



Locating Gold, Gems, and Minerals

The official publication of the
Trails and Tales of UPI

www.Unitedprospectors.com

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Moccasin Creek Find

Jim Johnson, a UPI member, uncovered these specimens while using a metal detector at one of our claims ,

CONTACTING THE UPI BOARD

DIRECT ALL MAIL TO:
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 2401 E. Orangeburg Avenue, Ste 675-237
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VOLUNTEERS

Historian: Vacant
Wagonmaster: Bob Azbill (530) 409-4549 / Robert.azbill@yahoo.com
Webmaster: Mark Weber (707) 449-4808 / mark.weber@sbcglobal.net

CHAPTERS

Contact the chapter chairperson for meeting information.

Central Valley Chairperson: Joyce Smith, (209) 815-1940 or CentralValleyUPI@gmail.com

South Bay Chairperson: Gil Mink, (510) 449-2669 or UPI.South.Bay@comcast.net

Please contact the UPI President if you are interested in starting a chapter in your area.

Black Sand Separator

Dave Webb

509-429-9294

509-465-3229

dave@goldwebb.com

www.goldwebb.com



American Mining Supply

Michael Dahl 530-564-6464

www.AmericanMiningSupply.com

Michael@AmericanMiningSupply.com

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P.O. Box 1385
 Marysville, CA. 95901

UNITED PROSPECTORS INC. (UPI)© THE TRAILS AND TALES OF UPI©

The Family oriented small scale mining organization.

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Direct all mail to:

United Prospectors Inc.

2401 E. Orangeburg Avenue Ste 675-237
 Modesto, CA 95355

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UNITED PROSPECTORS INC. FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

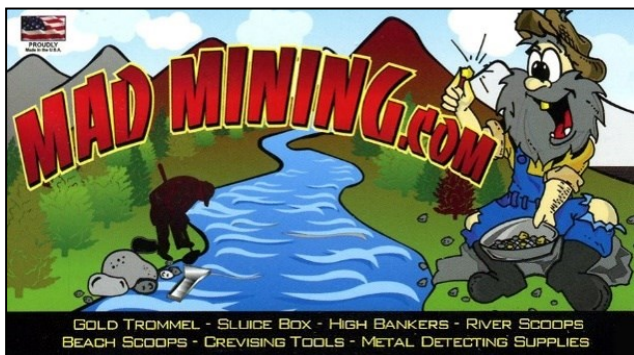
This year has not started out as I would have hoped. It has put a halt to plans that we have made for outings and has caused us to make more changes to the upcoming event schedule. I have gotten word from some of the members up north that the gates to the Genesee claims are closed and locked. Before the COVID19 situation, the Forest Service was going to cut dead trees out and have it opened in the beginning of June. Well that plan has changed and they have not started cutting out the dead trees as of yet due to stay at home orders. The gates will remain locked for the time being and there is no date given for the reopening of that gate. For the time being the June outing to Genesee is Canceled. Updates will be made to the website in the members section if the situation changes or an alternate site is designated for a June outing.

With that said, it is not all doom and gloom. Creeks are flowing and members have been reporting finding nice gold on several of the claims. If you are able to get out and keep your "social distance" this is the time to get out and find that new spot off the beaten path, sometimes closer to home than one might think, to find that shiny yellow stuff.

I mention closer to home because over the years I have learned that when I clean out my gear at the end of a trip and put it in to the back of my truck somehow I miss a little bit of dirt or the sluice box dries out and the vibration shakes stuff loose out of the seams or stuff falls out of the hose on the crack vacuum or just a little bit of it all. What ever it may be, I end up with sandy material in the bed of the truck and under the truck bed liner. I have learned to carefully sweep it up and vacuum it up with a shop-vac. In a good year I will fill a bucket half full with sand, leaves and other debris. I then put a hose in the bucket and start filling it up and stir up the material. This helps float out the leaves and silty material. I then carefully pan out the rest. It never fails that I find gold. Usually it is in the fractions of a gram range but several years back I had some large mats that I had used as miners moss. On that trip we had pulled out several nice nuggets and many pickers and lots of small flakes. We scrubbed the mats and picked them clean, so I thought. The gear sat in the back of my truck for several weeks under a tarp until I finally got around to putting it away. There was a bit of sandy material in the bed of the truck and I thought nothing of it. I drove all over the place and the sand worked its way up to the cab and just sat there. I finally decided to clean the truck and had noticed the sand was a bit dark in color and figured as a joke I would pan out the swept up sand. Joke was on me. There was a small, wiry picker and many small flakes and flour gold in that sandy material. I have gotten in a habit of cleaning out the truck bed on a regular basis and have started shaking out my gear in storage onto a tarp

