**Dear Readers,**

This is the final free edition of Coalinga Press. In order to sustain this local newspaper, we must support it through subscriptions and advertisements. Thank you to those who have already subscribed. A subscription comes with your $20 donation to imaginarium. All payments should be made out to that nonprofit. Coalinga Press is a nonprofit newspaper connected to imaginarium. Donations beyond a subscription are tax deductible. Thank you Coalinga.

We also thank Have a Heart for supporting our efforts by providing rent money for our office. HUGE thanks!!

MB Jones, Publisher
192 W Elm Avenue #102
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MB@coalingapress.org

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**Have a Heart: Approved**

By Mary Blyth Jones
Coalinga Press

At last week’s city council meeting, the Coalinga council approved Have a Heart CC’s proposal for a cannabis dispensary with a unanimous vote. Councilman Ron Land and Mayor Nathan Vosburg both recused themselves from discussion and the vote because they both have businesses in the vicinity.

The Seattle-based firm has been in business for eight years and has dispensaries in several states.

Ryan Kunkel, founder and CEO of Have a Heart compassionate care, started the presentation by thanking Coalinga City Council for their consideration. The company was founded in 2011 in Seattle, Washington. The company expanded organically, meaning that no outside capital was needed. After launching successfully in Washington, they opened dispensaries in five states.

“One of the main things: the company we started is a medical cannabis company and regardless of the markets we operate in, we will always be a medical cannabis company first,” said Kunkel.

Ed Mitchell, Chief Operating Officer Have a Heart cc shared part of his story, explaining how he became involved with medical cannabis use.

“It would be unfair to talk about our values without talking about us individually,” said Mitchell. “The people you see standing up before me have given up a significant amount of income and other opportunities to come work for Have a Heart cc. Our motto is ‘Do good’ – That’s it. We try to do good and do better.

“I met Ryan four years ago. He took my brother off the street. He was homeless,” continued Mitchell. “Ryan gave him a job and even bought my brother teeth. When Ryan asked me to come work with him, I thought about it and about a week later, I came to work.”

In case people are thinking “Oh I’ll wait and see if it survives”, BE ADVISED… Once the doors close, they CANNOT re-open a few weeks later. It can take UP TO A YEAR to re-open! And, in the meantime, NO HOSPITAL! THE RESIDENTS OF THE RALPH NEATE FACILITIES WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO OTHER FACILITIES! Emergency services and Rural Health Clinic will be shuttered.

So, if you are holding out, you need to utilize CRMC going forward. This is not a threat, but it is a fact.

We greatly appreciate those citizens who have been using CRMC as their first choice. We intend to improve the experience for all.

William Lewis
CRMC Trustee

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**A ONE -- OR A ZERO?**

From William Lewis

CRMC’s new CEO, Wayne Allen, is zealously working against a looming deadline to obtain an affiliation with an outside source. The result will be a binary function — either a one or a zero. A one means the hospital will be shut down, and a zero means the hospital will continue to function — for a while. A one means the doors will close very soon. There is no middle ground.

It is imperative that citizens from Coalinga, Huron and Avenal who have been using CRMC for years to consider the council’s vote because they both have businesses in the vicinity.

We also thank Have a Heart for supporting our efforts by providing rent money for our office. HUGE thanks!!

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Coalinga Shares 911 Dispatch

By Mary Blyth Jones
Coalinga Press

Approximately 6 months ago, according to Coalinga Police Chief Michael Salvador, the City of Parlier was considering leaving its existing law enforcement dispatch contract with the Fresno County Sheriff's Office and was exploring other options for law enforcement dispatch service.

Salvador contacted the project manager in Parlier to discuss some ideas he had.

After several conversations, Salvador consulted with the Coalinga police department to formulate a quote for what a partnership for offering those services might cost the department.

In February, the Coalinga police department provided a preliminary cost estimate to Parlier officials. In turn, that city and its police department did an analysis of costs and feasibility on contract law enforcement dispatch services that included the Coalinga cost estimate.

