



# District Two News

Representing Denair, Ceres (East), Hickman, Hughson, Keyes, La Grange and Turlock

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2010

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## The Lights Will Stay ON In Keyes

February 23, 2010, property owners in Keyes passed a Proposition 218 ballot measure to increase their streetlight fees from \$10 to up to \$51.09 per year in order to keep the lights burning bright throughout their community.

The fee of \$10 per parcel was approved in 1992. Although the costs of operating the public streetlights in Keyes have increased significantly over the past 18 years, the annual assessment fee has not. To compensate for the budget shortfall, the Keyes Community Service District (KCSD) had offset the difference by utilizing



general fund dollars. Once these dollars were diminished, the KCSD was left with no choice but to hold an election to increase the fees or turn off the lights. This was the district's second attempt in two years.

Finally, after a concerted effort by the KCSD Board members, Keyes Fire District and District Two County Supervisor Vito Chiesa, the voters passed the assessment increase and the lights will stay on. "This was a public safety concern. The community needs streetlights to stay safe and secure," said Chiesa.

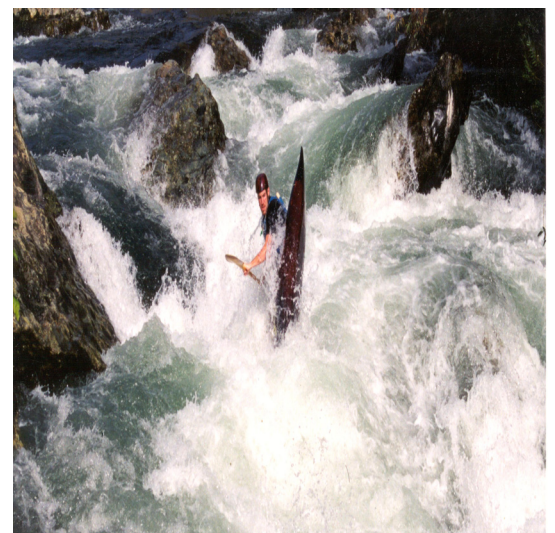
## Tourism: A Million \$\$ Industry In Stanislaus

At the 11th Annual Travel & Tourism Winter Forum, community and business leaders celebrated the continued growth of tourism in Stanislaus County. Last year alone this industry brought in \$400 million to the area.

"We don't have a famous mouse. We don't have a famous bridge," said Keith Boggs, Deputy Executive Officer-Economic Development. "But what we do have are rivers running through us. Tourism is economic development."

See what's going on and visit:

<http://www.connectingstanislaus.com/visitors>



# John B. Allard Healthy Start Family Resource Center 3rd Annual Family Fun Night

## May 13, 2010 from 5-8 p.m.

### 350 N. Kilroy Avenue, Turlock

For more information contact: Angelica Carranza at 238-6633

## Free Food, Games, Music and Prizes

### Local Resources and Educational Booths

This Program is made possible by a grant from the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission

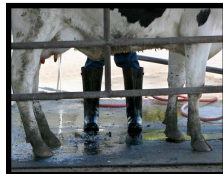
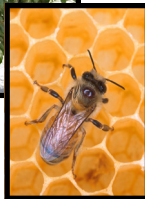
## Ag Awareness Day

California State University, Stanislaus will host their first annual "Ag Awareness Day" on Friday, May 21, 2010. The University will set-out to educate nearly 1,000 third grade students about where their food comes from and share information about the top ten commodities grown in Stanislaus County.

This activity will be conducted as part of a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant that was awarded to CSUS. Mark Bender, Professor and Endowed Chair of the Agriculture Department at CSUS, hopes that "this trial run evolves into a county-wide event held at several locations throughout the county."

Many area educational institutions and commodity groups will come together and provide a fun, hands-on look at the industry that drives our local economy. This is sure to be a day of "ag-ucation" these students won't soon forget.

### District 2 Agriculture Gallery



## SB 85 Signed!

Governor Schwarzenegger signed Senate Bill 85 on February 24, 2010, giving Stanislaus and five other California counties a much needed financial break!