to collect the "loose sand" to pan out and sure enough I still find some gold. It goes to show, gold is where you find it!

just




*Wilson Brothers
Prospecting LLC*

Steven: (520) 358-0126
Preston: (520) 548-1665

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www.WBProspectingLLC.com

Prospecting with Covid 19

Once Gavin Newsom enacted the “shelter-in-place” orders due to Covid-19, we suddenly found ourselves with not a whole lot to do except stay home, organize the house, the garage, clean out the car, and catch up on our favorite episodes of Gold Rush. Once that was done in the first two weeks or so, now we are looking for things to occupy our time. Why not take advantage of the situation, and do some research on different areas we would like to prospect, or metal detect? Below is a list of websites to get you started.

WEBSITE

www.westernmininghistory.com

www.mytopo.com

<https://www.blm.gov>

www.usgs.gov

www.mindat.org

www.gnis.gov

<https://archive.org/details/caminesgeo>

<https://thediggings.com/usa/california>

<https://www.msha.gov/california>

<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dmr>

INFORMATION FOUND THERE

Lists mines along with other information about each mine.

Customizable topographical maps.

Land records

Publications, maps, data & tools on geologic sites.

Mineral information & data.

Geological Names Information Server

Publications 1883-2003 on California mines geological collections

Active mining claims on record

Mine Safety, regulations, & statistics

Division of mine reclamation

These are just a few to get you started. Happy prospecting everybody.

Article by Kim Dessaussois, Editor

UPI 2020 OUTTING SCHEDULE



April 24th-26th

June 26th-28th

July 25th

Aug 21st—23rd

Oct 16th-18th

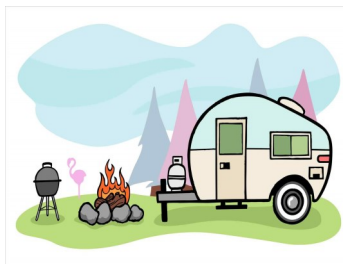
CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

Genesee Cancelled **

Moccasin Creek (day trip)

Twain

Coulterville Pre-thanksgiving



****Note:** The only way the outing can be held is if by June 26 the Governor implements stage 3 of the covid19 restrictions. Updates will be posted on the web page as this gets closer.

Membership News

To all UPI members,

First, I want to apologize for the delay in getting memberships out to old and new members. The problem was getting the computer program up and running and getting all the membership information sorted correctly. The numbers, names, and expiration dates were wrong. Now that the information is correct, things should start to run smoother.

As you are probably aware, the Membership Director elected in 2019 had to step down from the position. President, Cal Courtner, of UPI ask me if I would like to take the position of Membership Director since I was runner up at that election. I said I would be honored to. I was sworn in at the January board meeting, and was handed several boxes, one tote, and was told this was what I needed to do the job. I had trouble getting into the program, but UPI was able to provide me with a new software program which helped. I was still lost, but our awesome President came over to my house, and we worked on this membership program for about 5 hours. I thought we were doing great, but when I was retrieving needed information from the January board meeting, all the files went bad. Everyone's membership numbers and expiration dates had changed. I discovered this when the President, and some other members notified me, and asked why I changed their numbers. I immediately tried to figure out what had happened and went to work on fixing the problem. It has taken awhile to fix. I am hoping to have no further problems with the program. I think everything is going to be fine now. I have backed the file up, just in case something does go wrong, it will not take me that long to fix. Again, I am deeply sorry about all the confusion with the membership program.