A meeting of finance directors, both cities’ police chiefs, city managers and consultants was held on April 10.

At length, both cities came to the conclusion that the dispatch services contract would be mutually beneficial to each.

Coalinga would receive increased revenue and Parlier would benefit from an improved service delivery to its residents.

Salvador stated that other improvements would need to be made but are all within the budget.

“The City of Coalinga will also have to upgrade its radio equipment to provide reliable service,” said Salvador. “This upgrade is programmed in the fiscal year 2019 budget and will need to be accomplished whether this merger is approved or not.

“The City has sufficient staff to handle increased workload with four full-time positions and the four part-time positions already allocated in the current budget,” said Salvador. “Parlier would pay for all hardware, software, and personnel costs to join the merger in year one. A long-term contract would be similar in scope to fully subvented contracts that the department currently has with both school districts.”

With Coalinga city council approval, Salvador will begin drafting a contract. Then the Coalinga police department will start assuming 911 dispatch services for the city of Parlier along with all other calls to the Parlier Police.

Both cities will meet again to ratify the contract once it has been approved. The completion for the entire process is estimated to take six to eight months.

Coalinga Mayor Nathan Vosburg stands with Chamber of Commerce director, lifelong resident of Coalinga Benjamin Kahikina after announcing the 82nd Horne Toad Festival coming in a month.

Jen's Jottings
By Jennifer Abbott

Speed thrills
The era of the muscle car left a lasting impression on anyone who ever owned, drove or lusted after one of the fast production cars that came into being in the late 60's. If you never had the pleasure of driving one of them, then take it from me, there's nothing like power when you want it to keep you wanting more.

In 1974 we bought a 1969 Mustang Coupe. It sported a 351 Windsor engine and 390 horses under the hood. It was outfitted with an AMX transmission and could straight up get down the road. She was rusty red with black interior, clean body and my husband was in love with her. Though it wasn't a cop magnet (Mikey only got one speeding ticket while driving it), the coupe fit with her. Though it wasn't a cop magnet (Mikey only black interior, clean body and my husband was in love with her), the coupe fit with her.

We were young and active and liked to run around in our sporty, speedy car. We even took it to Missouri to visit my parents when Noel was not quite 2 years old.

Good mileage wasn't a huge issue back in those days, gas was reasonably inexpensive and we loved to turn it loose on long stretches of road. Speed limits were about 70 most places and it was easy to mudge the speedometer up to illegal when no one was around to pay attention.

In retrospect, it wasn't a great family car because there wasn't any leg room in the back seat and no serious trunk space to speak of. But our child was a little guy and neither seat belts nor safety seats were required. When we traveled any distance, we turned the back seat of our precious 2-door into a flat play area for Noel and if he got tired he'd just lay down and go to sleep. It was a sweet heart of a car and we loved it.

I bought my first car when I was about 19. It was a 1966 Plymouth Valiant and boy was it a beauty! I paid less than $400 at a car lot and it was only 6 years old at the time. It ate front tires with its irreparable alignment and leaked oil like there was no tomorrow. I could push that rickety old rig to serious speeds and was known to “drag” race it on the busy streets of Redlands. My mechanical knowledge was nil but I drove it like a beast to be reckoned with. Many years later it left me stranded one time too many and it was towed away, never to be seen again.

Mikey was a bit of a daredevil himself when it came to driving back in his youth. His 1958 Mercury Monterey was his baby but it took a beating. I’m told, especially when he took a steep hill too fast and became airborne. He popped the motor mounts and the engine was sitting sideways in the engine compartment. The frame was bent and its demise became evident shortly thereafter. What was salvageable was sold for parts. To this day he brags about the engine compartment. The man was obviously crazy (or maybe he just missed his calling as a sprint car driver).

With all the vehicles we’ve owned over the nearly 40 years since we’ve been together the Mustang was our favorite. I drove it up the Cajon Pass at 103 mph once when some guys in a souped-up Vega decided they needed to follow my girlfriend and me out of San Bernardino. To this day they are probably looking for the doors we blew off when we left them in the dust.

