

Solano County likely to lob a friendly food fight challenge to Contra Costa County

By **REPORTER STAFF**

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Solano County is challenging Contra Costa County to a food fight — a friendly one.

The 2018 Counties Care Holiday Food Fight, friendly challenge benefits the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano County.

The counties have participated in the annual friendly food fight challenge since 2004 when the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors extended the first challenge to Solano County. This will be the 15 year of this annual event to raise funds for the Food Bank.

The event, according to county staff, allows employees at both counties the opportunity to help those in need in their respective counties through financial donations as food insecurity and hunger are a continuing and growing concern in both counties and throughout California. Last year's combined county employees contributed a 14-year cumulative total of more than \$1.34 million. With the friends of the food fight included, more than \$1.74 million has been donated to the Food Bank.

In 2017, Solano County won the annual event with \$13.17 contributed per employee and regained control of the "Big Apple" trophy. As the holder of the "Big Apple," Solano County challenges Contra Costa County to participate in the employee-to-employee 2018 Counties Care Holiday Food Fight friendly challenge to compete for possession of the "Big Apple" trophy.

If Contra Costa County accepts the challenge, the 2018 Counties Care Holiday Food Fight will commence Nov. 19 and run through Dec.

The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano distributes approximately 7 million pounds of food annually throughout Solano County. Approximately 63,000 hungry people, including children and seniors, in Solano County are served by the Food Bank each month. Both perishable and non-perishable food is also provided to countless nonprofit agencies throughout the County such as food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, senior and child care centers, and group homes.

The Food Bank's mission is "leading the fight to end hunger, in partnership with our community and in service of our neighbors in need" and through continued community support, the Food Bank can accomplish this.

To date, Solano County has held the coveted "Big Apple" trophy seven times, whereas Contra Costa County has held on to it seven times in the 14-year history of the food fight challenge.

The Solano County Board of Supervisors will consider issuing the challenge during its regular meeting that starts at 9 a.m. Tuesday in the County Government Center, 675 Texas St., Fairfield.