If anyone should have any questions or concerns about membership, please feel free to contact me by phone, e-mail, or text. It would be more effective if you reached out to me by an e-mail and or a phone call, texts are fine also. I try to check all three as often as I can. My E-Mail Address and Phone number are listed below. The phone number is a dedicated number for UPI only. Please leave me your name, number, and a brief description of the problem you are experiencing with your membership. I will get back to you as soon as possible. With that being said, I hope to have better communication between myself and all UPI members. If you have paid and not received your card, please get in touch with me.

New cards issued will be laminated. They should have your correct membership number. I have extended expiration dates to compensate for the time you were locked out of the website due to the database failure. I want to thank everyone for your patience while the database was being fixed and updated.

There is another topic I would like to cover:

Please remember that UPI positions such as President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Director, Editor etc. are volunteer positions. The volunteers who fill these positions are elected by you, the members. While we strive to fulfill our duties in these positions in a timely manner, we still have jobs and families that demand our attention.

There is one more VERY IMPORTANT topic I need to cover. Please do not take this personally, but this needs to be addressed. I am not PERFECT. If you have e-mailed me or texted me or called me, and left a message, I have reached out to all. Yes, my phone was down for a while, but not my e-mail. I tried to fix the problem, or at least tried to let the members know what was going on. Most said, "Thank You" and waited patiently for me to get the problems corrected. For that, I THANK YOU ALL. Unfortunately, there have been members who have sent texts and/or called me on the phone and spoke to me with disrespect using language that was inappropriate. This will not be tolerated. We are adults and should act as such.

Now on a Brighter note, I want to thank our Webmaster, Mark Weber, for giving me lessons and training me which helped me fix the membership program. Also there have been members that have offered to help fix the problem because they work with Excel. I was not able to accept their offers due to the sensitive nature of the data I was working with. A big thank you to those who offered. From here on out, everyone's cards will be laminated. It looks more professional and will last through the year without out being destroyed. If you are a Life Member and want a laminated card or want a new one, please get in touch with me, I will take care of it for you.

I want to Welcome all the new members from July 2019 to present. Please look for your names in the newsletter. I apologize in advance if I left your name out.

I have one more favor to ask of ALL members, when you are renewing your membership, check that box and include your membership number on your application. If you are not typing your information on the application, please write as clearly as possible. If I cannot read your information, I have no way to get in contact you. Please include your email address, phone number and membership number to speed up the renewal process.



Membership News continued

The Website has a new Stockton P.O.Box number. This will be listed in all the newsletters. We will be fading out the Modesto P.O. BOX before the next renewal date. Sorry for the long letter, but I felt like I had to address all these issues in this letter, now I can start off with a clean slate.

I cannot wait to see my UPI Prospector friends at our next meeting and/or outing. I am looking forward to meeting you all and putting faces to membership names. Stay safe and hope this Covid 19 is over soon, God Bless to All. For All you UPI members that do go out into the field and among people during this epidemic, please be safe.

Until next time GOD BLESS YOU ALL, Your Membership Director.

C/O James A. McGann Sr.,
United Prospectors Inc
P.O. Box 693284
Stockton, Ca. 95269-3284
209-715-4090
jim.upimembership@gmail.com

Here are our Newest members. Let's all give them a Big UPI welcome!

On behalf of the Officers, Directors and current Membership, I'd like to welcome and acknowledge our newest members.

