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People in the News

STOCKTON
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- Honors for Stockton businessman
State's newest golf course gets general manager
And many more...

Jason Beltz has been named "Rookie of the Year" by Spherion Corporation (NYSE: SFN), a recruiting, staffing and workforce company. Mr. Beltz is owner of Spherion's office in Stockton.

The award goes to a new owner who has demonstrated excellence in sales growth, business mix and overall business management.

Mr. Beltz was part of Spherion's Northern California management team for four years prior to opening his own operation in January 2007.

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- Peter Fordham has been named general manager of the Red Hawk Casino east of Sacramento.

Mr. Fordham comes to the casino, which is owned by the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, from S & K Gaming LLC, owned by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of northwest Montana, where he served as principal operating officer.

Earlier, he served as corporate senior vice president of operations for Cascade Entertainment Group LLC, a full-service casino and resort management company that specialized in partnering with Native American tribes in California. During his time with Cascade, Mr. Fordham helped lead the development and opening of Chukchansi Gold Resort and Casino located in Coarsegold.

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- Darrel Ng has been named associate deputy commissioner for communications and press relations, and press secretary, for the California Department of Insurance.

Mr. Ng previously served as deputy secretary for public communications for the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. He also served as chief deputy press secretary for the Office of the Governor from 2003 to 2007.

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- Julie Rajan is the new executive director of the California Clean Money Campaign. Most recently, she served as the social policy director on the board of the League of Women Voters of California.

Earlier, Ms. Rajan was executive director of the Los Angeles League of Women Voters.

Her more than 30 years of nonprofit experience in the UK, Kenya, Uganda, Australia, and the U.S. includes directing health care, arts, and public policy organizations.

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- Dr. John Sullivan of Tulare will co-chair the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry's 24th Annual Scientific Session, scheduled May 6-10 in New Orleans, La.

The AACD is the world's largest international dental organization dedicated to advancing excellence in the art and science of cosmetic dentistry. Dr. Sullivan is one of less than 300 accredited members worldwide.

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- Joseph Wisocki has been named general manager of Ridge Creek Golf Course in Dinuba, scheduled to open in July.

The \$27 million golf course, to be managed by Kemper Sports Inc., will feature one of the longest par fives in California at 653 yards.

Mr. Wisocki comes to Dinuba from a post as general manager and director of golf at Chambers Bay golf course in Washington, which will be home to the 2015 U.S. Open and 2010 U.S. Amateur Championships. Prior to his work in Washington, he served as general manager and director of golf at The Wilderness at Fortune Bay in northern Minnesota and as general manager and director of golf at Heron Glen Golf Course in New Jersey.

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- Samuel Regalado, a California State University, Stanislaus history professor recognized for his expertise on the impact of Latin baseball players in American professional baseball, will make an appearance on an April 21 national public television special about the late Roberto Clemente.

Mr. Regalado will be interviewed during the nationally televised American Experience program "Roberto Clemente" on Public Broadcasting Stations.

A member of the CSU Stanislaus faculty for 21 years, Mr. Regalado has appeared in a number of national television specials and was designated a Smithsonian Faculty Fellow in 1994. He recently released the third edition of his popular book titled "Viva Baseball: Latin Major Leaguers and their Special Hunger."

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- **Linda Strea**n has been named media affairs manager for the Public Policy Institute of California.

Ms. Strea has worked as a reporter, editor, newsroom executive, and website content developer during her career. Most recently, she was managing editor of GreatSchools.net, a national, nonprofit website helping parents guide their children's K-12 education and improve their schools. Prior to that, she was managing editor at the Santa Barbara News-Press.

At the San Francisco Chronicle, Ms. Strea held a variety of key newsroom positions — including deputy managing editor — and directed a staff of 300.

The Public Policy Institute of California is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to informing and improving public policy in California.

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- **Ashley Boren**, 46, of San Francisco has been re-appointed to the California Board of Food and Agriculture, where she has served since 2005.

Since 1997, Ms. Boren has served as executive director of Sustainable Conservation, a nonprofit environmental group that collaborates with various agricultural industries to solve environmental problems. From 1989 to 1997, she was director of retail merchandising for Smith and Hawken.

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- **Craig McNamara**, 57, of Winters also has been re-appointed to the Board of Food and Agriculture, where he has served since 2001.

Mr. McNamara has owned and served as president of Sierra Orchards since 1980 and he also founded and serves as president for the Center for Land-Based Learning since 1993.

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- **Donald Koch**, 55, of Redding, has been named director of the California Department of Fish and Game.

Mr. Koch replaces **John McCamman** who has been interim director since Aug. 31, 2007 when **Ryan Brodrick** resigned.

Mr. Koch had a 30-year career with the Department of Fish and Game before retiring last December.

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- **Jake Suski**, 24, of Sacramento, has been appointed deputy communications director in the Office of the Governor. He most recently served as a national spokesman for the conservative advocacy firm Freedom's Watch from 2007 to 2008.

Mr. Suski served as western finance director for John McCain 2008 from January 2007 to June 2007. Prior to that, he was a special assistant to the campaign manager for Californians for Schwarzenegger 2006.

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- **John Telles**, 59, of Fresno has been appointed to the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District and the California Air Resources Board.

Mr. Telles has been a cardiologist at Heart Group Cardiovascular Associates Inc. since 1979, where he also serves as a managing partner. He is a former president of the Fresno Madera Medical Society.

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- **Donald Valpredo**, 69, of Bakersfield, has been appointed to the State Board of Food and Agriculture. He has owned and served as president of Donald Valpredo Farms since 1985.

Mr. Valpredo was director of the Arvin Edison Water Storage District in 2007, Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association from 1995 to 2007 and the Western Growers Association from 2000 to 2007.

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