Results in From New Tests on New Standards

Early in October, Fresno Unified will provide families with student score reports from the state’s new tests, the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CAASPP.

Fresno Unified’s website provides numerous resources to help families understand the test and the test results. Information includes a video that explains in detail how to understand a student’s individual student score report, fact sheets for parents and teachers, and a helpful PowerPoint. Please visit the website at www.fresnounified.org/ under Quick Links.

Fresno Unified encourages parents to participate in their students’ continued academic growth. Teachers, principals, and counselors will be available to discuss the results and the ways to work together to support students.

See ASSESSMENTS Continued on page 10

Goal 2 Means the Great Outdoors for Sixth Graders

Nearly 100 Columbia Elementary School students spent four days in the Sierra Nevada in September as Fresno Unified district launched a new outdoor education initiative for all 6,000 of the district’s sixth graders.

The outdoor trips will mean that all sixth grade students from throughout the district will have the opportunity during this school year to participate in a variety of activities and science lessons beyond the classroom.

For many Fresno Unified students, outdoor science camp will be their first trip up to the mountains, and their first experience in a national forest. Students will have a chance to bond with each other and teachers, learn leadership skills, and gain confidence through new experiences.

Columbia students stayed at the Calvin Crest facility near Oakhurst. Eight seniors and a junior from Edison High School’s Leadership Class also went on the trip, serving as cabin leaders. Plans call for all elementary schools to send sixth graders to either Calvin Crest, Green Meadows in Fish Camp, or Sierra Outdoor School in Sonora during this school year.

The sixth grade trips are part of the district’s continued emphasis on Goal 2: All students will engage in arts, activities and athletics toward achieving college and career readiness. The Fresno Unified Board of Education approved funding for the trips on Sept. 9.

Other Goal 2 priorities this year include:

- New athletic uniforms, equipment and protective gear
- New musical instruments and a tracking system for instruments
- Visits for sixth graders to their regional middle schools and participation in the WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) mentoring/orientation program for seventh graders
- Fall high school assemblies by region at middle schools, visits to

See GOAL 2 Continued on page 9
GOAL 2: ARTS, ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

The Stage is Set for High School Productions

Bullard High School
“Dark of the Moon”
Oct. 15-17, Oct. 22, and Oct. 24
“How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying”
April 7-8 and April 14-16

Edison High School
“The Wiz”
Nov. 12-14 and Nov. 19-21
“Stage Door”
March 2-4 and March 7-8
Under the Stars -- TBA
May 14-17

Fresno High School
“Borrowed Time”
Nov. 12-14 and Nov. 19-21
“Sleepy Hollow the Musical”
March 10-12 and March 17-19

Hoover High School
“Vintage Hitchcock: A Live Radio Play”
Nov. 18-21
TBA
March 16-19

McLane High School
“The Great Gatsby”
Nov. 12-14
Rogue Festival – “Hold Me”
March 3-12
“Les Miserables”
April 14-16

Roosevelt School of the Arts
“The Laramie Project”
Oct. 23-25, Oct. 28-31, and Nov. 1
“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”
Feb. 26-28, March 2-6, and March 11-13

Sunnyside High School
Dessert Theatre – “The Chronicles of Jane, Book Seven”
Oct. 21-24
“Midsummer/Jersey”
March 9-12

District Improves Safety for Athletes with Football Helmet Padding

Student athletes in Fresno Unified are suiting up for football games this year with the latest technological innovations in helmet padding as part of the district’s ongoing efforts to enhance safety for students.

The district announced Aug. 11 that all middle school and high school football players will wear helmets installed with Unequal GYRO® supplemental head padding.

For video, go to vimeo.com/fresnounified/helmetsafety

The district purchased 1,700 Unequal Gyros and installed them in helmets in advance of contact practices. The school district also purchased 170 Unequal HALO headbands for soccer players.

“We are trying to be proactive and give our kids added protection before they step on the field,” said Brett Mar, interim co-athletic manager. “Unequal offers some of the most advanced technology available for athletes. Using the Unequal Gyro may help in reducing the severity of some of the hits the athletes receive during contact.”

The Unequal GYRO is approved for use as supplement helmet padding by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

See HELMETS
Continued on page 5
SUPERINTENDENT’S Message

New School Year is Successfully Underway

The 2015/16 school year is off to a remarkable start. Thanks to our Board of Education and our community, Fresno Unified opened the doors to the Phillip J. Patiño School of Entrepreneurship, and thousands of students around the district returned to new classrooms, renovated and newly painted buildings, new technology and better athletic facilities -- including new pools at Hoover and Edison high schools, and a new gym at Baird Middle School. It takes tremendous teamwork to prepare for the first day of school under normal circumstances, but even more so when you are welcoming students and staff to new facilities. I am thankful to each of our 10,000 employees for diving into the hard work this summer to create a better learning environment for our 73,000 students.

And our work isn’t done as construction of a new academic building continues at Bullard High School and some of our District’s most fragile students will soon enjoy the benefits of modernization at Addicott Elementary School. We are also elated with the completion of a new academic building at McLane High School. Site improvements such as these provide students with additional learning opportunities and ensure their environment supports academic expectations both inside and outside the classroom.

When it comes to academic expectations, we will soon share results with parents from our new state standards assessment -- the 2015 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). Different than any assessment we have ever used, this new state testing provides us with a new benchmark for academic achievement. California’s state standards raise the bar for instruction and more challenging student learning, and are designed to help all students graduate ready for college and to pursue a career. Like the new learning in the classrooms, the new tests are drastically different and comparisons from year’s test simply are not possible. These new results, however, will serve as our baseline for measuring academic success, allowing us to compare apples to apples moving forward.

Message from Mayor Ashley Swearengen

Now that we’re settling in for another school year, I wanted to take a moment to ask everyone in the Fresno Unified family to consider making time this year to volunteer as part of Serve Fresno. As the mother of two school-age children, I know how busy the days get -- but I also know how important it is to work towards a brighter future for our neighbors and children, and I believe that begins with giving back to our community.

Not only does volunteering provide a great opportunity for students to improve their community and create awareness for local organizations, it also provides them with essential skills for their future.