Mikey liked to put her through the paces and actually drove it 108 mph on the pass between Lee Vining and Bridgeport in his maniacal effort to catch up with the friends we were going camping and deer hunting with. I’m happy to say that we caught them before anyone was killed. Yes those were the mindless, stupid, “what were you thinking” days.

In my old age we drive a mini van. We can haul stuff and tote kids. It’s capable of speeds over 100 but I really don’t feel the need to push the limits of our vehicle at this moment in time, besides it really doesn’t look much like a hotrod and if I did put my foot in it and reach the speed of OH MY GOSH the police would probably think I was drunk or had robbed a liquor store. They might even write me off as a crazy old lady and call in the men in the little white coats.

Even though we’ve become more conservative about what we drive, it doesn’t mean we don’t appreciate modern technology and amazing car design. A

Jen's Jottings continued on Page 6
Stakeholders concerned with the dire straits of Coalinga Regional Medical Center met on April 16 at City hall. The group exchanged concerns, issues, and possible solutions at the two-hour meeting.

Coalinga Mayor Nathan Vosburg worked with city manager Marissa Trejo to bring the group together for the session. Avenal Mayor Alvaro Preciado was at the meeting along with representatives from Aera Energy, Chevron, West Hills College, Fresno Economic Development team, California Highway Patrol, Coalinga police chief Michael Salvador, Pleasant Valley State Prison, Coalinga Fire Department, Coalinga Chamber of Commerce, Coalinga Huron Recreation and Parks, and CRMC CEO, Wayne C. Allen.

Once again, Allen was candid as he outlined the future in grim detail.

“Without a bridge loan, the hospital will fail within two weeks,” said Allen. “I believe we can save CRMC,” said Allen. “Turn it around and make it a prosperous and fine facility again. It will take a lot of work on all of our parts.

“I am searching for affiliations with larger systems,” Allen continued. “It looks very positive at this point. We need to keep our communication lines open, share information during these troubled times.”

“Heath care is a critical resource to all of us,” added Allen.

Salvador explained the importance of a medical facility in town.

“Being able to get people in and out for medical clearances before heading to the jail,” said Salvador, “is critical.”

“It’s a three-hour trip to get someone to the jail,” said Salvador, “and then if they aren’t medically clear, another three to five hours to go to the hospital there.”

“The emergency room here for us is critical,” said Salvador. “When we need it to clear a prisoner, we need to get in and get out. That’s something that is really good about having a facility here.”

The emergency room at CRMC sees about 750 patients in the emergency room every month, according to Allen.

See Hospital Critical on page 7

Principal Kim Baugh (left) congratulates Jennifer Johnson for being chosen as certificated employee of the month for CHUSD.

At last week’s Coalinga Huron Unified School District board meeting, superintendent Lorri Villanueva unveiled plans to hire a Director of Student Services and Family Support. This person would essentially replace the some of the services provided by the Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services which was vacated when Villanueva was reassigned as superintendent. This individual would have three areas of service. They would supervise non-classroom services such as nursing, wellness, suicide prevention and other student services. They would provide parent and family services including complaints, parent

Continued on page 7

Coalinga Huron Unified School District will be offering parenting classes for all parents. These classes are designed to provide guidance and ideas for parents to help their children in school. Ideas for summer learning and engagement will be discussed. There is no cost for the classes.

Times and dates will be announced by CHUSD offices.

Coalinga Press
CRMC Remains Critical
By Mary Blyth Jones

CRMC’s two skilled nursing units for seniors and others who require long term care are in danger of being closed. All the affiliated facilities of CRMC may close if the financial situation is not resolved in the next two weeks. The 69 current residents and families of those in the skilled nursing units are concerned about needing to find new homes and facilities for the patients cared for at this time.

“Health care is a critical resource to all of us,” added Allen.

Salvador explained the importance of a medical facility in town.

“It’s a three-hour trip to get someone to the jail,” said Salvador, “and then if they aren’t medically clear, another three to five hours to go to the hospital there.”

