

Local siblings graduate with honors, hope to help the community

By Bob Highfill

STOCKTON -- Mariel Montes and her younger brother, Alexandro, grew up in a family that valued education.

Their parents Maribel and Miguel, immigrated to the United States from Mexico and met in Stockton, where they were married and raised their family. Maribel teaches third graders at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School in Stockton, and she and Miguel couldn't be more proud, as both of their children recently graduated with honors: Mariel from the University of California, Los Angeles, and Alexandro from Franklin High School in Stockton.

"I'm very thankful to have awesome kids," Maribel Montes said. "Since they were little kids, we always liked to read

books to them. They always knew the importance of doing good in school and respecting their teachers and classmates. We reminded them what we expected them to do and we provided them with the tools to be successful in school.

Mariel and Alexandro were ever mindful of the sacrifices their parents made for them. Maribel is from Zacatecas and Miguel hails from Michoacán. Maribel came with her parents when she was 15 years old and learned English from her cousins, who already in the United States. She attended Edison High School, San Joaquin Delta College and Stanislaus State and earned a teaching credential. She has been a teacher since she was 22 years old. Miguel earned his associ-

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Mariel Montes



Alexandro Montes

Hermanos de Stockton se gradúan con honores y esperan ayudar a la comunidad

Por Bob Highfill

STOCKTON - Mariel Montes y su hermano menor, Alexandro, crecieron en una familia que valoraba la educación.

Sus padres, Maribel y Miguel, emigraron a los Estados Unidos desde México y se conocieron en Stockton, donde se casaron y criaron a su familia. Maribel enseña a estudiantes de tercer grado en la escuela primaria Martin Luther King Jr. en Stockton, y ella y Miguel no podrían estar más orgullosos, ya que sus dos hijos se graduaron recientemente con honores: Mariel de la Universidad de California, Los Ángeles y Alexandro de Franklin High School en Stockton.

"Estoy muy agradecida de tener hijos increíbles," dijo Maribel Montes. "Desde que eran niños pequeños, siempre nos gustó leerles libros. Siempre supieron la importancia de hacer el bien en la escuela y respetar a sus maestros y compañeros de clase. Les recordábamos lo que esperábamos que hicieran y les proporcionamos las herramientas para tener éxito en la escuela.

Mariel y Alexandro siempre fueron conscientes de los sacrificios que sus padres hicieron por ellos. Maribel es de Zacatecas y Miguel es originario de Michoacán. Maribel vino con sus padres cuando tenía 15 años y aprendió inglés de sus primos, que ya estaban en los Estados Unidos. Asistió a Edison High School, San Joaquin Delta College y Stanislaus State y obtuvo su titulado de maestra. Ella ha sido maestra desde que tenía 22 años. Miguel obtuvo su título de asociado de artes en Delta College y trabaja

para una gran empresa.

Su ética de trabajo y dedicación para superarse a sí mismos y a su comunidad a través de la educación impresionaron a sus hijos.

"Sus esperanzas eran darnos una vida mejor," dijo Mariel. "Crecimos con fuertes valores familiares y la educación era parte de eso y retribuir a la comunidad. Definitivamente todo estaba unido."

Mariel, de 21 años, estaba en el riguroso Programa de Bachillerato Internacional en la Escuela Secundaria Franklin y se graduó en 2016 como la mejor estudiante de la clase con un promedio de 4.85 en una escala de 5.0. Mientras estaba en la escuela secundaria, Mariel ayudó a la comunidad a través de su trabajo voluntario para mejorar la educación y la retención en las escuelas primarias. En Franklin, sus compañeros de clase eran predominantemente hispanos y latinos, pero en UCLA, una ciudad en sí misma con 45,000 estudiantes, de los cuales el 19% son hispanos o latinos, la transición fue algo difícil.

"Fue un gran choque cultural," dijo. "Definitivamente fue algo desafiante para mí ir allí y estar en un ambiente donde la diversidad y la representación siempre están ahí. Eso puede ser un desafío en muchos sentidos."

Mariel superó los desafíos y combinó sus intereses académicos con su pasión por ayudar a las personas, especialmente a aquellos que están subrepresentados. Desarrolló un interés en los problemas de salud

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Student Success Center welcomes Lee Juarez as success coach

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Penn State seniors striving to overcome obstacles on the path to graduation have a new ally in their corner. The Student Success Center, which administers the Complete Penn State program, recently welcomed Penn State doctoral student Lee Juarez as its new student success coach. Juarez will support students seeking assistance from Complete Penn State, which helps seniors across all Penn State campuses to surmount challenges and complete their degrees.

"We are thrilled to welcome Lee to the Student Success Center," said Denise Poole, director of Student Success Initiatives. "Lee is aware of the challenges that students from diverse backgrounds may face while attending college and simultaneously carrying familial and life responsibilities.



Lee Juarez

Her academic background, combined with her personal experience as a first-generation college student, makes her a tremendous asset to our team."

In her new role Juarez expects to

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Graduate

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ates of arts degree at Delta College and works for a large company.

Their work ethic and dedication to better themselves and their community through education made an impression on their kids.

"Their hopes were to give us a better life," Mariel said. "We grew up with strong family values and education was a part of that and giving back to the community. It was definitely all tied together."

Mariel, 21, was in the rigorous International Baccalaureate Program at Franklin High School and graduated in 2016 as the class valedictorian with a 4.85 grade point average on a 5.0 scale. While in high school, Mariel gave back to the community through her volunteer work to improve education and retention at elementary schools. At Franklin, her classmates predominantly were Hispanic and Latino, but at UCLA, a city unto itself with 45,000 students, of which 19% are Hispanic or Latino, the transition was somewhat difficult.

"It was a big culture shock" she

said. "It definitely was something challenging for me to go there and be in an environment where diversity and representation is always there. That can be challenging in many ways."