Volunteer opportunities are easy to find! The City of Fresno, along with HandsOn Central California and many other worthy organizations, have now re-launched the Serve Fresno campaign with a new goal for Fresnans to complete two million volunteer hours by April 2016, with a focus on particular impact areas that support the education and well-being of our children and their families.

We are inviting students, teachers, parents, parent organizations and administrators to join in our efforts. As a special incentive, the winning school will be awarded a beautification project and will be invited to participate in a 2016 event announcing the fulfillment of the two million hours goal. Additionally, our non-profit partners are fund-raising for resources to help the winning school with civic engagement.

Please encourage your school to participate by developing service learning opportunities and inspiring students to volunteer. In addition to Serve Fresno, the HandsOn Central California website serves as a clearing house for a variety of volunteer opportunities.

I am looking forward to serving Fresno with my own children this year and I am excited to share in the volunteer efforts that will soon be taking place in your school. Today is the best place to start to help ensure a better tomorrow. #ServeFresno
Edison High School teacher Cathy Haynes hiked the entire John Muir Trail -- 224 miles -- with grandson Isaiah Shelton over the summer, the longest journey she has tackled since a life-changing decision four years ago to take up walking.

Haynes has taught for 40 years, 33 of them at Edison, where this year she is teaching economics and Bible as Literature, an English class. Haynes said she recently spoke with her senior students about “doing more than we thought possible, pushing through our fears, conquering obstacles, and meeting our goals.”

“I shared some of the insight I have gained in the past four years,” Haynes said.

Before taking up hiking in 2011, her health was failing. She suffered three bouts of pneumonia and pleurisy that year. A pulmonary care specialist prescribed four medications, a nebulizer machine, and ordered blood work as he believed she was a candidate for lung reduction surgery. She had quit smoking 20 years prior, but the damage was done.

“I was tired of being unhealthy, lethargic, and weak so I got off my butt and started walking and then hiking,” Haynes said.

She joined a hiking group of Fresno Unified teachers and administrators, led by English language development manager Elizabeth Fralicks. Haynes was in poor physical condition when she first started, but her hiking “family” encouraged her to keep at it.

“Now, I feel I can do pretty much anything,” said Haynes, 62.

She no longer uses the machine or an inhaler, takes no prescription medications, and hasn’t had pneumonia or been severely ill in a couple of years.

She decided to tackle the John Muir Trail -- JMT -- about a year ago. Although Haynes’ longest previous backpacking trips were the Rae Lakes Loop over four days and four days in the Grand Canyon, she was ready for something big. “I wanted to challenge myself, hang out with my grandson, and see places I had only read about,” she said.

Haynes and 12-year-old Isaiah, a former Yokomi Elementary School student, took off from Happy Isles on the Yosemite Valley floor June 15 and ended by summiting Mt. Whitney and finishing at Whitney Portal near Lone Pine on July 8.

Haynes said the highlight of the JMT was spending time with Isaiah. She hopes to hike the trail or something similar with each of her grandchildren.

The trip took two days longer than they had planned -- 23 days -- because of 14 days of rain, thunder, lightning, hail and snow. She said the lightning and thunder were a bit scary at times, and the “super hail” hurt a little.

“But overall, we’d become kind of fearless. While others were bailing from the trail we pressed on,” Haynes said. “Heck I’ve been teaching for 40 years. Nothing scares me anymore.”

Edison High School teacher Cathy Haynes hikes the 224-mile John Muir Trail over the summer with 12-year-old grandson Isaiah Shelton.

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2015-2016 Important Dates

- **Nov. 23-27, 2015**: Thanksgiving break
- **Dec. 21, 2015 - Jan. 8, 2016**: Winter break
- **March 21-28, 2016**: Spring break
- **June 9, 2016**: Last day of school
Summer Sessions Support Students

Fresno Unified’s summer school -- known as the Expanded Learning Summer Program -- continued to provide critical opportunities for students to make up classes to graduate or stay on track to attend college.

More than 17,000 students participated in the summer program, with 12,439 completing courses required for graduation or A-G classes (courses required for four-year colleges), and 112 high school seniors graduating as a result of completing summer classes.

Summer school graduation was held July 17 at Roosevelt High School’s auditorium.

Of the high school students who participated in the summer program, 3,412 were able to get back on track for graduation or A-G course completion. The sessions also offered academic support to elementary and middle school students and a chance for high school students to accelerate learning.

For summer session stories in Spanish and Hmong, go to page 8.

District Takes a Bite out of Poor Eating Habits with Fresh Fruit

Eat your fruits and vegetables!

That’s easy for lots of Fresno Unified students. The district is part of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, adding six more schools this year for a total of 53 elementary schools. The program is free to students, making it simple to choose a healthy snack at morning recess and giving them the boost they need to keep focused until lunch.

Fresno Unified is the state leader in taking advantage of the grant-funded program, offering it at more schools than any other California district. Fresno Unified’s vendor is 1st Quality Produce, a Fresno distributor using in-season locally grown fruit and vegetables.

“Because of this program, thousands of elementary students are getting to try new fruits and vegetables that they might not otherwise be introduced to -- from apricots to jicama to kiwi to yams,” said Jose Alvarado, director of Food Services for Fresno Unified. “School staff make it special by rolling out a wagon heaped with the fruit or vegetable, a fun routine that brings the children running.”

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is a federal program and administered through the California Department of Education.

Transfer Application Deadline is December 1

Fresno Unified offers a wide variety of school choice options, including popular magnet schools and specialized programs. For the 2016-17 school year, applications received before Dec. 1, 2015 will have priority in the selection process. Families may apply for a transfer to any district school by completing an application. Learn more and print an application at http://www.fresnounified.org/, call (559) 248-7538.
Patiño Teacher: Graduates of New School Key to Fresno's Future

Veteran teacher Sue Gularte brings her passion for teaching and building relationships with each student to Fresno Unified’s newest high school, Phillip J. Patiño School of Entrepreneurship. What made you decide to work at Patiño?

I wanted to work at a school site that allowed me to work with students in a setting that directly ties them to a career pathway. I also wanted to be in a dynamic setting that allows me the flexibility to deliver lessons that keep students engaged and excited to learn.

How long have you been with the district and at what schools?

I have been in the district for 18 years. I began at Yosemite Middle School and then moved to Duncan Polytechnical High School.

What do you think this school will mean for the community?

