PANDEMIC **PIVO**



ALE WORKING

Vice President of Business Development Steve Grider poses with the CheckPoint Interactive which can read body temperature and has facial and mask recognition features. Company PB Brent Milton and Grider co-developed the Quix-Scan hardware and software integration syste Pac-West's newly created Checkpoint division to provide products designed to ensure public employee safety and enhance health security anywhere people share space.

he whiteboard on the wall at Pacific West Sound tells the company's story

"This board was our bible," said Steve Grider, PacWest's vice president of business development

president of business development. Earlier this year the Bakersfield-based com-pany had \$2.3 million in bookings, filling the board with event details and schedules. The and schedules. The year 2020 was shaping up to be what PacWest President Brent Milton called "a breakout year for us."

or us." Then coronavirus secame a household

name.
"We started erasing things off the board," Grider remembered. On Wednesday, the whiteboard at the con pany's headquarters on East 21st Street was constituted clean. empty, wiped clean. More than \$2.3 mil-More than \$2.3 million in planned work had been erased by the pandemic. Twenty employees, more than two-thirds of Pacific West's workforce, had to be let go. be let go

be let go.
"It was a hard thing to sit down, look at our people, and say who can we keep and why," Grider said.
PacWest's bread



Grider shows visiting journalists the company's empty whiteboard. "Thi board was our bible," he said Wednesday. Then coronavirus became a household name and they started erasing scheduled future work off the board.

and butter has long included performance arts and theater ven-ues, corporate clients, schools, churches, all the way up to huge sta diums and 80,000-per son events.

diums and 80,000-per-son events.

They did a project at the Venetian in Las Vegas, and for 12 years they worked Monster Massive, an annual Halloween-themed electronic music festival

electronic music festival held at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. When the earthquake named COVID shook the world, many might have closed up shop.

Plazes son PACWEST | A2



Pacific West Sound has for decades succeeded in the arena of sound contracting, sales and service in Central California. Them 2020 unfolded and everything changed Live music field, or at least became dormant, and my contracts of all acts to see the contract of the contract to work on ideas outside of its former comfort zone.

Settlement between KCSO and Calif. DOJ draws mixed reactions

(661) 836-7321 | BakersfieldHyun

A settlement agreement between the California Department of Justice and the Kern County Sheriff's Office was met with mixed reactions the day after its announcement.

announcement.

The agreement requires KCSO to enact an extensive list of reforms over the next five years aimed at ensuring the department protects citizens' constitutional rights and treats individuals with respect and dignity.

ensuring the department protects cutzers somewhere the control rights and treats individuals with respect and dignity.

After a four-year investigation into the Sheriff's Office, the state DOI determined the department had engaged in a pattern of constitutional violations involving improper use of force, unreasonable tons in the DOI also alleged KCSO violated state law in its use of deadly force against individuals with disabilities, failure to provide equal employment opportunities and its handling of civilian complaints. However, as part of a deal with the county of Kern, the DOI dropped a civil complaint against the county and the department in exchange for firms. At 59 pages, the settlement filed in Kern County Superior Court requires more than a dozen changes to the Sheriff's Office over the next five years, with an independent monitor to ensure those changes take place.

The unions representing management and staff of KCSO backed the settlement, with the Kern Law

NATIONAL SECURITY

Defiant Trump vetoes \$740B defense policy bill NATION & WORLD | B1

CULTURE

Local museums finding ways to stay active in community EYE STREET | C1

ISABELLA GARCIA

Garces senior to continue her water polo career at Santa Clara SPORTS | D1

Vaccine is a perfectly timed gift for front-line workers at Clinica Sierra Vista

BY SIACEY SHERMIN
DECARD SHEWARD
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DECARD SHEWARD
DECARD SHEWARD
DECARD SHEWARD
THE bead of the medical residency program for Clinica Siera
Vista and some of her more than two dozen residents were among the first in the organization to receive Moderna's coronavirus vaccine Wednesdra's afternoon.
The word of the day is hope. Stewart said, her viole is steeped with emotion as she address of medical residents and media just prior to becoming the first to receive the inoculation at the organization's Niles Street center.
Wed we waited a long time for "Wed waited a long time for organization's Niles Street cer "We've waited a long time for

that word. It's been a struggle for many of us." Stewart and others have been on the front lines of the pandemic locally, assessing sus-

