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Business Update

AWARD-WINNING MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 19: BREAK ALL THE RULES AND MAKE MORE MONEY - SALES TRAINING

Hosted by Sandler Training
Fresno Pacific University - Visalia
10:00 - 12:00 pm
Reservations Required:
bmiller@sandler.com

JULY 26: BUSINESS AFTER HOURS MIXER

Tri Counties Bank
509 S. Pinkham St.
5:30 - 7:30 pm

JULY 27: STOP HARASSMENT TRAINING

Presented by Pacific Employers
Lamp Liter Inn
7:30 - 10:00 am
Reservations Required

JULY 28: AMBASSADOR BREAKFAST

Visalia First Assembly Church
8:00 am

JULY 20TH: YEA! INFO SESSION

VUSD Office, 5000 W Cypress Ave
6:00 pm

Travel with the Chamber

AMERICA'S MUSIC CITIES:
Featuring Nashville, Memphis & New Orleans
April 7-14, 2017

TULIP TIME ON THE ROMANTIC RHINE & MOSEL RIVER CRUISE:
Netherlands, Germany, France & Switzerland
April 18 - 28, 2017

THE COLORADO ROCKIES:
Featuring National Parks and Historic Trains
July 14 - 22, 2017

ICELAND:
Land of Fire and Ice
July 19 - 23, 2017

SPOTLIGHT ON ROME -
September 5-11, 2017

COLLETTE VACATIONS
MAYFLOWER TOURS
For more information go to
www.visaliachamber.org



Chamber hosts 63rd Annual Awards

On Thursday June 16th the Visalia Chamber of Commerce held the 63rd Annual Awards Celebration at the Visalia Convention Center. Each year the Chamber honors outstanding men, women, and businesses that contribute to the community of Visalia. "This year there were many amazing finalists and each deserved to win an award. The selection process was difficult and we are proud of each finalist for work they have done to make Visalia an amazing city", stated Chamber CEO & President, Gail Zurek.

In addition to the community and business awards, the Annual Awards Celebration is the time when the Chamber's leadership team transitions. Norris McElroy completed his term as chair of the Chamber's Board of Directors and introduced the new chair for 2016-2017, Ms. Stacy Morris, Vice President/General Manager BEN-E-LECT. Ms. Morris introduced her leadership team which includes Nathan Halls (Suncrest Bank) as Chair-Elect and William Martin (Martin Enterprises) Patrick Salazar (State Farm Insurance), BJ Perch (BJ Perch Construction) as Vice-Chairs.

More than 600 people attended the event to find out who the winners were. During the evening guests were able to mingle and network while enjoying all of the beautifully decorated tables. Each table was decorated by a local business, showing once again how diverse and supportive the business community of Visalia is when it comes to honoring their peers.

The Chamber would like to thank everyone involved in putting this event together including: Tropics by Design, The Marriott, Visalia Convention Center, Epic Print & Promo, MSI, Creative Flowers and Ryan Stillwater. Additionally we want to thank the Selection Committees and the many businesses who sponsored this event. One of the fun aspects of Annuals Awards is that each of the tables is decorated by a different local business and this year the creativity level was raised many notches. For the first time table decorators were competing for Best Theme and Best Overall table décor. The winner for Best Theme was ImagineU Children's Museum and for Best Overall was Morgan Stanley. The Chamber is proud to be able to put this event together, and plans to continue to create events and opportunities for business leaders and community leaders to build strong relationships.



Best Overall Table decorated by Morgan Stanley



Best Theme Table - ImagineU Children's Museum

Man of the Year Tom Johnson



Tom Johnson accepted the award for the 2016 Man of the Year

Tom's healthcare career spanned 46 years, beginning with his work as an orderly at the University of Minnesota Hospital in 1963 to his final position as Secretary of Veterans Affairs for California where he oversaw 1,400 veterans in 3 State Veterans Homes. He was the CEO of three community hospitals, most notably, Kaweah Delta District Hospital in Visalia where he served for 29 years; 21 as the CEO. He was instrumental in the creation of the Lifestyle Center and Quail Park. One of his proudest moments was when Kaweah Delta was recognized with the Foster McGaw Prize for excellence in community service in 2000.

Professionally, Tom has been involved in many different professional associations and served in many leadership positions. A few of the associations include: American College of Healthcare Executives (life Fellow and Life Diplomate), American Hospital Association, California Hospital Association, Hospital Council of Northern and Central California (Chair) of the Advisory Board, and Californians for Patient Care, and Health Impact (formerly known as the California Institute for Nursing and Health Care).