Patiño High will help develop the valley economy and diversify what our area has to offer. The students will have many opportunities to choose from upon graduation: from running their own business to going on to college. I even challenged them last week to look around the room because they might be sitting next to the very same people who they will be working with for the next 25 plus years.

What are the biggest differences in Patiño vs. other high schools?

Patiño provides a direct path to college and career. They will have skills that far exceed a high school diploma since they will have real hands-on experience. They will have networks that will be developed with real businesses and business people. They will be supported by a talented staff and a business partner/coach.

How have students reacted to the school?

They are excited. This week they experienced what designing a product is like. They realized how much talent they have to offer already. They did activities they would never have done in a traditional high school. At the end of the week, they were very proud of all they had accomplished.

What is the biggest challenge for you at your new school?

My biggest challenge is making sure all the students at Patiño achieve their dream. They all came here with a dream. It is now up to us to keep that child working towards that dream even when things are not going perfectly.

What do you enjoy the most about working at Patiño?

I get to work with a very talented group of students and a great staff.

What’s one thing you want people to know about Patiño?

Look out Fresno, here comes Patiño graduates! These future leaders are almost ready to take us into a better, brighter Fresno!

What has prepared you most for teaching at Patiño?

The best preparation for me is the years spent in the classroom. I see each student for who they are today and what they can be tomorrow. I love watching students grow and realize their dreams.

Adult School Testing Center Office Manager Gives Hope to Students

Mary Wilkinson is the office manager in the Fresno Adult School Assessment Center, often the first face to greet students seeking testing information as they pursue classes and programs offered by the adult school. Fresno Adult School Principal Andre Pecina praised Wilkinson’s professionalism and compassion, noting that she goes above and beyond to help students. For example, she will assist them in finding study resources if they fail an assessment. “It is this added care that allows her to connect with our students,” Pecina said. He also said she is “a great example of someone who creates a positive culture.”

What do you enjoy the most about your job?

Being able to assist students of all ages reach their goals even in the smallest of ways. Seeing students support each other in the halls, and of course, working with the A-Team. Being a “city changer.”

What is the most difficult aspect of your job?

Often adult students have a low opinion of themselves. They are tired after a long day’s work or realize they have a long road to go before achieving their GED, and sometimes they lose hope. I cannot always reach them to let them know that everyone at Fresno Adult School is on their side. Also, that spinning wheel on all computer
Fresno Unified families and schools shared these first-day-of-school photos via Fresno Unified's various social media by using the hashtag #FresnoFirstDay. For the next edition of Building Futures (December/January), share your best Goal 2 pics – arts, activities, or athletics – by using the hashtag #FresnoGoal2.

Cooper Academy eighth grade science teacher Jonathan Dweck shows off his “I Pledge” shield, which he brings every first day of school as a conversation-starter with students about pledging to set goals and prepare for the future. Dweck's accountable community teacher group leads the “I Pledge” initiative at Cooper.

Fresno High School counselor Boun Xiong and senior Ray Lynn Shumaker-Smith demonstrate that sometimes the best way to settle a class schedule discussion is a friendly arm wrestling match.

Back to school means catching up time for Roosevelt High School students, from left, Jasmine Casares, Natalie Ramirez, Adriana Vazquez, Angelica Casares (sister of Jasmine), Cecilia Contreras, Makayla Palvine, and Jacqueline Neri.

Cooper Academy seventh grader Juliah Turner (left) is welcomed back on the first day by noon-time assistant Khalia Ross (right) and student safety assistant Bobbie Mazon (back).

Matea McIntyre, a first grader at Bullard TALENT K-8 School, celebrates her birthday on the first day of school with cupcakes to share.

Teacher on special assignment Dionne Summers welcomes back first grader Jessika Castro, right, to Williams Elementary School on the first day, along with Jessica's sister Madison Castro, who attends the Head Start program.

Teacher on special assignment Dionne Summers welcomes back first grader Jessika Castro, right, to Williams Elementary School on the first day, along with Jessica's sister Madison Castro, who attends the Head Start program.
PATHWAY SPOTLIGHT: Hoover High Launches Eco Tech Classes

Hoover High School has launched a new career pathway focused on ecology and technology, a growing industry with substantial job opportunities.

The pathway introduces students to a field of study that could lead to careers as ag engineers, plant scientists, water resource managers, and environmental scientists and engineers. During this inaugural year, ninth grade students in the pathway are taking Agriculture Science I, Biological Links to Energy and Environment, and English I. Pathway teachers engaged in professional learning over the summer to develop a project-based learning approach that will incorporate natural resources, agriculture, energy and environmental industry sector themes.

The Ecology Technology Pathway is project-based and uses the Linked Learning approach, integrating technical courses with rigorous academics while providing career-based, real-world experiences and student supports. It is among 17 linked learning pathways offered at high schools throughout Fresno Unified as the district continues to bolster efforts to prepare students for the real world of work and make learning relevant.

At Hoover, students in the Eco Tech Pathway are part of PG&E’s Solar Suitcase project. They will build portable solar units, share their commitment to sustainability by participating in local projects, and have an opportunity to share the solar suitcases with students in Kenya. The pathway is also part of the Future Scientists Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Services. Tioga and Ahwahnee middle schools and McCardle Elementary School, all in the Hoover region, are also part of the Future Scientists Project.

In late September, the National Geographic Explorer program demonstrated drone technology in environmental conservation to students in Hoover’s Eco Tech Pathway and Sunnyside High School’s Agriscience & Technology Pathway.

Las Sesiones de Verano Apoyaron a los Estudiantes

La escuela de verano del Distrito Escolar de Fresno – conocida como Programa de Aprendizaje Extendido de Verano – continuó brindando oportunidades críticas para estudiantes para que tomaran clases pendientes para graduarse o para estar al corriente para asistir al colegio.

Más de 17,000 estudiantes participaron en el programa de verano, con 12,439 curso completados requeridos para graduación o clases de la A a la G (cursos requeridos por los colegios de cuatro años) y 112 estudiantes del grado 12 de preparatoria graduándose como resultado de completar las clases de verano. La graduación de las clases de verano se llevó a cabo el 17 de julio en el auditorio de las Escuela Preparatoria Roosevelt.