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PAN

PANDEMIC Judgets and local hospitals. The nonprofit safety net health care provider serves some of the county's poorest communities, which have also been among the most impacted by COVID-19. In particular, dinicis in the Arvin and Lamont areas, where many farmworkers live, saw high numbers of cases, according to Olga

Meave, Clinica's chief medical officer who also did her residency with the organization. Meave previously said that close to half of the COVID-19 tests done at the clinics in those

tests done at the clinics in thos two communities were consis-tently coming back positive. Some Clinica staffers have contracted the virus themselve while others have worried dail about getting it or taking it hot to their families.

anout getting it of taking it follows to their families.

After receiving her injection, medical assistant Elizabeth
Bailon strutted into an obser-vation room for those who just received the vaccine, rejoicing

Please see CLINICA | A3



Clinica Siorra Vista nurse Lillian Peterson injects. Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine into Dr. Carol Stewart, who is head of the organization's residency program. Clinica Siorra Vista began to administer the more than 1,000 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine it recently received to front-line staff and residency program physicians on Wednesday.



PRICE: \$1.25

CONTACT US

To report a news tip: 661-395-7384, 800-540-0646

OUTSIDE TODAY YOUR COMPLETE FORECAST | C6

61 40 NSIDE VOLLE CALLEOPNIAN

INSIDE TOUR CALIFORNIAN	
Advice/HoroscopesC3/C4 Obituaries	A
Classifieds	B
Comics	I, C5, D
Eye Street	D
Lottery numbers	В
Nation & WorldB1 TelevisionB1	С

TODAY IN HISTORY

1524: Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama — who had discovered a sea route around Africa to India — died in Cothin, India.
1814: The United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Shent, which ended the War of 1812 following ratification by both the British Parliament and the U.S. Senate.

1851: Fire devastated the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroying about 35,000

1851: Fire devastated the Library or vortureas in Washington, D.C., destroying about 35,000 volumes.
1865: Several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski, Fonn, that was the original version of the Nu Kiu Kiu Kin.
1913: Seventy-three people, most of them children, died in a crush of paine after a faise say of "Fired" in the control of paine after a faise say of "Fired" the control of the c

sage of "positive thinking," died in Pawling, NY, at age 95.

2014: Sony Pictures broadly released "The Interview" online — an unprecedented counterstroke against the hackers who'd spoiled the Christmas opening of the conedy depicting the assassination of North Norsen leader Kim Jong Un.

2015: Christian altifular form around the world descended on the biblical city of Bethlehem of the Christmas of the Christma

ednesday's Powerball 6 13 38 39 53 6 ot: \$321 milli 29 53 56 59 67 21

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COVID-19 TESTING SITES 12/20 - 12/26



Tuesday-Saturday 7am-7pm Arvin Public Health Building 204 S Hill, Arvin, 93203 *Appointment Required

Closed 12/25

Wednesday, Friday and Sunday 7am-7pm Wasco Library 1102 7th 5t, Wasco, 93280 "Appointment Required :://lhi.care/covidtesting/questio

Closed 12/25

Monday-Thursday 10am-2pm Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley 1100 Magellan Dr, Tehachapi, 93561 *Appointment Required Call (661) 721-5380

Wednesday, Friday

and Sunday 7am-7pm Rosamond Library 3611 W Rosamond Blvd, Rosamond, 93560 *Appointment Required

