## Supporting our Regional Economy

Last year, Americans were shocked by the waves of the pandemic that spread so quickly. We thought we were safe as the pandemic was existent in another country. However, just as people move around, so did the virus. It struck America with great force and is still taking over our country today. The crisis brought on restrictions, shutdowns, and a different way of life. These vital changes were the catalyst to numerous issues arising in economies, education, employment, finance, and the way we go about our lives. In such chaotic times, it is crucial for communities to stick together and overcome the inevitable changes and complications that have risen from the COVID-19 virus.

The contagious virus has even made its way into rural communities, such as the place we reside in, Calaveras County. As a result, our community was struck with the consequences. The once safe environment of our homes in the countryside has become a place full of restrictions and uncertainty of what the virus will do next. In these hard times, it is critical that we stand together as a community and begin solving the issues caused by the pandemic. Our county has dealt with shutdowns and restrictions that have put it into economic stress. In order to properly recover and function as the virus continues, we as individuals of the community have a duty to help our county's regional economy rise back to it's prosperity.

Every individual of this community can play a significant role in helping our local economy recover in 2021 and beyond. To begin with, to support our regional economy we can promote local businesses and contractors by making investments in them rather than looking out of the area. This is major because it will jump start the economy back into how it used to function and will enhance locals financial well being. We can also make donations and start fundraisers. This will allow the economy to flow back into rhythm. Projects to boost employment is another noteworthy plan individuals can start to aid the regional economy. By helping do so and increasing job openings, it will put back into the economy what has been lost, as well as help those who are struggling due to the pandemic. Also, we can work to improve access to resources for the well being of our economy. This would be seen through actions such as acquiring new technology for the community to help connect businesses to not only homes in the county, but outside of it as well. This would give our economy an external boost along with our internal actions. Another major factor individuals must create together is working to keep things open, but following and maintaining safe restrictions. Shutting down again will only hurt the economy. We must keep it open if it is to survive. Doing this is possible as long as we take extra precaution.

Calaveras County is strong and if individuals of the community come together as a whole we will prevail.