De los estudiantes de preparatoria que participaron en el programa de verano 3,412 fueron capaces de ponerse al corriente para graduarse o completar sus cursos de la A a la G. Estas sesiones también ofrecieron apoyo académico a los estudiantes de las escuelas primarias y secundarias y una oportunidad para los estudiantes de preparatoria de acelerar su aprendizaje.

Kev Kawm Thaum Lub Caij Ntuj Sov Pab Tau Menyuam Kawn Ntawv

Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv Fresno cov kev kawm thaum lub caij ntuj sov uas hu ua Extended Learning Summer Program yog npaj kom muaj kev kawm ntxiv rau cov menyum kawn ntxiv ua kom lawv tau kawm cov hoob uas lawv kawm poob lawv ntxiv ua kom kawn tau tiav lossis yog nyob rau qhov mus kawn tau nqib siab.

Muaj ntau tsaj 17,000 tus tub ntxhais kawn ntxhav mus kawn rau thaum lub caij ntuj sov nrog rau 12,439 tus kawn tas cov hoob rau kev kawm tiav lossis yog A-G (uas yog cov hoob rau kev mus kawn qib siab plaub xyooos) thiab 112 tus kawn qib tiav qib kaub ob thaum lub caij ntuj sov. Kev kawm tas qib kaum ob thaum lub caij ntuj sov no yog muaj rau thaum lub Xyaa Hli Tim 17 nyob ntawm Tsev Kawm Ntawv Roosevelt qhov chaw ua yeeb yam.

Cov tub ntxhais kawn ntxhav qib siab (high school) thaum lub caij ntuj so muaj 3,412 leej uas kawn tau cov hoob los pab kev kawm tiav lossis yog A-G kev kawm tas. Cov kawm tho yeeg muaj pab rau cov menyum kawn ntxhav qib qis, qib nraih qib siab ua kom lawv kawn tau ntxhav mus ceec.
District's Community Education Offers Diverse Classes for Seniors

Fresno Adult School’s Community Education Program offers 25 diverse classes at its Manchester Center location, specifically tailored to the older adults of the community. Some of the more popular classes include Physical Fitness, Tai Chi, Yoga for Health & Wellness, Dance, Zumba Gold, Ballroom Dance, Line Dance, Basic Computer Skills and How to Use your iPhone/iPad. Seniors, 55 years of age or older, receive a 50% – 70% discount when enrolling, depending on the number of classes they attend, paying $1.20 - $2 per hour for classes.

Approximately 300 active seniors enjoy these classes, mostly held weekday mornings and early in the afternoon.

GOAL 2

Continued from page 1

high schools for eighth-graders, and Link Crew orientation/mentoring program for ninth graders

• Fifth grade trip to the Exploratorium, California Academy of Sciences or Tech Museum of Innovation

• Fourth grade trip to Monterey Bay Aquarium and Mission San Juan Batista

• Third grade trip to the San Joaquin River

• Expansion of school clubs and activities, targeting underrepresented groups of students

• Leadership camp and leadership activities for middle and high school students

Enfoque Meta 2

Noventa y ocho estudiantes de la Escuela Primaria Columbia pasaron cuatro días en la Sierra en septiembre – la primera vez en las montañas para algunos – mientras que el distrito lanzó una nueva iniciativa para garantizar que todos los estudiantes de sexto grado tengan la experiencia práctica de aprendizaje en un programa educativo al aire libre.

Los estudiantes que se hospedaron en las instalaciones de Calvin Crest cerca de Oakhurst, participaron en una variedad de actividades al aire libre y lecciones de ciencia más allá del salón de clase tradicional. Tenemos planes que incluirán a todas las escuelas primarias para enviar estudiantes ya sea a Calvin Crest o Green Medows cerca de Fish Camp, o la Escuela al Aire Libre Sierra en Sonora durante este año escolar.

Los viajes de prácticas al aire libre de los estudiantes de sexto son parte del énfasis continuo de la Meta 2 – Todos los estudiantes participarán en artes, actividades y deportes mientras que se preparan para estar listos para el colegio o una carrera.

La Meta 2 este año incluye:

• Nuevos uniformes deportivos, equipos de protección

• Nuevos instrumentos musicales y un sistema de monitorio de los instrumentos

• Visitas de los estudiantes del sexto a las escuelas secundarias de su región y participación en el programa de mentoría/orientación para los estudiantes del séptimo grado WEB (Donde Todos Pertenece)

• Asambleas regionales de preparatorias de otoño por región en las escuelas secundarias, visitas a las escuelas preparatorias para los del octavo grado y el programa de orientación/mentoría Link Crew para los del noveno grado.

• Viaje de prácticas para los de quinto grado al Exploratorium de la Academia de Ciencias de California o al Museo Tecnológico de Innovación

• Viaje de prácticas al Acuario de Monterrey y a la Misión de San Juan Bautista para los de Cuarto grado

• Viaje de prácticas para los de tercero al Rio San Joaquin

• Expansión de clubes escolares y actividades, enfocados en grupos de estudiantes con baja representación

• Campamento de liderazo y actividades de liderazo para los estudiantes de las escuelas secundarias y preparatorias

Kev Ua Haujlwm Rau Lub Homphijay 2

Cuaj caum yim tus menyuam kawm ntawv nyob ntawm Tsev Kawm Ntawv Columbia tau mus ncig kawm plaub hnum pem roob siab thauam lub Cuaj Hli- uas yog thawj thawj zaug rau ib cov menyuam--uas yog hauv pauv tsev kawm ntawv ib qhov kev txhawb tshiab ua cov cov menyuam kawm ntawv rau taa mus siv tes ua txog kev kawm sab nraum.

Cov menyuam kawm ntawv mus nyob rau ntawm Calvin Crest uas yog nyob ze Oakhurst mus koom nrog kev uasi sab nraum ntawv yam thib kawm ntawv yam uas tsi yog zoo li nyob hauv chav qhia ntawv. Muaj kev npaj hu rau txhua lub tsev kawm ntawv qib cis kom xa lawv cov menyuam kawm ntawv mus rau Calvin Crest, Green Meadows uas yog nyob ze Fish Camp lossis yog lub Tsev Kawm Ntawv Sierra Outdoor uas yog nyob rau ntawm Sonora lub xyoo kawm ntawv no.