“The emergency room here for us is critical,” said Salvador. “When we need it to clear a prisoner, we need to get in and get out. That’s something that is really good about having a facility here.”

The emergency room at CRMC sees about 750 patients in the emergency room every month, according to Allen.

See Hospital Critical on page 7

New Position
By Mary Blyth Jones

Coalinga Huron Unified School District Transportation department was honored at the last CHUSD meeting for their tireless diligence and dedication to getting students to and from school in a safe, orderly atmosphere. New head of transportation, Katie Delano, center holds the plaque.

CHUSD Transportation department was honored at the last CHUSD meeting for their tireless diligence and dedication to getting students to and from school in a safe, orderly atmosphere. New head of transportation, Katie Delano, center holds the plaque.

IDEAS FOR SUMMER LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

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Beautiful spring flowers were on show at last week’s Coalinga Woman’s Club Flower Show and luncheon. The annual event has helped raise funds used for several local projects for over 100 years. Coalinga Huron Unified School District superintendent Lori Villanueva won the raffle prize: a basket of gift cards worth more than $200.

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Your subscription makes it possible to provide Coalinga with its own newspaper. There is no source of revenue to support this endeavor other than your subscription and advertisements bought by local businesses. Coalinga Press would like to become known and respected as a dependable news source in Coalinga. Together, we can make this paper amazing. Thank you for your support. A year’s subscription for local delivery is a donation of $20. Out of town delivery is $55 per year. Checks can be made out to Imaginarium, the nonprofit organization sponsoring this endeavor.

Coalinga Press
PO Box 968
Coalinga, CA 93210
362-9668

For months, volunteers from Coalinga have been working to revitalize Pleasant Valley Cemetery. With truck loads of sod arriving, many people were on site to lend a hand to make the job go smoothly. CalFire, Mid Valley Disposal, and inmates from Pleasant Valley State Prison have been largely involved. Last week Channel 30 arrived to catch up with the efforts as Gina Lopez, president of Friends Of Pleasant Valley Cemetery gave plaques to commemorate and thank several entities who have given so much. Above, Gina Lopez spends time with Channel 30’s Ruben Contreras.

The Kreyenhagen clan is one of the oldest groups of settlers still in the valley. Each year they have an annual meeting complete with dinner and a comprehensive report. This year, the three oldest Kreyenhagen gave Coalinga Press a rare photo opportunity. Ed Kreyenhagen, seated, is with his sister, Verna Den Hartog and Kenneth Kreyenhagen.

JOSE DIAZ
April 20, 1927 – April 18, 2018

On April 18, 2018, our loving father, Jose Diaz, passed away peacefully in his home with his family at his side. He was 90 years old. He was born on April 20, 1927, in Lubbock, TX, to Abraham and Maria Luz Diaz. Shortly after, his father decided to return to Otatlan, Jalisco, Mexico with his family where Jose and siblings were raised. He met and married Irene Hernandez, his wife of 64 years.

Jose and Irene made their first home in Mission, TX, where 5 of their 8 children were born. While in Texas, he worked on a ranch. In 1960, Jose decided to move the family to Coalinga, CA, where 3 more children were born. The family made Coalinga their home town from then on. He worked hard to provide for his family as a farm laborer for Pleasant Valley Ranch, O’Neil Farms and Claremont Farms respectively. He retired in 1989.

He was an active member of St. Paul’s Catholic Church until his health prevented him from attending.

His life passions were being with his family and helping in any way he could, working the dirt and growing a vegetable garden every spring, taking trips to the beach, dancing but most of all listening to his favorite Mexican music day and night.

Jose was preceded in death by his father, Abraham Diaz; mother, Maria Luz Diaz; brother, Alfonzo Diaz; sister, Catalina Cervantes Diaz; infant son, Jose Diaz Jr; infant daughter, Rosemary Diaz; stepmother, Francisca Diaz; brother, Guadalupe Diaz.