Tom is very proud of his military service, he was U.S. Army, Active Duty 1967-1970 and U.S. Army Reserves 1970-1973. He is a life member of the American Legion and AMVETS and was appointed Secretary, California Department of Veteran Affairs: 2004-2009 by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. He was one of 13 cabinet members during the Governor's two terms.

Tom has been active in the community where he has served on many local Boards, Committees and Task Forces. Tom was a member of the Chamber Board of Directors, part of the Downtown Steering Committee, Election Process Task Force, Visalia Educational Foundation (Past President), Wish Upon a Star, Visalia YMCA, Boys and Girls Club (Past President and current member). Tom currently participates in the Visalia Community Band, Visalia Breakfast Rotary, the Visalia Public Cemetery Board and is an active member of his church and participates in the Chancel Choir and endowment committee.

Tom has been married to his wife Betty Johnson (retired elementary school teacher) for 48 years. They have three children and nine grandchildren.

Woman of the Year Rita Crandall



Rita Crandall was named the 2016 Woman of the Year

Rita Crandall grew up in Visalia, graduated from Redwood High School and continued her education at Fresno State where she earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Standard Secondary Credential to become a teacher. Rita's teaching career began in 1971 and she taught mostly special education until her retirement in 2016. During her time as a teacher, she taught at Tranquility Union High School, Parkside Elementary School in Firebaugh and then as a special education teach for both the Fresno and Tulare County Offices of Education. While with the Tulare County Office of Education Rita was twice chosen to be a mentor teacher and served vital roles in the Teachers' Association.

When her time as a teacher came to an end Rita could not just sit around. Already active in many community organizations Rita began to take on leadership roles in order to continue to serve the community she loves. Rita has served as a Visalia Chamber of Commerce Ambassador representing Valley PBS, Board Member for Tulare County Special Olympics, ABLE Industries, Tulare County Symphony Association, Tulare County Chapter of Thrivent, Valley PBS, Tulare County Symphony Association and League, and My Father's House. She has also volunteered for countless events for many different non-profit organizations throughout Tulare County.

Rita is tireless in her volunteer service and is an exemplary ambassador for every organization in which she serves. Rita has a special place in her heart for children and the arts, and makes an effort to help children who are at-risk or low income to have opportunities to participate in local programs that broaden their horizons. Rita is active in her church and currently participates in CLIPArts a free after school performing arts program for children. As a founding Board Member, Rita has helped start My Father's House a ministry that provides housing and counseling for the homeless and those just out of jail. Moved by the tragic events of September 11th, Rita began giving her time and talent as a volunteer with the Central California Blood Center, where she greets and serves donors who directly impact the lives of residents in the Central Valley.

It is clear that Rita is a passionate volunteer for many organizations and she loves helping children, music & performing arts, and ministry. For Rita, volunteer service is a lifelong calling.

Non-Profit of the Year Bethlehem Center

Providing food and clothing to those in need in an atmosphere of dignity and respect is the mission of the Bethlehem Center. The Center took over the current facility from the Catholic Charities in 2011. They serve hot meals daily, provide food boxes, clothing, hygiene kits and resources for community members in need. The priority is to ensure that no one goes hungry, that they have clothes and the necessities to meet their challenges.

With the support of the Visalia community, the Bethlehem Center has been able to provide a place of hope, with nourishment for the body and heart, a kind smile and a "God Bless You" to hundreds of residents. In 2015 the Bethlehem Center served of 80,000 hot meals to hungry families and individuals. Meals are served 365 days a year with Holiday meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Bethlehem Center handed out more than 9,000 food boxes (270,740 lbs of food) to needy family, and gave out almost 11,000 clothing items.

In addition to the items given out, the Bethlehem Center has also been innovative when it comes to the resources they can provide to those in need. The Center works to build partnerships with local organizations who can provide services. They have partnered with a various laundry outlets so that individuals and families can use vouchers to launder their clothing twice a week, allowing them to feel more dignified and reduce the amount of clothing that gets thrown away. Additionally, the Bethlehem Center uses their own library as a cooling &

warming center during the very hot summers and cold winter seasons. The Chapel is open to individuals who seek spiritual guidance or just want to take a moment to reflect. The Bethlehem Center also provides Alcoholics and Narcotic Anonymous programs.

The long term goal of the Bethlehem Center is to incorporate more community entities into the fold so that they can extend services and meet the growing need in the community. They are currently in the process of opening up a second thrift store which will allow them the opportunity to continue to provide meals, clothing and hygiene packages and help to restore pride and self-worth to individuals who have fallen on hard time and struggle on a daily basis.