Cov kev ncig mus kawm sab nraum yog ib qhov ngsam hauv pauv tsev kawm ntawv qhov kev txhawb lub homphijay 2-- Txaub tus yuav tsun muaj kev koom txog kev ua yeeb yam, haujlwm thib kislas ua kom mus kawm tau qib siab (college) thib npaj mus ua haujlwm kom tau zoo.

Lwm qhov teem ceeb rau lub homphijay 2 xyoo no yog:

• Khaub ncaws kislas, khoom siv thiab khoom tiv thawj ua kislas tshiab

• Khoom siv ua paj rraub thiab saibxyuas cov khoom tshiab no

• Cov cov menyuam kawm ntawv qib rau mus ncig saib cov tsev kawm ntawv qib nrab thiab koom txog qhov WEB (Yog Saww Daws Li) uas ua quav thiab muab kev qhia rau cov kawm qib xyaa

• Lub caaj nploog ntoos zeev cov kev ua qhia ntawv cov tsev kawm ntawv qib nrab yog cia cov qib yim mus ncig saib cov tsev kawm ntawv qib siab (high school), thib cia muaj qhov kev qhia Link Crew rau cov qib cuaj.

• Cov kawm qib tsib mus ncig saib Exploratorium, California Academy of Sciences losyog Tech Museum of Innovation

• Cov kawm qib plaub mus ncig saib Monterey Bay Aquarium thiab Mission San Juan Batista

• Cov kawm qib peb mus ncig kawm ntawm San Joaquin River

• Cia kom muaj cov koomhaum tsiv kawm ntawv thiab kev ua dej num ntawv is kom cov menyuas kawm ntawv tsis muaj chaw poob tau mus koom

• Thawj coj kev mus ncig kawm thiab thawj coj cov haujlwm rau cov menyuam kawm ntawv nyob qib rraub nrab thiab qib siab.
Roeding Elementary School preschool teacher Terry Green works with Richard Avendano (standing) and Angel Rodriguez. The district encourages all families to send their children to preschool to build a strong academic foundation before students start kindergarten. Some schools still have openings. For more information, call (559) 457-3803 or (559) 457-3682.

ASSESSMENTS
Continued from page 1

Fresno Unified students in grades three through eight and 11 joined other California students in taking the CAASPP last spring. This is the first test based on California’s new, more challenging academic standards. Because the standards have changed and the things students need to know have changed, the tests changed as well.

Fresno Unified schools, similar to others throughout the state, are still adjusting to the new standards and the tests that go with them, which is why they can’t be compared to state tests of the past. This year’s scores are better thought of as a starting point, a baseline for the progress students will make going forward.

The district knows that many -- if not most -- students will need to make significant progress to reach the challenging new goals Fresno Unified has set. So while the results may be lower than what parents are used to seeing, the results are a more precise reflection of how well students are learning the new standards.

The test scores are not meant to discourage anyone, but to empower everyone -- students, parents, teachers, counselors, administrators, and the entire community -- to work together to prepare students for the future.

While test scores play an important role in supporting students, there is much more to gain when scores are considered as just one of many indicators identifying student performance and growth.

In 2013, as part of its waiver of No Child Left Behind requirement, Fresno Unified initiated its School Quality Improvement Index (SQII). This comprehensive plan for high-quality teaching and learning in every classroom charts a path, not just to graduation, but to career readiness for every student.

The district looks forward to building a more complete picture of each child’s progress and providing the resources necessary for success in today’s world.
Measure Q Means New Pool, Buildings and Improvements for District

Members of the Hoover High School water polo teams try out their brand-new pool in August. Through October, the district is seeking community participation in the naming of the pool. Submit suggestions online at www.fresnounified.org and click on Hoover Pool Naming Survey link.

Community, District Supports Student Scholarships with State of Education Luncheon

Fresno Unified will host its annual State of Education luncheon Oct. 26, the district’s largest single event to raise money for the Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund.

Members of the community are invited to attend the event, which will highlight the district’s progress and showcase student talent. The luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Fresno Convention Center downtown. For ticket information or to inquire about being a community sponsor, call (559) 457-3733. Ticket information is also available at http://2015stateofed.eventbrite.com

Last spring, the district awarded $57,000 in scholarships to 42 deserving students, all of whom overcame significant obstacles on their journey to academic success. Many of the 2015 winners’ stories will be shared at the luncheon, giving guests an opportunity to learn first-hand how important their support is to Fresno Unified students. Scholarship winners last year went on to attend a variety of colleges, including University of California at Davis, University of California at Los Angeles, California Polytechnical University, San Luis Obispo, and Fresno State.

The district’s scholarship fund, established in 2009, has made a difference in the lives of Fresno Unified students by not only helping to defray college costs, but by shining a spotlight on their success and singling them out as worthy of distinction.

In addition to the State of Education fundraising effort, the scholarship fund is supported through the generous donations of Fresno Unified employees.

McLane High School’s new academic building is among $175 million in Measure Q projects completed or underway throughout the district. McLane’s new three-story building features 15 classrooms and five computer labs and was built adjacent to an existing two-story building, where 10 classrooms were refurbished.

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State of Education

Website: http://2015stateofed.eventbrite.com
Phone: Joanne Hernandez at (559) 457-3733
Details: Oct. 26, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. DoubleTree by Hilton Fresno Convention Center.
2233 Ventura Ave. (93721)

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Pediatrician Offers Advice on How to Protect Children from Bullies

Bullying is not a new problem, but one that is drawing more attention publicly. News headlines frequently capture incidents of bullying in the workplace, on school playgrounds, and even in cyberspace.

Twenty years ago, bullying would most often occur at school, face to face. Now it is virtual and it is called cyber-bullying. Cyberbullying is using electronic communication -- such as text messages or social media posts -- to threaten or intimidate someone.

Any young person may be at risk and parents need to be aware.

Nearly 30% of students ages 12 to 18 have reported being bullied at school. But many don’t report when they’ve been a victim -- 47% of high school students said they never told anyone they were subjected to bullying.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month and a good reminder for all of us about the importance of protecting our children from bullies. Bullying poses significant health risks: low self-esteem, depression, substance abuse and suicide attempts. Victims may have difficulty sleeping, cry frequently, have decreased appetites or be hypersensitive.