Mariel rose above the challenges and combined her academic interests with her passion to help people, especially those who are underrepresented. She developed an interest in mental health issues and researched addiction, substance abuse among minorities. Mariel double-majored in psychology and sociology and devoted herself to promoting education and mental health in underserved communities. She served with Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA) and graduated this year Magna Cum Laude. She wants to go to graduate school and eventually earn her doctorate. But first, Mariel has accepted a position in the Resident Life Program at UCLA and will oversee resident advisors in the dormitories to help students' mental health.

"I'm hoping to improve the quality of mental health for students living in

the dorms and giving back to students, especially those in the Latino community, as well as from backgrounds like in Stockton that might be underrepresented in higher education," she said. Alexandro, 17, followed his sister's footsteps at Franklin High, graduating this year as class valedictorian with a 4.86 GPA in the IB program. And like his sister, he was active on campus and in the community as President of the Spanish Club and a member of the National Honor Society. Alexandro also will attend UCLA, but he wants to study English with the goal of being a teacher, like his mother. Alexandro's long-term goal is to be a school principal and ascend in the ranks of school administration.

"My experience as a Latino, I feel like the community and culture has impacted my life a lot," Alexandro said. "A big part of that is the fact that much of my family immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico and a lot of my friends are children of immigrants. You really want to make them proud and make their sacrifices worth something." It's been a tough year for seniors in wake of the coronavirus pandemic,

which closed campuses nationwide. Alexandro and his classmates missed out on prom, their senior trip, their graduation ceremony and much more. "But at the same time, we had other experiences, like a virtual graduation, that were different in their own ways," he said.

Alexandro said most of his friends are his classmates and though initially he was happy he didn't have to go to his stressful classes on campus, he soon realized he missed it.

"When we realized we weren't going to be going back, some of my friends I didn't get the chance to say goodbye," he said. "That was a big part of it." Alexandro said he is super excited to go college. He said everyone, including his sister, have told how fun it will be and how much he will grow as a person.

"But I'm scared the coronavirus is going to mess that up," he said. "We're not sure if I can go on campus for my first semester. But we can still go and get the full experience and do all the typical college stuff."

Alexandro said whatever happens, he will make the best of it and make his family proud.

Gospel Center Rescue Mission opens Covid Positive Quarantine for the Homeless

Today, Gospel Center Rescue Mission (GCRM) has opened the first non-hospital, non-profit quarantine facility in San Joaquin County for Covid-19 positive homeless men. The facility, located at 218 E. Sonora Street, Stockton was recently acquired and remodeled to provide additional housing on the

GCRM campus.

When Covid-19 hit, GCRM quickly shifted to assist local hospitals and County agencies by opening the property to serve as a temporary Covid-positive quarantine facility.

Socially distanced interviews with Wayne Richardson are available. With

advanced notification, GCRM can coordinate senior San Joaquin County officials to be present for the interview.

The first occupant will be arriving at approximately 11:00am, Wednesday, June 3 with up to 2 more arriving by the end of the week. For your safety and patient privacy no one may enter

the facility, meet or televise the occupants. Exterior photo opportunities are available and GCRM can supply interior photos or video if needed.

For further information, and to schedule an interview, please contact Wayne Richardson, CEO, Gospel Center Rescue Mission at 209-320-2312.



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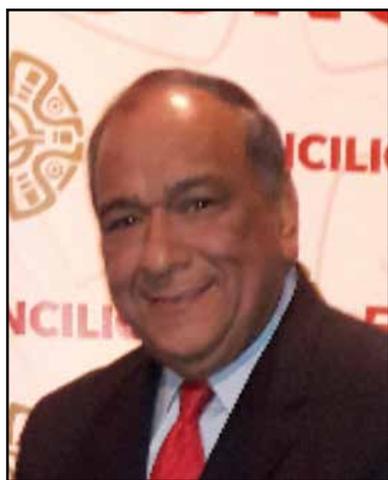
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Hermanos

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mental e investigó la adicción, el abuso de sustancias entre las minorías. Mariel se especializó en psicología y sociología y se dedicó a promover la educación y la salud mental en comunidades marginadas. Ella sirvió con el Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA) y se graduó este año Magna Cum Laude. Ella quiere ir a la escuela de posgrado y eventualmente obtener su doctorado. Pero primero, Mariel ha aceptado un puesto en el Programa de Vida para Residentes en UCLA y supervisará a los asesores residentes en los dormitorios para ayudar con la salud mental de los estudiantes.

“Espero mejorar la calidad de la salud mental para los estudiantes que viven en los dormitorios y retribuir a los estudiantes, especialmente a los de la comunidad latina, así como de entornos como Stockton que podrían estar subrepresentados en la educación superior,” dijo.

Alexandro, de 17 años, siguió los pasos de su hermana en Franklin High, graduándose este año como estudiante de primer nivel con un promedio general de 4.86 en el programa del IB. Y al igual que su hermana, estuvo activo en el campus y en la comunidad como presidente del Club Español y miembro de la Sociedad Nacional de Honor. Alexandro también asistirá a UCLA, pero quiere estudiar inglés con el objetivo de ser maestro, como su madre. El objetivo a largo plazo de Alexandro es ser director de la escuela y ascender en las filas de la administración escolar.

“Mi experiencia como latino, siento que la comunidad y la cultura han impactado mucho en mi vida,” dijo Alexandro. “Una gran parte de eso es el hecho de que

gran parte de mi familia emigró a los Estados Unidos desde México y muchos de mis amigos son hijos de inmigrantes. Realmente quiero hacerlos sentir orgullosos y hacer que sus sacrificios valgan algo.”

Ha sido un año difícil para los estudiantes de último año de la secundaria debido a la pandemia de coronavirus, que cerró los campus en todo el país. Alexandro y sus compañeros se perdieron el baile de graduación, su viaje de último año, su ceremonia de graduación y mucho más.

“Pero al mismo tiempo, tuvimos otras experiencias, como una graduación virtual, que fueron diferentes en sus propias formas,” dijo.

Alexandro dijo que la mayoría de sus amigos son sus compañeros de clase y, aunque inicialmente estaba contento de no tener que ir a sus clases estresantes en el campus, pronto se dio cuenta de que lo extrañaba.