Randy Ray, Modesto, CA

Jason Tolbert, Las Vegas, NV

Don Rogers, Ridgway, CO

Steven Petrin, Albuquerque, NM

James David, Jamestown, CA

Jason Ramirez, Sacramento, CA

Jim Goodwin, Auburn, CA

Jean Kohlhoff, Rancho Cordova, CA

Jeanne Gerstie, Berekeley, CA

Jim Mott, Portola, CA

Michael Firman, Orangevale, CA

Joe Woods, Biggs, NV

Devin Stephens, Forestville, CA

Judy Wood, Albuquerque, NM

Louis Campbell, Stockton, CA

Tammy Ashbaush, Yuba City, CA

Alfonso Lizarranga, Manteca, CA

Ken Brown, Rancho Cordova, CA


Bryan Bockman, Stockton, CA

Bret Vinson, Modesto, CA

Reminder:

California fire permits expire at the end of each year. You can get your 2020 fire permit by watching the video and taking a small quiz at the following site:

www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfires/



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Membership News

New members continued...

Kelli Norvill, Manteca, CA

Niles Jackson, San Leandro, CA

Kenneth Hofland, Jamestown, CA

Gordon & Linda Johnson, Mokelumne Hill, CA

Kenneth Reeher, Modesto, CA

Josh & Faith Pellandini, Livingston, CA

Willam Gorham, Mariposa, CA

Larry Cruce, Modesto, CA

David DiDonato, Livermore, CA

Leo Rubio, Manteca, CA

Richard Simons, Stockton, CA

Lee Brokaw, Woodbridge, CA

Gregory Walther, Lodi, CA

Sabrina Barron, Modesto, CA

Enrique Aguilar Briseno, Los Banos, CA

Niel Hansen, Olivehurst, CA

Kelly Hayes, Modesto, CA

Justin Vasquez, Modesto, CA

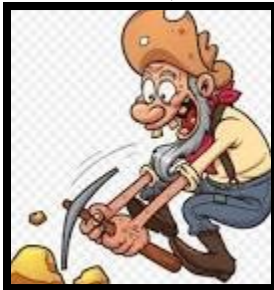
You've joined an outstanding, fun bunch of gold and gem seekers. We look forward to meeting you in person, at an outing, and on the claims. We have two active Chapters, and I encourage you to attend one of their meetings if you get the chance.

Renewing and returning members:

Your continued support of the UPI is what keeps our organization alive. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the outings. Many thanks and remember, without you there'd be no club. Other Membership News:

Reminders:

- When renewing your membership, you must fill out and sign a new application each year.
- If you check the box for electronic news letters and notifications, you will get two e-mail reminders when your membership is due. One, 30 days prior to and another the day of expiration, if it lapses. You will also receive e-mail notifications when the newsletters are available on line.
- Have a Change of Address, E-mail or contact info? Please send me your new information. Without a current mailing or e-mail address you might not get your newsletters or other notifications. Drop me an E-mail, find me at an outing or send me a note via regular mail.