Today, school staff and teachers are much more aware of the problem of bullying and are more apt to intervene before the behavior escalates. Many schools have programs in place to train teachers, staff and students about how to deal with bullying.

Kaiser Permanente has developed an Educational Theatre Program -- an in-house professional theater group that delivers health messages to young people through live performance -- entitled “Peace Signs.” The play is performed by ETP at schools throughout Northern California to help students better understand how to resolve conflicts peacefully without resorting to violence or intimidation. For more information on how to bring “Peace Signs” to your school visit ETP’s website at http://etnortherncalifornia.kaiserpermanente.org/.

Bullying is most prevalent among middle schoolers. Their bodies are undergoing changes, not everybody looks the same, and young teens struggle with low self-esteem. Many pre-teens and adolescents don’t have the defense mechanisms to cope with the stress and anxiety created by what is happening to their bodies.

It may be difficult for them to talk with their parents about some of the issues they are facing at school -- including bullying.

As parents, you can help your children if they are experiencing problems with bullying. Here are some ways:

• Listen to your children and take what they are telling you seriously. Support your children by assuring them they did nothing wrong.

• Share your own experiences with your children, so they know they aren’t alone and that this is an issue faced by many others as well.

• Give your children tools they can use to combat the situation. Tell your child to use short phrases like “stop” or “cut it out” or “you don’t scare me” and encourage them to walk away. Teach them not to use physical violence as a way to resolve the situation.

• Role play with your children to give them practice responding to an uncomfortable situation.

• Use the buddy system. There is strength in numbers, so encourage your children to have good friends who can help them deal with those who may be causing problems.

• If the problem persists or escalates, contact the school. Decide what the best approach is for your children and figure out how you can help them through this situation.

No matter what our role is -- parent, teacher or health care provider -- we all need to take bullying seriously and make sure we are working together to protect our children.

Grant Targets Improved Student Health, Well-Being

A Kaiser Permanente Fresno grant will be used this school year to improve the overall health, well-being, and education of students in Fresno Unified.

The $90,000 Healthy Schools Healthy Communities Grant will be used in four distinct but aligned areas:

• **Trauma informed practices**: 250 teachers, classified staff, administrators, nurses, and community partners will participate in a train-the-trainer program using trauma-informed practices, a validated program on how to successfully work with students who have suffered adverse childhood experiences.

• **Physical education**: An experienced P.E. educator will provide P.E. standards training to over 200 newly hired K-6 teachers. In addition to the training on the California Physical Education Standards, participants will be provided briefing and supporting materials on general health, wellness, and nutrition.

• **Interagency Childhood Empowerment Team (ICET) intervention**: The ICET works with at-risk or troubled students in grades 1-6 and includes district staff from the Department of Prevention and Intervention, representatives from the Fresno County Children and Family Services, Probation, and Health Services departments, and the Fresno Police Department. Up to 300 students and families receiving ICET services will receive a backpack with 10 “super snacks” (equals a meal for the age group) and items to encourage physical activity, such as balls and jump ropes, as well as information on healthy living and tools to alleviate stress and anger.

• **Diabetes screening**: Staff will be trained to identify students with acanthosis nigricans (dark rings around the neck) and/or acrochordons (skin tags), often indicators of a prediabetic condition or untreated diabetes. Identified students will be referred to Health Services for follow-up. Materials and responsive guidelines will be introduced via the P.E. and trauma-informed practices components of the project as a pilot and after refinement, hopefully introduced district wide.

Over the last five years, Kaiser Permanente Fresno has provided more than $350,000 in grants to Fresno Unified for programs that promote student wellness. Kaiser Permanente Fresno Senior Vice President and Area Manager Debbie Hemker, RN, said: “We are proud of our long-standing investment in those programs and activities in Fresno Unified that encourage students and staff to lead a healthy lifestyle and thrive.”

ADULT SCHOOL

Continued from page 9

Some participants in the senior exercise and dance classes have been attending classes for more than 15 years. They offer a great way to keep in shape or learn a new skill, and a venue for creating lifelong friendships. The Manchester Senior Center is adjacent to the main exercise room, offering a comfortable place to relax, chat with friends, enjoy coffee and snacks, play a game of dominos or bingo, work on a jigsaw puzzle, or watch a favorite movie.

In addition to the many classes for older adults, the Community Education Program provides a wide variety of classes open to the general public, both adults and youth, and had nearly 4,000 enrollments during the 2014/15 school year. Most of the classes are held in the evening or weekends at Fresno Unified school sites such as Bullard
Fresno Unified will Add Four More Clean-Air Buses

Fresno Unified will purchase four more compressed natural gas (CNG) buses, bringing the number of CNG buses to 63 out of a fleet of 97. CNG buses are better for the environment and better for students and drivers. Each time the district replaces an old diesel bus with a low-emission bus, the amount of pollutants generated in the community is reduced. The district also has 10 clean diesel buses, which are low-emission and meet air quality standards. Fresno Unified aggressively pursues funding for CNG buses, and will use grant funding through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program. Using the grant, the district’s cost per bus is $15,000 for a $186,000 vehicle. The Fresno Unified Board of Education approved the purchase of the buses at its board meeting Sept. 9.

Moody’s Affirms Aa3 Rating for District

Moody’s Investors Services has affirmed Fresno Unified’s Aa3 rating and has projected a “stable” outlook for the district. In its report to potential investors, Moody’s Investors Services noted the district’s “stable financial position and strong management team.” The rating report specifically calls out the district’s “prudent budgetary practices and financial policies.” While Moody’s noted the district’s pension and other post-employment benefits challenges, the report states in the management and governance section, “We feel the district has a strong management team that will help to ensure a stable financial profile and the strong management of long-term obligations.”

Grants Fund Equipment for Addicott and Rata

Addicott Elementary School and Rata High School, Fresno Unified campuses that serve students with severe physical and intellectual disabilities, have been awarded grants from the Fansler Foundation. Addicott’s $50,000 grant will be used to build and equip an indoor/outdoor fine and gross motor skills technical room. The equipment will help improve students’ mobility and sensory awareness and enhance their independence skills. Rata will use $100,000 in grant funds to purchase indoor sensory and mobility equipment and a specially designed outdoor swing set to enhance student sensory skills and mobility.