“Cuando nos dimos cuenta de que no íbamos a regresar, algunos de mis amigos no tuve la oportunidad de decirles adiós,” dijo. “Eso fue una gran parte de eso.”

Alexandro dijo que está súper emocionado de ir a la universidad. Dijo que todos, incluida su hermana, han contado lo divertido que será y cuánto crecerá como persona.

“Pero tengo miedo de que el coronavirus lo arruine,” dijo. “No estamos seguros de si puedo ir al campus durante mi primer semestre. Pero aún podemos ir y obtener la experiencia completa y hacer todas las cosas típicas de la universidad.”

Alexandro dijo que pase lo que pase, hará lo mejor que pueda y hará que su familia esté orgullosa de él.

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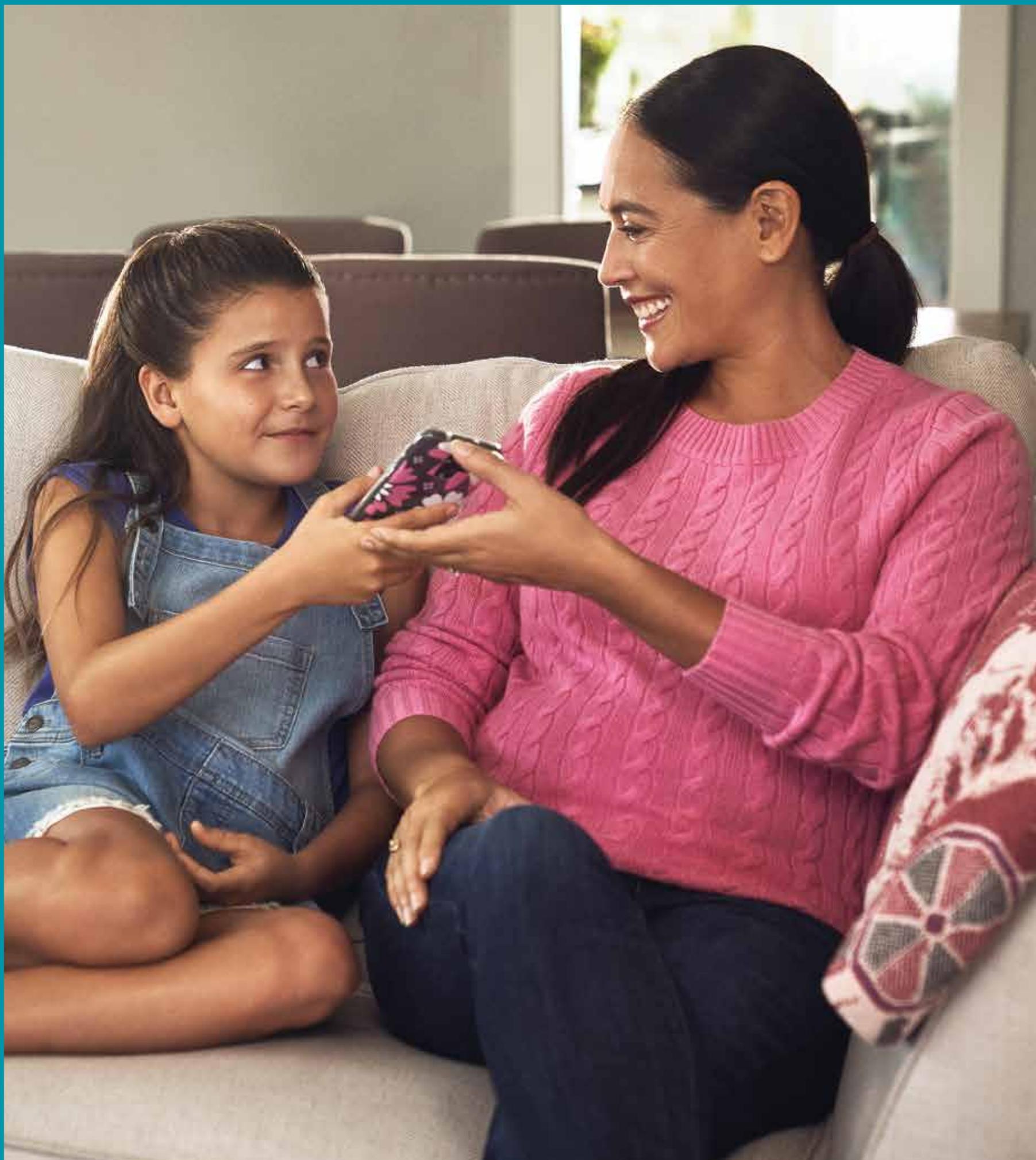
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Juarez

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collaborate with partner offices including the Sokolov-Miller Family Financial and Life Skills Center, Student Care and Advocacy, and learning centers across the Penn State system in order to develop efficient and holistic success plans for seniors. The Complete Penn State program, which is part of Achieve Penn State and under the umbrella of the Open Doors program, helps students who are within one or two semesters of graduation to overcome a range of financial, academic and personal obstacles, and the support Juarez provides will address all of these facets.

“Students are now facing a multitude of challenges which can create stress and negative impacts throughout their educational experience,” she said. “As my research interests include students’ basic needs and sense of belonging, I was attracted to this position as it connects with these topics while supporting students in a holistic way.”

Juarez, who holds dual master’s degrees in higher education and comparative international education from Penn State, is currently in her fourth year of Penn State’s Higher Education doctoral program. While pursuing her doctoral degree, she has made contributions to several student support offices, including Adult Learner Programs and Services, the Morgan Academic Center, Academic Development Services (Penn State World Campus) and the Multicultural Resource Center. She has

worked with a multitude of student populations, including adult learners, first-generation students, student-athletes, veterans, transfer and change-of-campus students and online learners.

Juarez, a first-generation transfer student who identifies as a biracial (South Korean and Mexican/Chicana) woman of color, said that her passion to support students derives from her own experience receiving support from family and mentors.