He is survived by his wife, Irene Diaz of Coalinga, CA; brother, Ruben Castro Diaz of McAllen, TX; 4 daughters, Juanita Trevino (Johnny) of Huron, CA; Maria D. Sandoval of Coalinga, CA; Irene Sanchez (Paul) of Fresno, CA; Josephine Escobar (Danny) of Hanford, CA; 2 sons, Jorge Diaz (Mary) of Bakersfield; David Diaz (Vanessa) of Coalinga, CA; 24 grandchildren, 39 great grandchildren, 5 great great grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Services will be Friday, April 27, 2018, at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic church in Coalinga, CA. Public viewing at 9 a.m., Rosary at 10 a.m. and mass at 11 a.m. Interment following mass at Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

The family thanks Fr. Viktor Perez, Dr. John Weisenberger and staff, Adventist Hospice Care nurses and aide, Yvonne Pizarro, Michele Trevino, Dan and Mary O’Quinn, Joe and Rosalinda Dominguez for their love and care given to our father.

Coalinga Blood Drive
May 1
12 PM - 4 PM
6th & Elm

Coalinga Community Blood Drive
May 1
12 PM - 4 PM
6th & Elm

Keep Calm And Donate Blood

Photo by Mary Blyth Jones, Coalinga Press

Coalinga Middle School students Aleia Balling and Jasmine Chavez, both 7th graders, were putting flyers up for their school’s first color run which will take place on May 5. Funds raised with the race will go toward school projects.
Coalinga Roughnecks and TriCity Wrestling united as Coalinga Elite Wrestling to represent their community and state at one of the toughest youth tournaments this side of west coast, Reno Worlds Nationals. We took 18 wrestlers from Coalinga. They all wrestled tough. We had 6 place, Dario Lemus 1st place Reno National Champion, Leilani Lemus true 2nd place, Arrianna Andrus 4th place, Julio Garza 5th place, Roman Lopez 5th place Jose Aguiniga 7th place. Thank you to everyone that helped get our kids to Reno. Without your support, none of this would be possible. Thank you to Tri City and Roughneck parents for working together and helping make this happen.

CHS Softball team shows off medals they have earned recently.

Ian Schindler is a sophomore at CHS. The 16-year old Coalinga played against Caruthers and Coalinga won 15-4.

Wyatt Thames, freshman at CHS plays on the Toad Baseball team.

Coalinga High School track team had “Senior Night” at last week’s track meet in Chuck Garten Memorial Bowl on Sunset Street.

Go Toads!
I am forever losing things, but I think it’s that I’m too busy rather than being old.

A couple of weeks ago, I grabbed a hammer and stuck a nail in the wall so I would have a specific spot for my keys. I’m doing pretty good with it.

I wish I had someone or something to blame my problems with misplacing things; just one of my age related challenges.

My elderly cat, Domino, has never met a sock he didn’t want to thrash around and when carry it somewhere else in the house. He is a sock killer. Lost socks are easy. I blame Domino.

But a library book or a phone are out of his abilities, so far. Or my hairbrush... Or the camera. Or this week, the camera lens. No. It was obvious that I did it all myself.

I had looked ALL over and had come up empty. Then I stuck my hand in my jacket pocket... Vooila!

I save all sorts of interesting things. I have tons of paper. Art paper, writing paper, copy paper, origami paper. And I love every piece of it. This is not helpful.

I blame my mother. We saved TP rolls, rubber bands, old tin foil... You never know when that stuff might come in handy. One time we even took plants and flowers from the dump that had been dumped after a funeral. They were pretty cool.

I did manage to do one thing this week that was clever. After Have a Heart explained to the community how to dispense, I paid my rent for the newspaper of the dispensary instead of paying the regular amount. I had looked ALL over and had come up empty. Then I stuck my hand in my jacket pocket... Vooila!

The Proceeds benefit the Coalinga Fire Department.

We need to increase the acceptance of cannabis as a legitimate form of mood alteration before people are really going to accept the value of it.

I use cannabis on a daily basis, but I haven’t been stoned in 20 years. I use CBD. Mitchell went on to explain that the age of 58, he has a number of aches and pains but still enjoys playing basketball. Without the use of CBD, he would not be able to engage in sports due to the amount of pain he experiences. CBD, he said, is free to keep up with the younger guys.