Students’ Human Element Campaign Receives National Recognition

The Human Element, a pro-kindness campaign created by Fresno Unified students, received top honors Aug. 8 in Los Angeles at the Great American NO BULL Challenge’s Teen Video Awards for a video submission with a simple message: Start with Kindness. Six of Fresno Unified’s Human Element students attended the awards. The video submitted by the Human Element students, which tells the stories of students overcoming challenges through the kindness of others, placed first in the “Best Message” category at the Teen Video Awards. The Human Element is a pro-kindness campaign created by Fresno Unified’s Student Advisory Board, a district-wide, youth-led organization committed to providing a voice for students by representing and presenting the interests of the students to the Fresno Unified Board of Education.

McLane Students Train for Bank Teller Jobs

Students from McLane High School received training last summer from Union Bank in preparation for working in the McLane branch of the bank. Students in the banking program learn invaluable job skills and connections in the real world of work.

Author Visits Kings Canyon Middle School

Kings Canyon Middle School hosted author Eric Jensen to speak to more than 200 middle school teachers and leaders on Aug 6. Jensen’s book, “Teaching with Poverty in Mind and Engaging Students with Poverty in Mind,” has been featured in book studies and professional development across the district. Ten schools worked together to bring Jensen to Fresno Unified.

Students Hear from Civil Rights Leader

Fresno Unified and the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission made it possible for 500 high school and middle students to attend a viewing of the film, “Selma” on Aug. 19. Following the movie, Congressman John Lewis took the stage for an hour-long discussion with students about his experiences as a leader in the Civil Rights Movement. Lewis was helping to lead peaceful protesters across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Alabama in 1965 when they were attacked by state troopers, a scene brought to life in “Selma.”

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 6

programs that takes forever to disappear so that I can move on to the next task.

What do you strive to do when you are assisting students?

Treat each person as an individual in a respectful manner.

What is something most people do not know about Fresno Adult School?

The breadth of courses and programs that are offered. Fresno Adult School offers everything from community education to LVN [licensed vocational nursing] and CNA [certified nursing assistant] programs. We also provide computer-based certification exams. This includes everything from a GED diploma, to all of the teacher exams (CBEST, CSET, RICA), and Microsoft, CompTia, etc.

What’s one thing most people don’t know about you?

I have a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies.

If you were not an office manager III, what career would you choose?

I often thought it would be fun to work in the Consumer Reports test lab.

What is your dream vacation?

Anywhere overlooking an ocean.
Sunnyside High School Leaders Predict a Productive, Empowering Year

Fresno Unified’s Student Advisory Board (SAB) took the journey to Los Angeles for the second year in a row in pursuit of another victory in the Great American NO BULL Challenge teen video competition Aug. 8 and came home with more great news. The 2014/2015 Human Element video “Start with Kindness” received the award for Best Message and was nominated for Documentary of the Year.

The video was produced by the members of SAB, representatives from all 10 Fresno Unified high schools. This video is one of several tools we use to spread the message of human kindness throughout all of Fresno Unified and beyond. It is SAB’s yearlong mission that impacts every campus in a positive way, and with the “NO BULL Challenge” we are able to impact people across the nation.

We launch into a new year at Sunnyside High School with great enthusiasm and determination. We firmly believe in starting the year on the right foot, by having a terrific Link Crew orientation experience for the newest members of our Wildcat family (the class of 2019). Link Crew started the school year by making our freshmen feel welcome, and well connected.

Although the year is just beginning we are already in full swing with events like our “I Pledge” kick-off, the freshmen rally, Club Rush, our back-to-school dance, students vs. staff water polo match, fall sports rally, and so much more. We are looking forward to a year filled with great opportunities for learning, personal growth, and empowerment. Our years here have placed us in a position to feel confident about facing the world beyond high school. This year will be amazing, but we know that it is only the beginning of the story for senior Wildcats. Class of 2016, living the dream!

How to Enroll in Community Education Classes

- Online at http://fas.asapconnected.com
- Stop by the office at 2500 Stanislaus St. (93721)
- For most classes, students may also enroll on the first night of class with the instructor
- Questions: Email to CommunityEd@fresnounified.org or call (559) 248-5780
Mensaje del SUPERINTENDENTE

El año escolar 2015/16 empezó de una manera impresionante. Gracias a Nuestra Mesa de Educación y la comunidad, el Distrito Escolar de Fresno abrió las puertas a la Escuela Empresarial Phillip J. Patiño y miles de estudiantes en todo el distrito regresaron a los nuevos salones de clase, renovados y con edificios recién pintados, con nueva tecnología y mejores instalaciones deportivas – incluyendo las nuevas albercas en las escuelas preparatorias Hoover y Edison y un gimnasio nuevo en la Escuela Secundaria Baird. Requiere de un tremendo trabajo de equipo para prepararse para el primer día de clase bajo circunstancias normales, pero aún más cuando se está dando la bienvenida a estudiantes y personal en nuevas instalaciones. Estoy agradecido con nuestros 10,000 empleados por dedicarse con su duro trabajo a crear este verano un mejor medioambiente de aprendizaje para nuestros 73,000 estudiantes.

Y nuestro trabajo no está terminado porque la construcción de un nuevo edificio académico continúa en la Escuela Preparatoria Bullard y algunos de nuestros estudiantes más frágiles de Distrito pronto disfrutaran de los beneficios de la modernización de la Escuela Primaria Addicott. También estamos entusiasmados con la finalización del nuevo edificio académico en la Escuela Preparatoria McClane. Mejoras como estas en la escuela proveen a los estudiantes oportunidades adicionales de aprendizaje y aseguran sus expectativas de apoyo del medio ambiente académico tanto dentro como fuera del salón de clase.

Cuando se trata de las expectativas académicas, hay un tema importante en los resultados que pronto compararemos con los padres sobre nuestros nuevos exámenes estatales estandarizados – la Evaluación del Desempeño y Progreso Estudiantil de California (CAASPP). A diferencia de cualquier evaluación que jamás hayamos usado, esta nueva evaluación estatal nos proporciona otro nuevo punto de referencia para el aprovechamiento académico. Los estándares estatales de California aumentan las expectativas de la enseñanza y aumenta el reto para el aprendizaje estudiantil, estando diseñados para ayudar a los estudiantes a graduarse y que estén listos para el colegio y continuar con una carrera.