“When you’re a first-generation student, you have to find a support team who can help explain the inner workings of college because no one in your family has ever gone through the process,” she said. “If it were not for my mentors throughout college, I don’t think I would have known about graduate school or considered applying to Penn State. Knowing that I can possibly make a difference in a student’s life fuels my passion and drive to support our students.”

Juarez, who is originally from Stockton, California, attended the San Joaquin Delta Community College and graduated with an associate degree in psychology and a certificate in American Sign Language. She then received a bachelor’s degree in cognitive science with a minor in psychology from the University of California, Merced. While attending UC Merced, Juarez worked as a student mentor at the Calvin E. Bright Success Center supporting first-generation, transfer and

returning students, a role which she credits for initially sparking her passion for higher education and student affairs.

Juarez joins the Student Success Center, which was launched in 2019 to assist Penn State students in their academic pursuits, allowing them to fully harness the power of financial support and academic engagement opportunities. The center is committed to empowering students and their advocates across the University Park and Commonwealth Campuses to help students fulfill their academic goals. The signature initiative of the center, Complete

Penn State, has approved nearly \$1 million in aid during the 2019-20 fiscal year. In the months ahead, the center will continue to expand its programming to further its mission of supporting students through their Penn State careers.

The Student Success Center is a part of Penn State Undergraduate Education, the academic administrative unit that provides leadership and coordination for University-wide programs and initiatives in support of undergraduate teaching and learning at Penn State. Learn more about Undergraduate Education at undergrad.psu.edu.



FESTA ITALIANA! - POSTPONED

[LODI, CALIFORNIA] The Committee for Festa Italiana has announced Festa Italiana! 2020 scheduled for Sunday, June 14th has been cancelled due to the current social restrictions. Festa Italiana! will return to the Lodi Grape Festival Grounds on Sunday, June 13, 2021. One of the largest celebrations

of Italian Culture in the Central Valley and Northern California we hope you will save the date and join us in 2021 for a day of fine food, family activities and the best in local Italian entertainment!

For further information on the Festa, please visit festa-italiana.com.

El Hospital General de San Joaquín y Clínicas del Condado Reanudan las funciones normales para el paciente



Estamos reanudando todos los procedimientos electivos y las visitas de clínica.

En las últimas semanas ha habido una disminución en los casos de COVID-19 vistos tanto en nuestro Hospital y Clínicas. Hemos tomado todas las precauciones para avanzar en la dirección de las operaciones normales de atención médica a la vez protegiendo a los pacientes con una atención confiable que cumpla con los más altos estándares de seguridad y calidad.

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Sequoia PACE Launches in Fresno

WelbeHealth, operator of PACE programs across California, announced the enrollment of its first participants at LA Coast PACE in Long Beach and the upcoming launch of its fourth program, Sequoia PACE, in Fresno. The company has rapidly shifted to a remote home care model to serve seniors safely during the Covid-19 pandemic and continues to enroll new participants in its service areas across California. WelbeHealth also operates Stockton PACE in the Stockton-Modesto region and Pacific PACE, which serves Pasadena, Glendale, Burbank, North Hollywood, and surrounding areas. The company continues to hire new team members at each of its programs across clinical and home health roles to meet community health needs.

PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) is a longstanding Medicare and Medicaid program that provides comprehensive medical and social services enabling older adults to live in the community instead of a nursing home or other care facility.

The program has a long track record of positive outcomes, including longer life expectancy (by more than one year), improved quality of life, reduced rates of depression and dementia, and enhanced personal empowerment for seniors. PACE services are available at no cost to most participants as part of their Medicare and MediCal benefits.

“In our Home PACE model of remote care, we help seniors stay healthy and thriving while avoiding nursing facilities, which have tragically become hotbeds

for the spread of coronavirus,” said Si France, MD, Founder and CEO of WelbeHealth. “We’re excited to expand our all-inclusive model of care into the greater Long Beach and Fresno regions to serve more vulnerable seniors when they need it most.”

WelbeHealth has rapidly adapted to serve seniors during the Covid-19 pandemic, shifting to a remote home-based model to continue providing care while enabling participants to stay physically distanced to reduce the spread of the virus. The company’s PACE programs provide 4G LTE “WelbeLink” tablets to each senior, enabling regular video communications to manage medical and social needs. When in-person care is required, it’s performed by a single caregiver in the home whenever possible. The programs have even continued many of their usual games and recreational activities remotely, combating the dangerous social isolation affecting many seniors today.

Older adults and people with underlying medical conditions are at particularly high risk during the coronavirus pandemic, underscoring the benefits of a home-based care model. According to the National PACE Association, the average PACE participant in the U.S. is 77 years old with 8 medical conditions, many of which are chronic conditions such as diabetes, dementia, coronary artery disease, and cerebrovascular disease. PACE serves as an alternative to nursing homes as reports emerge that nearly 40 percent of California’s coronavirus deaths have occurred in the facilities.

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New TSA Security Procedures Designed to Prevent Spread of Coronavirus

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced the new procedures for airline passengers. These were done to minimize contact between TSA officers and travelers passing through security checks.

While there is still little air traffic - for example, 230,367 passengers passed through TSA checkpoints on May 20, compared to 2,472,123 passengers the same day in 2019 - the number is slowly increasing as authorities relax restrictions.

TSA expects to implement the new procedures at U.S. airports until mid-June.

The changes are:

1. To avoid contagion, TSA officials will no longer hold boarding passes. Passengers will scan their own printed or electronic boarding pass. They will also be asked to show it to the agent for inspection.

2. Food should be placed in a clear plastic bag and bag removed from luggage before placing on a tray for inspection. The TSA explains: "Food

generally triggers an alarm during security screening; removing food from carry-on luggage reduces the chance that a TSA official will have to open the luggage to remove food and inspect it closely."

