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## Friday Memo for 3/10/2017

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### NoRTEC Appoints Supervisor Scofield as Governing Board Chair

On Thursday January 26, 2017, the Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium (NoRTEC) appointed District II Board of Supervisor Ed Scofield as it's Governing Board Chair. For the previous two years, Supervisor Scofield has served as NoRTEC's Vice Chair. In his new role as Chair, he will also serve on NoRTEC's Joint Workforce Development Board (WDB) and the

Governing Board Executive Committee.

NoRTEC was established in 1983 through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to provide oversight, guidance and direction for the federal Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) in an eleven county region called the Workforce Development Area (WDA). The counties within the WDA include; Butte, Del Norte, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity. NoRTEC oversees a broad range of programs and initiatives. For example, within each county, NoRTEC contracts



with a non-profit service provider to administer job seekers and business access to a comprehensive array of job training and employment services. Nevada County's contracted services provider is the Alliance For Workforce Development, Inc., which operates the Nevada County Business and Career Network, also known as the One Stop Employment Center, located in the new Brighton Greens Resource Facility at 988 McCourtney Drive, Grass Valley, CA 95949.

Most recently, the California Workforce Development Board certified NoRTEC as a high performing local workforce development board which made NoRTEC eligible to receive \$54,839 of incentive funding from the Governor's discretionary funding for Program Year 2016/2017.

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## Two Confirmed Cases of Equine Coronavirus in Penn Valley

Two local horses in the Penn Valley area were officially diagnosed with Equine Coronavirus by veterinarians. Testing on other horses in the immediate contact area is underway. The Equine Coronavirus is transmitted through contact with feces. There is no threat to humans but there is significant threat to horses. The mortality rate for horses is fairly low with proper diagnosis and treatment. Isolation, monitoring, and contacting a veterinarian immediately is recommended. Equine Coronavirus is extremely contagious and limiting interactions between horses and others animals outside their property is recommended. People riding on trails must be careful and people visiting other ranches or horse facilities should wash their hands and limit interactions with other animals.

Signs of Equine Coronavirus:

- lethargy
- off feed
- mopey
- dehydration
- frequently laying down

With Equine Coronavirus, horses can go from no temperature to a high fever in a very short amount of time. **Contact your veterinarian immediately if you think your horse is displaying any of these symptoms.** A veterinarian can perform a simple test on a fecal sample.

Persons around horses can take the following protection measures:

- hand washing and avoiding contact
- changing your clothes and shoes before and after interacting with your horses
- putting together a bleach dip for your shoes at the entrance of your barn
- cleaning hoof picks, feed buckets, and farm tools with bleach on a daily basis
- placing stall waste and horse manure that could be contaminated in a separate area
- limiting interaction between your horses and outside horses until the virus has subsided, roughly 3-4 weeks

You may contact the Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner Department at (530) 470-2690 or [agdept@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:agdept@co.nevada.ca.us) for more information.

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## Department of Social Services Aims to End Hunger in Nevada County



For the past several years the Nevada County Department of Social Services (DSS) has been focused on raising awareness of the CalFresh Program to Nevada County residents to inform the community of the benefits of the program, and to help address myths and barriers to receiving supplemental food benefits. The

CalFresh program helps to improve the health and well-being of qualified households and individuals by providing them a means to meet their nutritional needs. CalFresh, federally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), can add to your food budget to put healthy and nutritious food on the table. The program issues monthly electronic benefits that can be used to buy most foods at markets and food stores. Benefits can also be used to purchase seeds and plants to grow your own food.

In an effort to increase program awareness to various targeted populations, including children and seniors, the Social Services Department has partnered with various community based and non-profit

organizations. During Fiscal Year 2016-17, DSS has established nine contracts totaling \$248,567 to provide CalFresh application assistance and outreach activities to the community. Contractors currently providing CalFresh applications and outreach services include: Alliance For Workforce Development; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nevada County; Connecting Point; Family Resource Center of Truckee; The Friendship Club; Hospitality House; Interfaith Food Ministry of Nevada County; The Salvation Army and Sierra Harvest. These outreach efforts are targeted to reach potential customers that may not be aware of the program to communicate program changes and to reduce the stigma of receiving benefits. These partners provide direct program application assistance through the C4Yourself system, and distribute materials to inform low-income, potentially eligible households about CalFresh eligibility. DSS is currently pursuing additional partnerships within the community with the Nevada County Behavioral Health Crisis Stabilization Unit; the Nevada County Public Health Women Infants and Children Program; Gold Country Services and North Gold Senior Mountaineers. DSS has also provided CalFresh Program and C4Yourself training to a few connecting county organizations to provide application assistance to our residents living on the borders of Placer and Yuba County, including Placer Food Bank and Sierra Family Medical Clinic.