Happy prospecting ,

Jim McGann

UPI Membership Director



Snake River Products, LLC
www.snakeriverproducts.com

Kevin Bell
Partner
(916) 833-5947
kbell@snakeriverproducts.com



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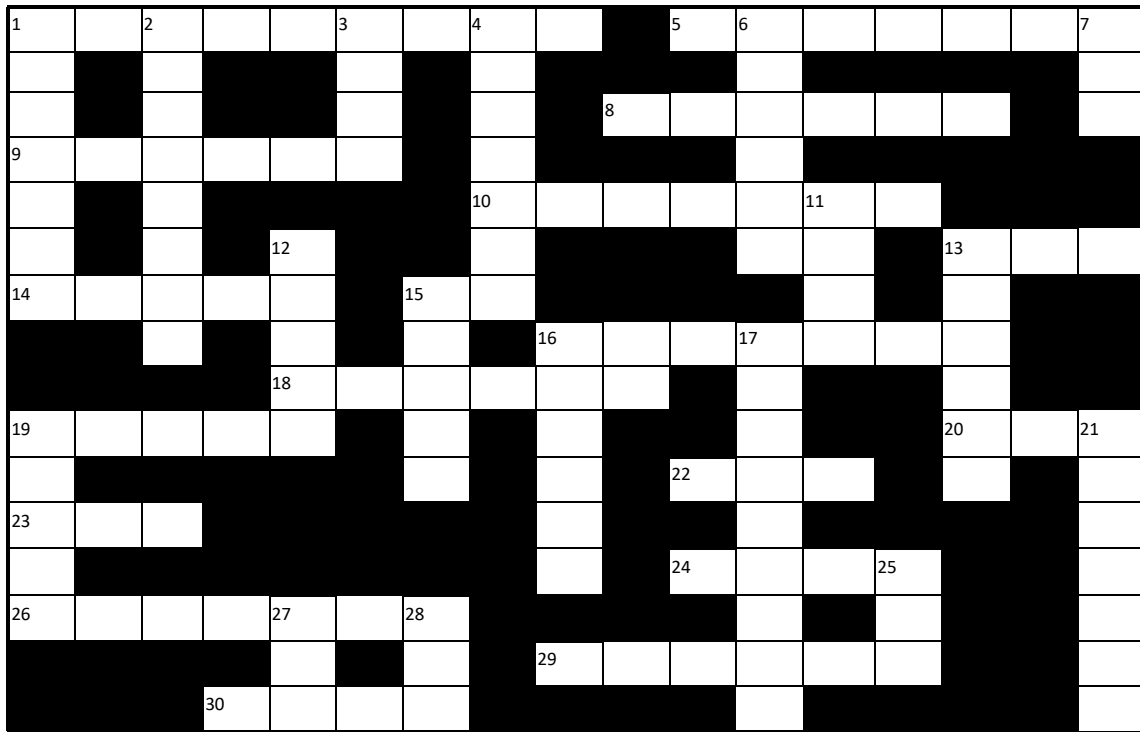
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ACROSS

- 1 Small pieces.
- 5 Cracks in bedrock.
- 8 A model of metal detector.
- 9 Box through which gold bearing gravel is washed.
- 10 Brand of metal detector.
- 12 _____ dirt.
- 13 Put into law.
- 16 Panning removes the _____ material.
- 18 An area where gold has been deposited in streambeds.
- 19 Smaller than a picker.
- 20 Long _____.
- 22 Any combination of minerals from which metals can be extracted.
- 23 Bay Area Gold Club
- 24 A pit sunk at the bottom of a mine.
- 26 Act of removing minerals.
- 29 Discovery of a vein or large deposit of gold.
- 30 A raised bank, or terrace bordering a river.

DOWN

- 1 A crack filled with mineral matter.
- 2 Bench deposits found high above river.
- 3 A border at which a surface terminates.
- 4 Prospector's tool.
- 6 Horizontal slats in a sluice box.
- 7 A fixed point in time from which a series of years is reckoned.
- 11 An entrance to a mine.
- 12 Any upward excavation made in a mine.
- 13 Fool's gold.
- 15 A piece of public land for which formal request is made for mining or other purposes.
- 16 A brand of sluice.
- 17 Use of a hose to direct a powerful stream of water at a hillside.
- 19 Used to transport water in areas where a ditch would be impossible.
- 21 A liquid metal used by miners to concentrate gold.
- 25 Company/corporation responsible for starting recent wild fires.
- 27 Garrett _____ 250.
- 28 Same as #20 across.



Upcoming Events

2020 UPI OUTING SCHEDULE



April 24th-26th

June 26th-28th

July 25th

Aug 21st—23rd

Oct 16th-18th

Bull-Creek (Cancelled due to COVID-19)

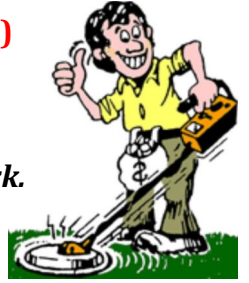
Genesee Cancelled **see note below

Moccasin Creek (day trip)

Detector hunt and raffle only, no pot luck.

Twain

Coulterville Pre-thanksgiving



Please be sure to **RSVP** to our Wagon master
Bob Azbill Robert.azbill@yahoo.com or 530-409-4549
so that we can know how many folks to expect.

Central Valley Chapter to host a gold panning contest on September 12, 2020. Details to come.

South Bay Chapter no upcoming events scheduled at this time.

No Upcoming Events to report.