3. Passengers are asked to pay more attention to prohibited items. Although passengers have long been asked not to carry liquids greater than 3.4 ounces, the TSA says it is now much more important to follow these guidelines, because officials will not have to "touch the contents of carry-on baggage "So often. If there are prohibited items, passengers may be asked to remove those items from their luggage and go through security after they are discarded. They will be allowed to carry up to 12 ounces of hand sanitizer by security check, but TSA requests that it be removed from carry-on baggage prior to inspection.

4. Passengers should maintain physical distance when possible. There may be markers on the ground that indicate the appropriate space between



passengers in line, as well as other ways to help people maintain physical distance.

5. TSA officials at checkpoints will wear masks and gloves, and passengers are recommended to wear masks. TSA officials will also change gloves after each physical inspection of a passenger. Some officers will have the choice to wear eye protection or clear plastic face shields.

6. Travelers should place loose items in their carry-on luggage, rather than

on trays. Keeping items like keys and phones out of trays "will reduce contact points during the inspection process," says the TSA.

7. Passengers must arrive at the airport in sufficient time for inspection. The TSA announcement indicates that although the low volume has allowed passengers to arrive at departures a little before the scheduled time, with the new procedures and downsizing, it may take extra time for boarding procedures and passing security control areas.

La TSA presenta procedimientos de seguridad para prevenir propagación del coronavirus

La Administración de Seguridad en el Transporte (TSA) anunció los nuevos procedimientos (en inglés) para los pasajeros de las aerolíneas. Estos fueron hechos para minimizar el contacto entre los agentes de la TSA y los viajeros que pasan por los controles de seguridad.

Si bien sigue habiendo poco tráfico aéreo —por ejemplo, el 20

de mayo pasaron 230,367 pasajeros por puntos de control de la TSA, en comparación con 2,472,123 pasajeros el mismo día en el 2019—, la cantidad va aumentando lentamente en la medida en que las autoridades flexibilizan las restricciones.

La TSA espera implementar los nuevos procedimientos en los aeropuertos de Estados Unidos hasta me-

diados de junio.

1. Para evitar el contagio, los funcionarios de la TSA ya no sujetarán los pases de abordaje. Los pasajeros escanearán su propio pase de abordaje impreso o electrónico. También se les pedirá mostrárselo al agente para que lo inspeccione.

2. Se debe colocar la comida en una bolsa de plástico transparente

y sacar la bolsa del equipaje antes de colocarla en una bandeja para la inspección. La TSA explica: "generalmente los alimentos activan una alarma durante el control de seguridad; sacar la comida del equipaje de mano reduce la posibilidad de que un funcionario de la TSA tenga que abrir el equipaje para sacar los ali-

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Health Plan of San Joaquin

Keep your health in check

With the recent outbreak of COVID-19, many people have spent more time away from friends and loved ones. Our routines have changed and that can create stress in our lives. During this time, it's important to pay attention to our feelings and take precautions to maintain our mental and physical health.



Let's bring back positive habits that we have been too busy to continue and start new ones that will help combat feelings of being overwhelmed and improve our overall health. Simply taking a few minutes a day to do an activity you enjoy can lower your level of stress. Coping with stress or anxiety can help you, those around you, and your community.

Daily rituals to improve your mental and physical health

-  Try your best to maintain pride.
-  Maintain positivity to create value in life.
-  Exercise everyday to improve your mood.
-  Eat balanced meals to keep your energy up.
-  Get 8 hours of sleep to let your body reset.
-  Communicate to convey your feelings.
-  Read a book to keep your mind at ease.
-  Play a board game to keep your mind sharp.



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Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

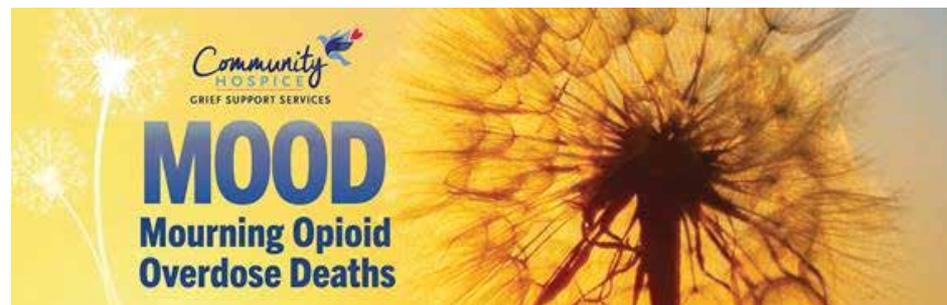
Community Hospice awarded grant to provide bereavement support to those who have lost someone to opioid overdose

MODESTO, Calif. – Community Hospice, the oldest nonprofit hospice organization serving the Central Valley, has been selected to receive one of five grants provided by National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) through the generosity of Legal & General America. This grant provides Community Hospice Grief Support Services Department the opportunity to develop a community bereavement support program called MOOD, Mourning Opioid Overdose Deaths. The MOOD program will begin seeing clients in June 2020 and is intended to support family and friends of loved ones who lost their lives due to an opioid related overdose.

If someone is feeling sadness, guilt, shame, anger, isolation, doubt, denial, love, even relief after a loved one died due to opioid overdose, they may be experiencing grief. The Central Valley is now home to an opioid epidemic.

The sad fact is; our communities have seen an increase year over year in overdose related deaths. Opioid addiction is a concern for many area leaders and healthcare providers. In March of 2019, an Opioid Safety Coalition was formed and hosted an Opioid Safety Awareness Summit. A recent community needs assessment revealed that while there are many resources available to support people with an opioid addiction, there are no specific support groups for bereaved survivors.

“We are so very pleased to have been chosen as a recipient of the NHPCO grant,” said C. DeSha McLeod, Community Hospice President/CEO. “For over 40 years, Community Hospice has been providing bereavement services in Stanislaus County and surrounding areas. There are many people in our community that have experienced loss related to opioid addiction and overdose. This grant allows us to continue



our mission, embracing those in need as they travel their grief journey.”