The Department's CalFresh outreach efforts have been producing positive results. According to a recent survey completed by the California Food Policy Advocates, Nevada County is currently ranked as 35<sup>th</sup> on the CalFresh Program Access Index (PAI) for 2016. This PAI compares CalFresh utilization to the number of potentially eligible individuals in each county. Although there are still many Nevada County residents out there to reach who are eligible to the program, this ranking is a 13% increase in the past four years. The county ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> in the State in 2012, and has shown a steady increase in program participation in each of the past four years.

Many people are still unaware of long-standing barriers that were eliminated several years ago. All assets and resources are exempt for most households. This means that vehicles, money in a bank account, funds in retirement accounts, real estate, etc. are not used in determining program eligibility for most households. Recent discussions with our CalFresh Outreach organizations has shown that many people in our community are not aware of this program change and believe they are not eligible to benefits due to money in their bank accounts, etc. The CalFresh program focuses on income, and uses 200% of the Federal Poverty Limit to determine eligibility. Currently a single person with a monthly gross income of \$1,962 or less could be eligible for benefits; a family of four (4) has a gross monthly income limit of \$4,042. There are also special rules for seniors who may be over these limits, to assist them with program eligibility.

Nevada County residents can apply online for CalFresh benefits on the [Department of Social Services website](#). You can also apply in person at one of our local offices at 950 Maidu Avenue in Nevada City, or at Joseph's Center at 10075 Levon, Suite 202 in Truckee; or call us at (530) 265-1340 with any questions regarding the CalFresh program. For more information about the CalFresh program go to the [California Department of Social Services \(CDSS\) CalFresh website](#). If you have additional questions regarding the program, or would like to inquire if your organization can provide CalFresh outreach and application assistance to the community please contact Sara Connor, Eligibility Program Manager, at (530) 265-7195 or [Sara.Connor@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:Sara.Connor@co.nevada.ca.us).

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## **Nevada County Welcomes New Hospitality House Director**

On behalf of Nevada County I would like to congratulate and welcome Nancy Baglietto as the [new Executive Director of Hospitality House](#). We value Hospitality House as an important community partner in providing homeless and sheltering services. We look forward to working with Ms. Baglietto and the Hospitality House Board to meet the critical needs of our most

vulnerable citizens.



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## Nevada County Receives Distinguished Budget Award

Nevada County has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

In a [press release](#) the GFOA said, "The award represents a significant achievement ... It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting."

This award was made possible by the efforts of the Board of Supervisors, the County Executive Office budget team, and department fiscal staff. Congratulations to the Nevada County budget team for all their hard work and dedication.

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## Gold Country Stage Free Fare Day - Friday, March 17, 2017



County of Nevada Transit Services has received a Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) air quality grant that provides public transit funding assistance for projects that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve mobility.

Gold Country Stage will provide "FREE FARES" on ALL ROUTES and will be operating their normal schedules and times on Friday, March 17, 2017 from 5:50 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. with free fares for all.

The "free fare" is "St. Pat's Ride the Bus Free Day" so wear your green and be lucky!

Bus schedules are available in the [Gold Country Stage Rider's Guide located on the Transit website](#) or you can call the office (530) 477-0103 x 0 for travel planning information.

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## Correction on Immunization Rates



**NEVADA COUNTY**  
Public Health

The article submitted for the Friday Memo dated March 3, 2017 regarding immunization rates in Nevada County incorrectly stated that the percentage of fully immunized kindergarteners increased from 77% to 85% in 2016. The actual increase was to 81%. There has been a relatively steady and substantial improvement from the 2012-2013 school year when the fully immunized kindergarten rate was only 69%.

We are eagerly awaiting California's statewide immunization rate reporting and will forward that information once it is finalized.

For more information regarding Nevada County's Immunization Program, go to the [Nevada County website](#) or contact (530) 265-7265. Most children's vaccines are provided through the Vaccines for Children Program. Please see our website for eligibility requirements.

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