

VOL. 3 ISSUE 2

COUNTY CROSSROADS

Official Newsletter of
the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

Saka Nakodar Day in San Joaquin County

CHAIR SONNY DHALIWAL, DISTRICT THREE

This month, our Board took an important and meaningful step by proclaiming Saka Nakodar Day for the first time. I was proud to bring this recognition forward, building on work I first began years ago as Mayor of Lathrop. The setting has changed, but the values have not. Saka Nakodar Day is a remembrance of when four unarmed and peaceful Sikh students were killed by State Police while protesting the desecration of the Sikh scripture. It is not just a date on the calendar; it stands as a reminder that free speech and peaceful assembly only matter when people have the courage to come together, speak up, and insist on accountability and justice.

America has been a beacon for freedom seekers around the world, a place where voices are meant to be heard and peaceful action can lead to change. As an immigrant, I know why that promise matters. I grew up a short distance from the site of this tragedy. Families come here because they believe in these freedoms, and because they trust that this nation, while never perfect, allows space to speak out, to assemble peacefully, and to push our institutions to do better. Recognizing Saka Nakodar Day at the county level affirms that San Joaquin County honors those principles.

As we move toward America's 250th anniversary, I have chosen patriotism as my theme for the year. Patriotism is not passive, it is active. It means protecting the rights our founders fought for, respecting peaceful protest, and holding ourselves accountable to the public we serve. By proclaiming Saka Nakodar Day as a county, we connect local action to enduring American values, and we recommit ourselves to justice, dignity, and freedom for all.

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News of Note

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- [Declaration of Candidacy Period Opens for the June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election](#)
- [Board Approves New Emergency Ambulance Services Agreement](#)
- [San Joaquin County Strengthens Protections Against Real Estate Fraud](#)

Black History Month in San Joaquin County

Each February, we celebrate Black History Month in San Joaquin County. This year, we can celebrate some highly significant local figures, thanks to the work of the staff of the San Joaquin County Historical Museum. As part of their 175th anniversary exhibit, which you can see now at Micke Grove Park, they highlighted “Icons of San Joaquin County, including:

- Emanuel Quivers: Advocate for Equality
 - Born an enslaved person in 1814, Mr. Quivers’ skill and hard work allowed him to purchase freedom for himself and his wife. After moving to Stockton, he became a regional leader in the fight for civil rights. In 1877 he fought for his son to attend Stockton High School. While he was initially unsuccessful, in 1879 he successfully pushed for desegregation by the school board. He also helped organize the first statewide association for people of color.
- Wilhelmina Henry: The Legacy of a Lifetime
 - Ms. Henry, a graduate of Tuskegee University, was the first Black teacher at Stockton Unified School District, When she retired in 1994, it was estimated that she taught more than 1,000 students in her 47-year career. Her legacy continues with The Wilhelmina Henry Scholarship at Franklin High School and the Wilhelmina Elementary School opened in Stockton in 2006.
- Artie Walker: A Force for Good
 - At age 27, she was the first Black female Sheriff’s Deputy in 1957. Deputy Walker championed inmates’ rights and dignity. She also worked to improve the handling of sexual assault victims’ cases. She retired in 1983 and lived in Stockton until her death in 2019.

(Biographical information courtesy of the San Joaquin County Historical Museum)





San Joaquin County Secures New Emergency Ambulance Agreement

San Joaquin County has taken a major step to strengthen its emergency medical services, with the Board of Supervisors approving a new five-year agreement with the CENCAL Fire and EMS Authority. The deal, which runs from May 1, 2026 through May 1, 2031, grants CENCAL exclusive authority to provide emergency ambulance services in Ambulance Zones X and Y, as well as dispatch services for all emergency ambulance providers countywide.

The agreement comes after a thorough, multi-year review of the County's EMS system — including an independent assessment and a competitive request for proposals process administered by the San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services Agency.

"Emergency medical services are not optional, they are essential," said Board Chair Sonny Dhaliwal. "This agreement reflects careful planning, strong oversight, and our responsibility to ensure residents receive timely, professional emergency care when they need it most."

CENCAL was selected based on its ability to meet the County's operational, clinical, and performance standards. Notably, the authority will operate without any subsidy from the County General Fund and will fully reimburse the County for the costs of performance monitoring and administration — a fiscally responsible arrangement that protects taxpayers while maintaining service quality.

The County's Emergency Medical Services Agency will provide ongoing oversight, monitoring compliance with response time benchmarks, performance metrics, and patient care standards.

For residents, the bottom line is straightforward: when you call 911, help is on the way — and the County is committed to making sure it stays that way.

San Joaquin County Strengthens Protections Against Real Estate Fraud

San Joaquin County is taking decisive action to protect residents from real estate fraud by implementing Senate Bill 255 and strengthening existing county practices related to fraud notification. This effort enhances early warning protections for property owners and reinforces safeguards for seniors and other vulnerable residents.

Led by Fourth District Supervisor Steve Ding, in partnership with District Attorney Ron Freitas and Assessor-Recorder Steve Bestolarides, this resolution builds on more than a decade of county efforts to combat financial exploitation and promote transparency and consumer protection in real estate transactions

SB 255 requires counties to establish a Recorder Notification Program alerting property owners within 30 days whenever key documents affecting ownership, including deeds, quitclaim deeds, mortgages, and deeds of trust, are recorded. That early notice gives residents a chance to act before fraud causes lasting damage.

"These schemes rely on silence and delay," said Supervisor Ding. "This program gives property owners timely notice, clear information, and a chance to act. When residents are informed and scammers know they will be caught, everyone is safer."

The program is funded through existing Fraud Fee revenue within the Assessor Recorder's Office at no additional cost to taxpayers. County officials encourage residents to review mailed notifications carefully and report suspicious activity immediately.



211 Provides Resource Referrals

Earlier this month, we celebrated 211 day in San Joaquin County.

If you or someone you know is facing a crisis or unexpected hardship, 211 is the place to start. One simple call connects you to local resources, from housing and childcare to food assistance, utility support, health services, and public benefits.

It is free and available to help residents navigate tough moments with real answers and real people on the other end of the line.

Dial 211 to get connected. Help is closer than you think.

Thank you to the Family Resource Center who staffs our 211 call center.



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

Teen dating violence is often hidden and takes many forms, physical, emotional, verbal, sexual, and digital. The message is simple; love should never hurt.

Thank you to PREVAIL, the Family Justice Center, and the District Attorney’s Victim Witness Program for supporting survivors and educating our youth.

PREVAIL uses Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month to shift the conversation from Valentine pressure to Love is Respect. Drawing on 50 years of advocacy, PREVAIL educates teens, parents, and educators about the often overlooked realities of dating violence, including emotional abuse, gaslighting, and digital control. They emphasize green flags like consent, trust, and independence, while calling out red flags such as isolation, pressure, and monitoring. Through school and community presentations, PREVAIL focuses on early education, because teaching healthy boundaries now prevents lifelong harm later. Respect is the baseline, not a bonus.

Let us keep the conversation going and make sure every young person in San Joaquin County knows what a healthy relationship looks like, and where to turn for help.

-  24/7 Helpline: (209) 465-4878
-  Youth Crisis Line: (209) 948-1911
-  WeShallPREVAIL.org



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