Losing someone close is always difficult, losing someone to addiction may result in experiencing stigma or isolation. One may be reluctant to access community resources for grief support. One may think they are alone and nobody has gone through this; help is available. The MOOD program offers individual and family/friend group sessions. Participants will have an initial individual screening, with a recommendation of support in one of the following ways: Clients can participate

in weekly individual support sessions with a counselor or they can join group support sessions, for seven weeks. Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Explore healthy ways to express grief
- Help accept the reality and circumstances of death
- Acknowledge trauma and validate grief reactions and symptoms
- Educate and discuss addiction and its impact
- Provide support to decrease stigma and isolation
- Explore meaningful rituals
- Remember, honor and say goodbye

Valley Builders Exchange Awards \$17,500 in Student Scholarships

Modesto CA -May 15, 2020 - VBE is excited to announce the 2020-2021 Student Scholarships to 12 High School seniors and College Students.

This year's scholarship recipients are Brian Hill, Nathaniel Bray, Garrett Grubs, Wyatt Waterworth, Travis Oxley, Bryce Guzman, Morgan Leonard,

Dieter Schweininger, Andruw Mendes, Caitlyn Murphy, Owen Murphy.

VBE has been awarding scholarships every year since 1998. We're proud to say that we have given over \$225,000 dollars to students continuing their education. The scholarship program would not be successful without our members support. Our

scholarship fundraisers are held twice a year.

VBE Executive Director Christine Schweininger added, VBE is dedicated to supporting our local youth. We understand the cost of college has been increasing since the 80's. These scholarships will help our local students with tuition, books, and housing. Every hard-working student

deserves the opportunity for an education.

Scholarships are offered to children or employees of Valley Builders Exchange members to help further their education. The number of scholarships awarded is determined by the Scholarship Committee, based on dollars available in the Scholarship Fund.

NOW HIRING



Position Title: Wash Bay Operator – Tanker Trailer / Truck Wash

Pay Rate: \$15.00 Plus - \$1040.00 Bonus after 90 days of employment

Location: 743 W. Anderson Street Stockton CA 95206

To Apply: Go to www.tankerwashusa.com and click the "now hiring" link

Available Shift: 10:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m., must be willing to work overtime and one weekend per month. Minimum 40 hours per week guaranteed.

Qualifications: No experience required.

Catholic Cemeteries



DIOCESE OF STOCKTON

• COVID 19 GUIDELINES •

Due to the state COVID-19 Guidelines, the Catholic Cemeteries have made changes to both visitation and burial options for our families.

- The cemetery gates and mausoleum at San Joaquin Catholic Cemetery in Stockton will be closed on weekends. They will also be closed on Good Friday through Easter Sunday.
- All cemetery offices are closed except for at-need burial arrangements. Appointments must be scheduled with the cemetery staff.
- Please limit visitations to our cemetery grounds. We ask everyone to follow the state and county shelter-in-place guidelines.
- Burials are allowed at this time. We do require everyone attending services to remain in their vehicles until our grounds crew has completed the burial.

We thank you for your cooperation during this difficult time.

SERVING THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOR OVER 100 YEARS

SAN JOAQUIN CATHOLIC CEMETERY
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Stockton, CA
209-466-6202

ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CEMETERY
17871 S. Carrolton Rd.
Escalon, CA
209-838-7134

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CEMETERY
3200 Dakota Avenue
Modesto, CA 95353
209-544-1450

ST. STANISLAUS CATHOLIC CEMETERY
1141 Scenic Dr.
Modesto, CA
209-529-3905

For questions email: inquiries@sjcemeteries.com

Amtrak San Joaquins Institutes Comprehensive Protocols to Protect Health of Riders and Staff

Two months ago, as the state was beginning to implement severe restrictions on non-essential travel, Amtrak San Joaquins suspended large portions of our service. Although the suspensions currently remain, Amtrak San Joaquins has instituted a suite of health and safety practices at stations, aboard the trains and Thruway busses.

To ensure the health and safety of employees and the public, Amtrak San Joaquins has closely monitored and followed the recommendations of federal, state, and local public health officials. Additionally, Amtrak San Joaquins is working with local and regional transit partners to incorporate other measures as recommendations are provided.

As a result of this coordination, below are some of the protocols now being implemented in the stations, onboard the trains and Thruway busses.

In the Stations - Disinfection: Disinfection wipe downs are being performed multiple times a day on all high touch surfaces including but not limited to: counters, doors, seats, ticket windows, electronic ticket kiosks, and vending machines. **Signage:** Social Distancing and other related health notices are posted throughout the station area. **Employee Protection:** All Amtrak Employees are wearing masks even when behind the ticket window. **No Cash:** Cash is not currently accepted to limit exchange of items from passengers to employees and vice versa.

Onboard - Disinfection: Trains are

misted with medical grade disinfectant on all seats and surfaces. All hard surfaces are wiped down. **Signage:** Social Distancing and other related health notices are posted through the train. **Employee Protection:** Conductors and other onboard staff are wearing masks. **Café Service:** Café Service is suspended to limit passenger movement and food handling. **Contactless Ticket Checking:** Amtrak's ticketing system does require conductors to touch passenger tickets. **Hand Sanitizer:** Hand sanitizer is available onboard for passengers.

You can view this information, as well information on the service reductions, by visiting our COVID-19 webpage: <https://sjjpa.com/an-important-update-regarding-covid-19/>.

As the state, as well as counties served by Amtrak San Joaquins begin to relax shelter-in-place orders, Amtrak San Joaquins commitment to keeping riders and staff healthy will remain at the forefront of priorities.

Amtrak San Joaquins has for many years been a valued means of connecting friends and families, a critical service for commuters, and a relaxing transportation option for leisure travelers. For now, the service is working ensure essential travel needs can be met while also maintaining the utmost health and safety standards. Amtrak San Joaquins looks forward to returning to full service and continuing to serve passengers for many years ahead.



USTED ES NUESTRA PRIMERA PRIORIDAD

ESTAMOS TOMANDO PRECAUCIONES PARA GARANTIZAR QUE VIAJE CON LA MAYOR SEGURIDAD POSIBLE.