Closed 12/25

Monday-Friday & Saturday kkdays: 9am-1pm & 3pm-7pm & Saturdays 11am-3pm West Side Health Care District 100 E North St, Taft, 93268 "Appointment Required Cell (661) 765-1935

CLOSED 12/24 - 25

7days/wk 8am-2pm Good Samaritan Hospital 901 Olive Dr, Bakersfield, 93308 *NO App intment Red CLOSED 12/24 - 25

Monday-Friday 8am-5pm Adventist Health Delano

Regional Medical Center
1401 Garces Hwy, Delano, 93215
*NO Appointment Required
Call (661) 721-5380

Closed 12/25

Wednesday 7am-2pm

Kern River Valley Hospita 4308 Birch Street, Mountain Mesa 93240 *NO Appointment Required Call (760) 379-2681 ext 267

Monday-Saturday 9am-2pm Lamont Library 8304 Segrue Rd, Lamont, 93241 *Appointment Required Call 661-869-6018

Closed 12/25

12/22/2020 10am-4pm Kern County Fairgrounds, Gate 40 1142 S P St, Bakersfield, CA 93307 *NO Appointment Required

12/21/2020 10am-3pm

Riverview Park 326 May Street, Bakersfield CA, 93308 *NO Appointment Require

PUBLIC SAFETY

Woman found dead in backyard of Oildale residence is identified

an Olidale residence on Monday morning.
According to the Kem County corner's
officer, Tracy Kinser was found at 8:21 a.m.
Kem County sheriff's deputies responde
to a report of a woman who was unresponselve in a backyard in the 300 block of
Roberts Lane. Fire and medical personnel
also arrived on scene and the woman was
pronounced dead, a Kem County Sheriff's
KCSO in scene and the woman was
pronounced dead, a Kem County Sheriff's
KCSO in extense stated.
KCSO in extense stated.
KCSO in extense that the support of the county of t

Anyone with information is asked to call KCSO at 861-3110 or Secret Witness at

The California Highway Patrol is emphasizing safe driving during the

monews release, the CHP said it will be implementing a maximum enforcement period starting at 6:01 p.m. today that will conclude at 11:59 p.m. Sunday. The agency stated that during this time available officers will be on the road for enhanced enforcement and to assist any drivers in need of help.

need of help.
In a news release, the CHP reminded drivers that even if traffic is lighter this year, that it's not an invitation to speed. The agency also stated that motorists should avoid driving tired, impaired or distracted. The news release also pointed out that California's regional stay at home order is advising residents to stay close to home as much as possible and to avoid significant turn. The CHP are the service and to avoid significant turn. The CHP said those that deem their travel as essential should drive sober, avoid distractions, buckle up and leave ample time to arrive at their destination.

n a news release issued Wednesday norning, the California Highway Patro Inderscored some new roadway safet aws that will be implemented in 2021.

Jawas that will be implemented in 2021.
Jawas that will be implemented in 2021.
Jawas that will be implemented in 2021.
Jawas that will be implemented in 2021.
As the property of the propert

dangerous circumstances. The law will be implemented on Jan. 1.
"Move Over, Slow Down" amendments: Extends the provisions of the "Move Over, Slow Down" law currently in place on freeways to also apply to local streets and roads so drivers approaching stationary emergency wellicled slighelying emergency lights must move to another lane when

enfergency Venecies anisplaying emergency Venecies anisplaying emergency lights must move to another lane when possible or slow to a reasonable speed all highways. Will be implemented lan. 1.

Emergency vehicles: Allows authorized the properties of the properties

KCSO om PAGE A1

ent Associati

Enforcement Association, which represents deputies, echoing Shertiff Donny Youngblood Seenial that constitutional violations had occurred at he department.

There were allegations made, and we firmly believe and stand behind, that there were no law violations, "add KILP President Marcus Moncur. He said the union welcomed the settlement with open arms, adding the properties of the propert

comed the settlement with open arms, adding he believed the agreement verifies concerns KLEA has been bringing before the Board of Supervisors for years, especially relating to low staffing levels.

