Supervisors approve
six new units of
homeless housing in
next phase of Self-
Help Enterprises
complex in Goshen

By Reggie Ellis
@Reggie SGN

TULARE COUNTY - Less than a
month after a report de-
signed supportive housing as
the highest priority in Tulare
County's effort to reduce
homelessness, the Board of
Supervisors approved funding
for six apartments set aside
for homeless housing.

At its Jan. 7 meeting, the
board of supervisors approved
the issuance of up to $25 mil-
lion in bonds to build the sec-
ond phase of Sequoia
Commons, an apartment com-
plex in Goshen being built by
Self-Help Enterprises. Aaron
Bock, assistant manager for
the county's Resource Man-
agement Agency, said the
entire 38-acre project, located
at the corner of (American
Street) and Avenue 312 (Reg-
gin Avenue), was approved for
up to 280 multi-family units
and 89 single family homes in
November 2015. Since the fall
of 2016, Self-Help Enterprises
has completed 60 apartment
units and has nearly com-
pleted all of its multi-family
units for phase one. The sec-
ond phase of the apartment
complex will include another
89 units, of which six have
been set aside as supportive

HOUSING:
Continued from page A1

Ministering and Rapid Rehousing will
provide hundreds more security
and vital support to
achieve stability. To increase
these types of housing, the
report recommends establish-
ing a 5-year countywide Hous-
ing Development Pipeline,
consider repurposing vacant
motel and buildings, repur-
pose vacant homes into bridge
housing for adults exiting
homelessness, heavily recruit
landlords to rent subsidized
rooms and expand the coun-
ty's landlord mitigation fund.

More affordable housing is
needed as rent hikes continue
to outpace wage increases by
about 7%. More than con-
third of all homeless in the
county reported the loss of
employment or eviction as the
primary reasons why they are
homeless and that number is
increasing. In 2015, 1 in 6 peo-
ple experiencing homelessness
indicated housing-related
issues as their reason for
homelessness (evictions, no
affordable housing, foreclo-
sure and/or substandard
housing) compared with
nearly 1 in 4 less than 5 years
later. Only 13% of people
experiencing homelessness
became homeless because of
mental health issues or sub-
stance abuse disorder. It is true
that a quarter of those experi-
encing homelessness are diag-
nosed with mental illness but
most of that is a result of
homelessness and not the rea-
son they became homeless.

The report can be viewed at
http://bosagendas.co.tulare.
cal/139526%20139565%2013978
0/139563%20IHSA%20Homeless-
ness%20Report139563.pdf.