Visite amtraksanjoaquins.com para más información.

YOU ARE OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY WE'RE TAKING EXTRA PRECAUTIONS TO ENSURE TRAVELING IS AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE.

Visit amtraksanjoaquins.com for more information.



AMTRAK **SAN JOAQUINS**

TSA

continúa en pág. 7

mentos e inspeccionarlos de cerca”.

3. Se les pide a los pasajeros que presten mayor atención a los artículos prohibidos. Aunque por mucho tiempo se les ha pedido a los pasajeros no llevar consigo líquidos de más de 3.4 onzas, la TSA dice que ahora es mucho más importante seguir estas pautas, porque así los funcionarios no tendrán que “tocar el contenido dentro del equipaje de mano” con tanta frecuencia. Si hay artículos prohibidos, se les puede pedir a los pasajeros que sean ellos quienes saquen esos artículos del equipaje y vuelvan a pasar por el control de seguridad después de haberlos desechado. Se permitirá llevar hasta 12 onzas de desinfectante para manos por el control de seguridad, pero la TSA pide que se saque del equipaje de mano antes de la inspección.

4. Los pasajeros deben mantener distancia física cuando sea posible. Puede que haya marcadores en el suelo que indiquen el espacio apropiado entre los pasajeros que están en fila, al igual que otras maneras de ayudar a las personas a mantener el distanciamiento físico.

5. Los funcionarios de la TSA que estén en los puntos de control usarán mascarillas y guantes, y se recomienda a los pasajeros usar mascarillas. Los funcionarios de la TSA también se cambiarán los guantes después de cada inspección física de un pasajero. Algunos agentes tendrán la elección de usar protección visual o los protectores faciales de plástico transparente.

6. Los viajeros deben colocar los artículos sueltos en su equipaje de mano, en vez de en bandejas. Mantener artículos como llaves y teléfonos fuera de las bandejas “reducirá los puntos de contacto durante el proceso de inspección”, dice la TSA.

7. Los pasajeros deben llegar al aeropuerto con suficiente tiempo para la inspección. El anuncio de la TSA indica que, aunque el bajo volumen ha permitido que los pasajeros lleguen a las salidas un poco antes de la hora programada, con los nuevos procedimientos y la reducción de personal podría necesitar tiempo extra para los trámites de embarque y pasar las áreas de control de seguridad.

Modesto Area Express Announces July Service Changes and Expansions

Modesto, CA —Modesto Area Express (MAX) announced it will be expanding service to provide additional routes and travel opportunities to the community. The expanded service will go into effect on July 1, when MAX will also be offering free rides for the entire month of July on all fixed routes and commuter services.

“We are excited to provide more regional transit opportunities to residents,” said Adam Barth, MAX’s Transit Manager. “Passengers will be able to ride MAX to Ceres, Escalon, Manteca, and Stockton.” Service expansions include:

- MAX and Modesto Area Dial-A-Ride (MADAR) will replace Ceres Area Transit (CAT) and Ceres Dial-A-Ride (CDAR) to provide service to and within Ceres. This change gives Ceres residents expanded access to destinations in Modesto and beyond. The new MAX Route 44 will operate on

the same schedule as CAT. CDAR will now be included in MADAR’s service area. CDAR riders are eligible to travel throughout Ceres and Modesto.

- Stockton Commuter Express will provide service to the San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) Stockton Downtown Transit Center, which provides Commuter Service to Sacramento. The MAX Stockton Commuter Express will run Monday through Friday and provide two morning trips and one evening trip from Modesto to Stockton with stops at the Vintage Faire Mall Park & Ride and Manteca Transit Center. Service will also be available from RTD Stockton Downtown Transit Center to Modesto Transit Center with two morning trips and one return trip in the evening.

- The new MAX Route 35 (via eTrans vehicles) will provide service to, from, and within Escalon. This Monday-through-Friday service will

depart from behind the Vintage Faire Mall and travel down McHenry Avenue. MAX Route 35 will operate on a similar schedule to eTrans’ current operations within Escalon.

Adjustments to the timetables will be made to better serve riders. For a complete summary of the July service change, MAX encourages riders to review the Summary of Changes on the MAX website or pick up the new Ride Guide on any MAX bus or at the Downtown Transit Center.

The Free Rides in July program (running July 1 through 31), will allow Modesto residents and visitors to experience MAX’s current and expanded services free of charge. The program excludes Modesto Area Dial-A-Ride (MADAR). MAX is encouraging the community to take advantage of the free month of travel, which will also be offered by regional transit partners in Stanislaus County,

including Stanislaus County Regional Transit (StaRT) and Turlock Transit.

In response to stay-at-home orders due to COVID-19, MAX has been providing Free Fares on MAX and MADAR since April 6, 2020. Free Fares will continue through the month of June to help reduce the spread of coronavirus. Free Fares:

- Limit interaction between drivers and passengers as passengers will now generally board at the back door.

- Provide passengers requiring ADA ramps, mobility devices, or priority seating safe access to the front door for boarding.

- Provide an extra measure of protection for drivers.

MAX encourages all riders to continue practicing social distancing (six feet apart or more) and to wear a facial covering when using MAX and MADAR services.

Visionary Home Builders Inc. Welcomes Three New Board of Directors

Visionary Home Builders of California, Inc. (VHB) is excited to announce the addition of three new members to their Board of Directors. Maria Hernandez, Brenda Ross, and Don Shalvey, each devoted to bettering the Stockton housing community.

Maria Hernandez currently resides in one of VHB’s Stockton housing communities and is passionate about becoming a voice for her community. She serves as a Residents United Network (RUN) Member,

a group who promotes community engagement to effect change in affordable housing and homelessness, not only within San Joaquin County, but also across California. Additionally, she is the owner and founder of her landscaping business located in Stockton.