AL igual que el nuevo aprendizaje en los salones de clase, los nuevos exámenes son drásticamente diferentes y las comparaciones con la evaluación de años anteriores simplemente no son posibles. Estos nuevos resultados, sin embargo servirán como nuestro punto de partida para medir el éxito académico, permitiéndonos comparar manzanas con manzanas para seguir avanzando. Espero continuar comparando más acerca del progreso académico del Distrito en la medida en que sigamos avanzando durante el año escolar.

Como Superintendente, estoy enfoqué en el Aprovechamiento de no sólo nuestros actuales estudiantes, sino de aquellos que avanzan buscando sus sueños de seguir con una educación superior universitaria. El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno trabaja en forma afanosa con nuestros socios en la CSU Fresno, Fresno City College y UC Merced para garantizar que nuestros graduados tengan opciones una vez que nos dejan. Para muchos, aun con opciones, la posibilidad de pagar por una educación universitaria puede ser abrumadora. Desde el 2009, el Distrito Escolar de Fresno ha estado recabando dinero a través del Fondo de Becas del Distrito Escolar de Fresno para ayudar a estudiantes que lo ameriten para alcanzar sus sueños. Para muchos, ellos son los primeros en la familia en asistir al colegio, frecuentemente sobreponiéndose a obstáculos significativos para poderlo lograr. El lunes, 26 de octubre del 2015, seremos los anfitriones de nuestro almuerzo anual del Estado de la Educación para recabar fondos lo cual nos permitirán obtener dinero para apoyar a futuros graduados del distrito.

Si usted está interesado(a) en unirnos o donar al Fondo de Becas del Distrito Escolar de Fresno, los motivo a que nos visiten en www.fresnounified.org y hacer click en Community para aprender más. Como seguido lo hemos dicho, se necesita de todo un pueblo para atender y educar a los jóvenes de nuestro distrito y nuestro éxito no será posible sin el apoyo de muchos en esta gran ciudad. Les agradezco su continuo apoyo a los jóvenes de nuestro Distrito. 

Thawj Coj Tsev Kawm Ntawv Cov Lus Tshaj Tawm

Xyooy kawn ntaawv 2015/16 no pib tau mus zoo kawg. Ua taasg paw Pawg Neex Sab Laj thiaib cov neeg zej paww, Hauw Paus Tsev Kawm Fresno thiaib quh baa tau lub tsev Kawm Ntawwv Phillip J. Patiño uas yog qhiya txog kev ua lau uu laum thiab muaj niaj tshiab tus menyuum kawn ntaawv qob txaj muab kawm nyob rau hauw cov chav kawm tshiab, chav kauv tshiab thiab muab xam yuaw saib qhia thiab kawm nyob rau hauw cov chav tshiab, hauv yuaw saib qhia thiab kawm nyob rau hauw cov chav tshiab, uas yig haaj koob oob laub lub dey cov Tsev Kawm Ntawwv Hoover thiaib Edison, thiaib lub vau kaas tshiab thiab cov neeg yuaw saib qhia thiab kawm nyob rau hauw cov chav tshiab, yuaw saib qhia thiab kawm nyob rau hauw cov chav tshiab.

Tiam sis peb cov haujlwvm tseem tis tao thawv auv ntsuav mub cov keb cov kev yuav siv, yuaw saib qhia thiab kawm nyob rau hauw cov chav tshiab. Usa txog kev kev jor muaj kev keb cov kev yuav siv, cov kev jor muaj kev keb cov kev yuav siv, yuaw saib qhia thiab kawm nyob rau hauw cov chav tshiab. Ua li kuv twb tau hauv yuaw saib qhia thiab kawm nyob rau hauw cov chav tshiab.

Thawm uas nws hais txog kev xav kawn kawm ntaawv cov kev keb cov kev yuaw saib qhia thiab kawm nyob rau hauw cov chav tshiab. Usa txog kev keb cov kev yuaw saib qhia thiab kawm nyob rau hauw cov chav tshiab, yuaw saib qhia thiab kawm nyob rau hauw cov chav tshiab.
Healthy Minute

Take a Minute to Learn About Key Cancer Screening Guidelines

The WellPATH Program at Fresno Unified School District is committed to optimal health through education and resources that support healthy lifestyle choices for the more than 20,000 Fresno community members that it serves. In support of these efforts and its drive towards preventive health measures, this healthy minute offers tips from the American Cancer Society regarding 3 leading cancers that currently impact the Fresno Unified community:

- Breast Cancer
- Cervical Cancer
- Colorectal Cancer

The following guidelines are excerpted from http://www.cancer.org/healthy/findcancerearly/cancerscreeningguidelines/american-cancer-society-guidelines-for-the-early-detection-of-cancer

**Breast Cancer Screening Guidelines**

Yearly mammograms starting at age 40 and continuing for as long as a woman is in good health.

Clinical breast exam (CBE) about every 3 years for women in their 20s and 30s and every year for women 40 and over.

Women should know how their breasts normally look and feel and report any breast changes to a health care provider right away. Breast self-exam (BSE) is an option for women starting in their 20s.

**Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines**

Cervical cancer testing should start at age 21. Women under age 21 should not be tested.

**Women between ages 21 and 29** should have a Pap test done every 3 years. HPV testing should not be used in this age group unless it’s needed after an abnormal Pap test result.

**Colorectal Cancer Screening Guidelines**

Beginning at age 50, both men and women should be screened for colorectal cancer using fecal occult blood testing, sigmoidoscopy, or a colonoscopy. Some people should be screened using a different schedule because of their personal history or family history. Talk with a doctor about your history and what testing plan is best for you.

**More Information**

For information about these and other cancer screenings, visit American Cancer Society’s site at www.cancer.org.

Women between the ages of 30 and 65 should have a Pap test plus an HPV test (called “co-testing”) done every 5 years. This is the preferred approach, but it’s OK to have a Pap test alone every 3 years.

Women over age 65 who have had regular cervical cancer testing with normal results should not be tested for cervical cancer. Once testing is stopped, it should not be started again. Women with a history of a serious cervical pre-cancer should continue to be tested for at least 20 years after that diagnosis, even if testing continues past age 65.

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