process & landscape requirements.

Special metallurgy for all types of fluids.

In-house machine shop

All popular brands - HazMat 40HR Certified Techs
LICENSED, INSURED AND BONDED
SERVING THE INDUSTRY FOR OVER
50 YEARS
(209) 723-3904



RONALD MARTELLA
FARMS, INC.

MARTELLA'S WALNUT HULLER & DRYER

2100 Geer Road, Hughson
(209) 883-4819 Fax (209) 883-0819

For Your Convenience

-Full Service Available

-From Field to Buyer

-80' Truck Scale

-Almond Drying Available

Owner/Operators
Aaron Martella, Kevin Chiesa, Ron Martella

Ad Space
Available

3 x 3 inches
\$38.50/month

Frasier Irrigation

Since 1962

Engines and Pumps

Irrigation Fittings

Return Systems

Design & Installation

Mainline

Gaskets



A DIVISION OF LANDMARK IRRIGATION, INC.



Used Pipe for Sale

Drip & Micro Systems

Tape for Row Crop

Sprinkler Pipe

Gated Pipe

PVC

7602 W. Azusa, Dos Palos
209-387-4202

"We have what fits
your needs"

6 x 3 inches
\$66/month

Email Denelle at
dflake@mercedfarmbureau.org
if interested

DUE TO COMPLICATIONS FROM NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, MCFOB WILL NOT BE HOSTING AN ANNUAL MEETING. TO CELEBRATE OUR COLLECTIVE SUCCESSES, WE PROUDLY PRESENT YOU

MERCED COUNTY FARM BUREAU *sweepstakes*

**Two items to be pulled once a month
through the 2021 year.
Details to come early January.**

Feelin' lucky?

Suggested donation requested, but must not donate to participate!