** Note: Instead of our outing at Genesee on June 26 through 28, there was talk about possibly moving the outing to Twain instead. Unfortunately, that is not possible either until the Governor enacts stage 3 of the Covid 19 restrictions. Until then, we cannot camp in designated campsites individually, or as a whole without being fined up to \$1,000 individually, or \$10,000 as an organization. Sorry for the inconvenience this has caused, but there is nothing we can do until the Governor decides to ease these restrictions. Please check our website for updates.

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Fighting for your right to mine

Shannon Poe

President/CEO

(503) 851-2946

shannonp@americanminingrights.com

americanminingrights.com



Solution to Puzzle on Page 8

1 F	R	2 A	G	M	3 E	N	4 T	S		5 C	6 R	E	V	I	C	7 E
I		L			D		O				I					R
S		L			G		P		8 G	O	F	I	N	D		A
9 S	L	U	I	C	E		O				F					
U		V					10 M	I	N	E	L	11 A	B			
R		I		12 S			A				E	D		13 P	A	Y
14 E	N	A	C	T		15 C	P				I			Y		
		L		O		L		16 L	I	G	17 H	T	E	R		
				18 P	L	A	C	E	R		Y			I		
19 F	L	A	K	E		I		T			D			20 T	O	21 M
L						M		R		22 O	R	E		E		E
23 U	P	I						A			A					R
M								P		24 S	U	M	25 P			C
26 E	X	T	R	27 A	C	28 T					L		G			U
					C		O		29 S	T	R	I	K	E		R
				30 B	E	R	M				C					Y

2020 UPI NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

All members are encouraged to submit articles, recipes, lessons learned, news from other relevant clubs and pictures.

Send your submissions to Publisher.UPI@Gmail.com





UNITED PROSPECTORS INC.
2401 E. Orangeburg Avenue,
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Modesto, CA 95355

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May 1, 2020

Membership is open to anyone interested, 18 years or older. One membership includes a spouse & children under the age of 18.
All memberships are good for a period of 1 year and will expire on your anniversary date.

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Address: _____ E-mail Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ County: _____ Zip code: _____ Country: _____

____ Yes, I want to receive the newsletter and renewal reminders electronically. If you checked yes, please make sure you have included an email address above.

I hereby apply for membership/renewal with United Prospectors, Inc. ("United Prospectors"). I understand that United Prospectors and its agents do not provide goods or services for my activities including, for example, mining equipment or supplies, lodging, transportation, food service, etc. United Prospectors is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act by providers of such goods or services during my activities. I acknowledge that there may be certain risks involved with activities as a member including, but not limited to, rugged or uneven terrain, uncertain or unpredictable river currents, physical exertion for which I am not prepared, other unknown forces of nature, high altitude, accident or illness without access to means of rapid evacuation or availability of medical supplies, the adequacy of medical attention once provided, or negligence on the part of United Prospectors. I HEREBY AGREE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY OWN WELFARE AND ACCEPT ANY AND ALL RISKS OF UNANTICIPATED EVENTS, ILLNESS, INJURY, EMOTIONAL TRAUMA, OR DEATH. I acknowledge that the cost of United Prospectors memberships is based upon participants executing this Release of Liability. Therefore, as lawful consideration for being permitted to participate as a member, I hereby RELEASE AND DISCHARGE FOREVER UNITED PROSPECTORS FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL LIABILITY ARISING FROM MY MEMBERSHIP OR MY ACTIVITIES AS A MEMBER. I agree that this release shall be legally binding upon me personally, all members of my family and all minors traveling with me, my heirs, successors, assigns, and legal representatives, it being my intention to fully assume all the risk associated with my activities as a member and to release United Prospectors from any and all liabilities to the maximum extent permitted by law.

I AM 18 YEARS OR OLDER AND HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS RELEASE AND MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____ UPI Member # _____

(Renewal only)

Please mail this completed (signed and dated) application along with your check/money order to:

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Modesto CA 95355

Please allow 4 weeks for your application to be processed

Revised March 2015