There will be a significant number of employees at the dispensary, and Have a Heart plans to hire as many local individuals as possible.

Have a Heart stated that the dispensary plans to hire as many local individuals as possible.

We need to increase the acceptance of cannabis as a legitimate form of mood alteration before people are really going to accept the value of it.
We rely on the ER extensively, for stabilizing super critical patients,” said Coalinga Fire Chief Dwayne Gabriel.

CHP representative Schuh agreed with Coalinga Fire Chief Dwayne Gabriel. “We rely on the ER extensively, for stabilizing super critical patients,” said Allen. Allen replied that with a tenure of only two weeks, he did not have a clear answer for the seemingly rapid decline of the facility’s financial stability. He also explained that this is happening in many other facilities across the nation.

With the number of treatments and outpatient options available, an emergency room and in-patient treatment is not as frequently used or needed. “This all brings out the need to affiliate with a multi-hospital system or needed.”

Many changes are in the works at CRMC, but it may be too little, too late. One issue is to make sure the facility is covered by more insurance policies, making sure CRMC is “in network.”

In very little time, the destiny of CRMC will be known. CEO Allen promises clear communication with the community and other stakeholders.

A representative from PG&E presents city staff with a check for $2,500. This money was used to repair the Sisk Fountain in front of city hall.

With a staff of about 190 employees, the local impact of CRMC closing would be economically catastrophic not just for the families directly impacted, but for housing, local services, and education.

That number does not include 14 other medical staff who are not regular employees. Vosburg inquired of Allen how the hospital would support the hospital again. “For the last 12 months, the hospital has been faced with declining volume and activity,” said Allen. “They’ve been taking some significant losses. This is just no longer sustainable. The cash is gone, payables are up. That’s how the financial crisis has developed.”

Vosburg asked if there was any thing specific that had contributed to the declining volume of patients at CRMC.

Allen replied that with a tenure of only two weeks, he did not have a clear answer for the seemingly rapid decline of the facility’s financial stability. He also explained that this is happening in many other facilities across the nation.

The number of treatments and outpatient options available, an emergency room and in-patient treatment is not as frequently used or needed.

“It was pointed out that lab work, x-rays, CT scans, MRIs, physical therapy are all available at CRMC. One way to support the hospital is to utilize those services instead of going elsewhere.”

Many changes are in the works at CRMC, but it may be too little, too late. One issue is to make sure the facility is covered by more insurance policies, making sure CRMC is “in network.”

In very little time, the destiny of CRMC will be known. CEO Allen promises clear communication with the community and other stakeholders.
Thank you to our supporters.

Do you want to sell your home? Call Nancy!

Nancy Simpson, Realtor
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NEWER POMSA CHANET HOME! 4 BEDROOM 3 BATH OPEN FLOOR PLAN WITH VAULTED CEILINGS, LANDSCAPED FRONT AND BACK. PLUS 3 CAR GARAGE.

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Wear white to pass through powerful pops of color & get tie-dyed for a good cause!

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CHOCOLATE | VANILLA | BANANA

PEANUT BUTTER | BLUEBERRY | COFFEE

TEA | LEMONADE | COFFEE

ICED TEA

BLACK TEA | CHAI TEA

THAI TEA | MATCHA GREEN TEA

CAPPUCINO | MOCHA

WHOLE MILK | SOT MILK | ALMONDO

Add milk or flavoring 50¢ Each

PEARLS & POPPING BOBA

KEIWI | BLUEBERRY

MANGO | STRAWBERRY

POMEGRANATE | GREEN APPLE

Extra Pearls Add 50¢

Extra Popping Boba Add $1.00

16 oz DRINK BOBA PEARLS $5.50

POPING BOBA $6.00

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Monday - Friday 9 AM - 7 PM Saturday - 10 AM - 2 PM

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Find out more about the CMS 5K Color Run at www.cms5kcolorrun.com

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