

Special delivery food drive

Neighbors are hungry

Posted: 05/09/2009 02:48:09 PM PDT

Has your mail carrier arrived yet today? If not, you've still got time to take part in the seventh annual Letter Carrier Food Drive. Donations of nonperishable canned and boxed food items collected today will be turned over to agencies that feed the hungry, including the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, which has seen a 33 percent increase in the number of Solano families seeking assistance. Items can be left by the mailbox. Picks to the letter carriers for taking up this cause, and picks to every household that participates.

The Solano County Sheriff's Department is losing its King this weekend. The 11-year-old - 77 in dog years - Belgian Malinois wraps up his duties at the Dixon May Fair and then slips into retirement. King was the department's first canine officer when he signed on eight years ago. Since then, he's taken part in 4,000 searches, helped arrest 80 suspects and tirelessly served as the department's goodwill ambassador to countless schools and nursing homes. A pat and a pick for his fine service.

Did anyone else feel like squawking after reading Attorney General Jerry Brown's response to thieves having stolen the wheels from his state-owned Toyota Camry hybrid parked outside his Oakland home? "No matter. I got 2 new ones and I'm rolling again," he wrote on his Facebook page. No, it probably wasn't a big deal if the state picked up the tab. Pecks to the thieves and the state's insensitive

top cop.

A quick pick to Vacaville High School sophomore swimmer Joe Riggert, whose 4:40:54 time last weekend broke by a full two seconds the Monticello Empire League record in the 500-yard freestyle. Mark Phelps, look out.

For years, the Friends of Lagoon Valley have been spurned because it didn't own any of the pastoral valley it has been trying to protect. Now its spun off the Lagoon Valley Conservancy in hopes of becoming landowners. With housing development at a standstill, property owners may indeed be willing to part with their parcels. But can the conservancy come up with the cash? Stay tuned. In the meantime, a pick for changing tactics and getting away from lawsuits.

The pick of the week goes to the supporters of the annual Solano County Peace Officers Memorial Service. For two decades, officers and citizens have come together each year to remember the 19 police officers who have been killed in the line of duty since 1892. Fortunately, none have been lost locally since 2004. All the more reason to applaud those who turned out on Wednesday in Fairfield. A pick to all who gathered to remember.

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