"For us and our membership, this is a win for us," he said. "There are alot of things that point to a lack of staffing, and I think that armone or any

to a tack of stating, and i hink that anyone or any business can appreciate that if you lack the ap-propriate or necessary staffing to complete a task, it begins to cause, or has a potential to cause, other problems."

it begins to cause, or has a potential to cause, other problems.

If, Kerdn Wright, presLif, Kerdn County Sheriff's Command Association, also spoke favorably of the agreement.

It think everybody is glad that this has finally come to a conclusion and is not a conclusion.

It will be the conclusion and is not a conclusion and is not a conclusion and is not a conclusion.

Still, David Cohn, managing partner at local law firm Chain Cohn Stiles, criticized the lustice Dearment for setting with a conclusion and in the concl

ve force issues within the epartment." He said his law firm had

REFORMS REQUIRED BY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SETTLEMENT

Helewis a list of reforms required under a settlement greement between the California Department of Jus-ce and the Kern County Sherfif's Office. Revise use of force policies to prohibit maneuvers that have a substantial risk of causing suffocation and require deputies to intervene when excessive! Modific railing policies and training from "find and Modific railing policies."

- of force is taking place.

 Modify canine policies and training from "find and bile" to "find and bath" and limit of f-keash canine deployment only for armed suspects or those wanted for a serious felory. Inform the public about all officer-involved shootings and deaths in custody. Require supervisors to investigate all uses of force. Improve use of force training to include de-escalation techniques and bias.

 Meet with community advisory panel to receive input.

- Meet with community advisory panel to receive input.

 Require deputies to state reason for an investigatory stop or detention as soon as possible.

 Require deputies to state a valid reason under the law for a consent search and secure a supervisor's approval for any search of a home.

 Provide dispatchers with crisis intervention training provided in the secure as the secure as the second to individuals in a mental health crisis.

 Ensure timely access to police services to all individuals regardless of ability to speak English.

 Develop a recruitment plan for attracting a workforce that reflects diversity in Kern County.

 Broaden efforts to participate in community engagement efforts.

 Conduct a bisnnial community survey measuring
- ment errorts.

 Conduct a biennial community survey measuring public satisfaction with policing.

 Establish a clear definition for a civilian complaint.

been responsible for col-lecting over \$20 million in damages against the Sher-iff's Office since Young-blood was first elected, and

iffs Office since Young-blood was first elected, and if continuously settling laussitis didn't start to change KCSO conduct, between the continuously settling laussitis didn't stell this new agreement would either. The Dry ous sea you you see any of the supervisors saying to the sheriff, 'we want meaningful reform, we are tired of paying out on these claims?" he said, commenting on the lack of public statements from local leaders. 'If bus binness as usual. Northing is going continuously of the public statements from local leaders. 'If bus binness as usual. Northing is going continuously of the public statements from local leaders. 'If bus binness as usual. Northing is going continuously of the public statements from local leaders. 'If bus binness as usual. Northing is going for change have found hope in the new agreement. "This is a really big deal that this happened and I think that overall, the use of force policy reform overall is great,' said Stephanie Padilia, a saff attorney at

the American Civil Liber-ties Union Foundation of Southern California. She described herself as happy with the DOJ's actions, but cautioned

actions, but cautioned against the expectation that KCSO will alter its culture quickly.
"I don't want to minimize the fact that there are various patterns and practices—a lot of them honestly are racist — that are embedded within KCSO. embedded within KCSO that will take a while to root out," she said. "This is not going to be an overnight, "we've entered into this consent decree and now all of a sudden things are going to be better in the next year or two.' There is going to be this long road ahead to ensure we are going to see the change we want to see."

Sam Morgen can be reached at 661-395-7415. Follow him on Twitter: @smorgenTBC.



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