Brenda Ross, who also resides in a VHB’s Stockton housing community, works as the Home Depot Kitchen and Bath Department designer. She is passionate about improving Stockton’s

low-income communities and often volunteers with her church ministry outreach projects, which includes visiting hospitalized and in-home bound patients and feeding the hungry.

Don Shalvey is Deputy Director of US Programs at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) where he oversees State & District Networks for the College Ready Team. Prior to joining the BMGF, Don was the CEO of Aspire Public Schools and has spent over 40 years in public

school reform and the charter school movement. Don is passionate about the role affordable housing can play in the quality of life and wants to bring his expertise in education to uplift our community.

Carol Ornelas, CEO, stated, “We are fortunate to have such a diverse group of Board members who have both the expertise and the desire to help us achieve our ambitious goal of providing quality affordable housing within the communities we serve.”

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CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE PUBLISHES ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT, RECOMMENDS ALL WATER USERS LEARN ABOUT LOCAL WATER SUPPLY

San Jose, Calif. — California Water Service (Cal Water) encourages its customers to visit www.calwater.com/ccr and view their Consumer Confidence Report, also called the CCR or water quality report, which provides information about the state of the local water supply. Customers can now review and learn about their system’s water quality in 2019, as well as obtain CCRs from prior years.

Customers can view and download their system’s CCR through this link; customers who do not have internet access may request a copy by contacting their local Cal Water Customer Center. “As a water utility committed to providing quality, service, and value to our customers, we want them to be informed about the drinking water they receive from us, because the more they know, the more confidence they can have in



it,” said Director of Water Quality Sophie James. “We think our customers will be pleased to know the lengths Cal Water goes to in order to provide them with a safe, high-quality, reliable water supply around the clock, so they don’t need to worry about their tap water.”

California Water Service serves approximately 2 million people through 489,600 customer connections in California. The utility has provided water service in the state since 1926. For more information, visit www.calwater.com.

Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency Request for Proposals X Street Navigation Center Operator RFP # 2023-DS

The Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (Agency), is soliciting proposals from non-profit agencies interested in operating the X Street Navigation Center.

The Request for Proposals solicitation document is on our website at <https://www.shra.org/doing-business-with-shra/> (click on the link for X Street Navigation Center Operator RFP); or upon request by emailing Procurement Services at ps@shra.org in reference to RFP # 2023-DS.

Proposals must be received no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, June 12, 2020 at SHRA Procurement Services – 2nd Floor, 801 12th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. For information on this and other projects, visit our website at www.shra.org.

Health Plan of San Joaquin welcomes new CEO

Bringing long experience as a California Nonprofit Medi-Cal Plan leader

Health Plan of San Joaquin (HPSJ) has announced that Michael Schrader has joined the organization as Chief Executive Officer. CEO Schrader has extensive managed care executive experience, including Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California) and Medicare for Dual Eligible Individuals (Special Needs Plan – SNP, and Cal MediConnect). He comes to HPSJ from CalOptima (Orange County, CA), where he served over seven years as chief executive officer at the publicly funded health care plan. While at CalOptima, he oversaw the doubling of membership under the Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansion, multiple years of top Medi-Cal plan ratings for quality, and innovations such as creation of the first health plan-based PACE Center in California – an outlet that is part of the national Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly.

Schrader said: “I look forward to collaborating with our members, providers, commission, and community organizations to ensure that Health Plan of San Joaquin, as a public agency, remains responsive to the health care needs of our diverse community,”

As he assumes leadership during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, Schrader, who has a track record of supporting employee engagement and career development, said “I appreciate coming to HPSJ where a well-positioned, dedicated staff is rising to the occasion. Most of them working remotely and without missing a beat to serve our members, providers, and community.”

He has a deep, career-spanning commitment to nonprofit, high quality health care that expands access for vulnerable communities. Previously, Schrader was the chief operating officer at both Boston Medical Center (BMC) HealthNet Plan (a Medicaid program operating in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, with a commercial plan in New Hampshire) and CenCal Health, a Medi-Cal plan based in Santa Barbara.

A resident of Tracy, Schrader holds a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from University of Arizona and an M.B.A from University of California, Los Angeles. Before entering the health care field, he was an aerospace engineer at Vandenberg Air Force Base. He currently is chair of Local Health Plans of California; LHPC

is a statewide association that represents all 16 local, nonprofit health plans (including HPSJ) that provide access to critical and comprehensive services for low-income populations enrolled in California’s Medi-Cal program.

Health Plan of San Joaquin (HPSJ) wants members, providers, and our community to continue to stay safe. The following is offered in that spirit of support. Stay informed. Our knowledge of the Novel Corona virus is still limited. It may continue to cause problems until there is a safe and effective vaccine.

There is good news. We effectively flattened the curve by physical distancing, and other safety means. Now California counties are entering Phase 2, using what we know to carefully guide reopening the economy.

Have realistic expectations. Vaccines take time; there may be waves of infection, so for months to come we may have to practice physical distancing, frequent handwashing, coughing in the crook of your arm, wearing a face covering when in public, and other preventive measures. Talk to your doctor for your regular health needs. They are adjusting their practices to



keep patients safe, take care of yourself so you can stay healthy and take care of your family.

HPSJ staff are working safely, taking all precautions recommended by local and state public health authorities. In this way, we are still here for our members providing information, access to health care, and support, for our providers offering practical assistance as we remain open for business with no interruptions, and for our diverse, vulnerable community where we continue our long-tradition of collaboration. At www.hpsj.com/coronavirus/ we continue to offer reliable, health-related information and resources for help during this chaotic time.

PORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Everyone’s getting a charge out of our new battery-powered cargo handling equipment. That’s because it’s zero-emission, which means cleaner air for our community. See it now at portofstockton.com/possible2.



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Stephen Griffen, William Trezza and Port Director Richard Aschieris

For more information:
Call 888.548.2287



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Durante este tiempo de incertidumbre, la salud y la seguridad de nuestras comunidades es la prioridad.



California, mientras te quedas en casa, llena el formulario del Censo 2020 por Internet visitando my2020Census.gov.

Obten más información en my2020Census.gov