SB 85, authored by Senator's Cogdill and Denham, allows the counties to keep a greater share of the property taxes it gives to the State every year. "This is a fairness measure designed to correct an injustice that has continued to plague six counties for over two decades," said Sen. Jeff Denham, R-Atwater.

Currently Stanislaus County keeps only 11 percent of the collected property taxes; the state average is 19 percent and as high as 61 percent in San Francisco.

"During these difficult economic times, all counties are faced with the difficult choice of putting important programs on the chopping block, however, funding shifts that were intended to help local government have actually hurt some counties, creating an even larger budget challenge," Cogdill said.

This is the step in the right direction towards fixing the County's budget difficulties and the obvious inadequate property tax sharing agreement.

# County Department Snapshot



## Stanislaus County Library

*An Adventure Down Every Aisle*

### SUMMER PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

Summer reading programs at the Stanislaus County Library begin June 1 and continue through Aug. 14. For 2010, programs for children, teens and adults each have a different twist on a common water theme. Summer Reading 2010 is supported by the Stanislaus County Library Foundation.

Children through age 12 are invited to participate in the children's summer reading program, "Make a Splash - READ!" Children participate by picking up a personalized reading log at any Stanislaus County Library location, read (or be read to) at least 15 minutes per day and earn fun rewards for every seven days of reading they complete.

Teens can participate in "Make Waves @ Your Library - READ!" Teens can participate by completing a Bingo-style reading log to track their reading or by submitting short book reviews at [www.stanislauslibrary.org](http://www.stanislauslibrary.org). Either way, they are entered into a drawing for some great prizes.

"Water Your Mind - READ!" is the summer reading program just for adults, offered countywide for the first time this year. Adults can submit short book reviews and read the recommendations of others participating in the program. At the end of the summer, a book bag of prizes will be awarded to one lucky adult reader!

Stanislaus County is one of 40 locations nationwide to host the exhibit, "Abraham Lincoln: A Man of His Time, A Man for All Times," at the Modesto Library, marking the bicentennial celebration of Lincoln's birth last year. The exhibit, provided through the Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History and the National Endowment for the Humanities, will be on display for the entire month of June. Several related events are planned, including a kickoff reception June 3. A family program about the clothing, music and foods of Lincoln's time will be presented on Saturday, June 5. CSUS Professor Emeritus, Curtis Grant and Attorney George Petrulakis will lead a book discussion on "Team of Rivals" on Wednesday, June 16. This exhibit and events the surrounding it provide a great opportunity for Stanislaus County residents to learn more about the 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln.

Stay current with the latest news and events in Stanislaus County. Stanislaus News brings you fresh, new information each month on what County departments are doing or what is impacting the County.

Tune in on Comcast Channel 7 or Charter Channel 19  
Weekdays at 6a.m., 7 a.m. or 11 p.m.



# CHIESA'S CORNER



**Supervisor Vito Chiesa**

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If you are a Turlock resident, you may have received a letter in the mail about the operational changes American Medical Response (AMR) has proposed to put into effect as of April, 2010. The proposed changes include closing the satellite deployment centers and consolidating them into one regional facility located in North Modesto. AMR also intends to remove one basic life support ambulance from the Turlock rotation as they have found it to be underutilized, but will keep all advanced life support ambulances deployed.

What does this mean for the residents of Turlock?

According to the Mountain Valley Emergency Medical Services Agency (MVEMS), the ambulance services in Turlock and the outlining communities will remain the same. The proposed changes can legally be made so long as AMR continues to provide service to residents within the contracted response times. For urban Turlock, the ambulance needs to reach a person in need within six and one half minutes. MVEMS is contracted with Stanislaus County to oversee all ambulance company operations and make regular audits of operations and response times to ensure contract compliance.

As the County Supervisor of District 2, I am concerned for the safety of the Turlock residents as well as the outlining communities. I have instructed MVEMS to keep a close eye on the situation and to audit AMR's operations and response times daily. If these audits begin to show a negative change in service, action will be taken!

If you have questions or concerns about this or any matter, please call my office...we are here to help.

**“We are here to serve the people of District Two and of Stanislaus County”**