Benny Rodriguez and Stephanie Salierno accept the 2016 Non-Profit of the Year award on behalf of the Bethlehem Center

Visalia Chamber of Commerce
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Visalia, CA 93291
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VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MISSION ICONS



Business-Government



Business Relations



Promoting Community



Strong Local Economy

Identity Theft Myths

You've probably heard a number of things in the news lately, about identity theft. Mainly that you can lose money. The media has told us quite a bit about financial identity theft, but that is not the whole story. In today's world it is important for us to also understand identity theft and take measures to protect ourselves. This is the first in a series of articles about identity theft, how it affects people, and what we can do about it. So to start, let's dispel some of the myths surrounding identity theft.

MYTH #1: It's only about money, and I watch my credit card accounts.

Financial identity theft accounts for less than 17% of all identity theft. The second most reported identity theft is actually criminal identity theft. This is when someone commits a crime in your name. Malcolm Byrd of Rock County Wisconsin such a victim, and he has been arrested multiple times for crimes he has not committed. A man arrested on drug charges gave the police Malcom's name and now this man's crimes have haunted Malcom for years. We'll discuss the 6 types of identity theft in a subsequent article, but in summary they are: Credit fraud, Social Security fraud, Driver's License fraud, Medical fraud, Criminal/Character fraud and Tax Return fraud

MYTH #2: I can't lose any money if it is protected.

If you have a "protected" credit card, read the fine print of the policy. A law known as FACTA was put into place in 2004, and it states that if you do not dispute a wrongful charge within 60 days, you owe the money. Most people do not know they have had their financial identity stolen for 14 months. Good people are finding out that they owe money they cannot repay. Even when they can prove they did not get use of the money, it can ruin their lives and distract them from their purpose.

Identity theft takes many forms. To learn more about identity theft, how to prevent it and how to restore it if stolen Clayton Biewer a Legal Shield associate would be happy to sit down with you biewer@legalshieldassociate.com.



New non-profit announces hospice house in Visalia

VISALIA – A non-profit organization has been formed and its new home designed to provide end-of-life care will be dedicated at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 10.

The Open Arms House, located at 3234 W. Iris, will be funded entirely through community donations, and operated by a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization.

The event included the dedication of the house to Ruth Dunagan Wood, who supported hospice for many years and was a founder of Hospice of Tulare County in the mid-1980s. Her widower, Harry Wood, was on hand on for the dedication and the renaming of the house to The Ruth Wood Open Arms Home.

The Open Arms House will be a licensed, community-supported home for individuals whose medical needs will be managed by the hospice agency services in Tulare and Kings counties. The Open Arms House will allow residents to die peacefully in a home-like setting, explained Carol Nickel, president of the board. There is a grassroots effort to establish such homes across the nation, and The Open Arms House in Visalia will be one of just four in California.

The home will be available to anyone 19 years and older who is enrolled in a hospice program and who can no longer remain in their own home. The cost of care, which is estimated to be \$300 per resident, per day, will be provided at no cost to families, thanks to community support.



About this publication ...

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Large Business of the Year KRC Safety

The mission of KRC Safety is to be the traffic safety industry leader through their dedication to safety, integrity, and professional services in all aspects of their business. The community mission is to give back to the community that has given us so much, provide a service that goes beyond the business, share their good fortune and the fruits of their labor with those less fortunate, and instill this attitude in the lives of those that we touch.

One of the programs that KRC Safety has implemented to accomplish their community mission is the "KRC Cares" program. This program identifies local volunteer opportunities and encourages the employees and their families to participate and give back to those in the community that are less fortunate. The goal is to cultivate and grow the culture of giving back and allows the children of employees the chance to get more involved. They want to give back to the community while showing the KRC family how rewarding it is to give back and encourage employees to make service a part of their lives.

Annually, KRC Safety donates 1% of their gross receipts annually through donations of services, cash, materials, rental equipment and time. The company and employees are involved in many different charities including Toys for Tots of Tulare and Fresno County, Wounded Warrior Project, California Association of Highway Patrolmen, Elks Lodge, St. Pauls' School Parents

Guild, Visalia Rotary, Redwood Assistance Foundation, Bulldog Foundation, Valley Oak SPCA, AYSO, Hands in the Community, Visalia Emergency Aid Council and more. Additionally, Gary Castro President of KRC Safety is the President of the Tulare County Fair Board, and employees volunteer as coaches for youth sports, and participate in the Lunch Buddies at Houston School and cook meals for the homeless with HIS Kitchen Ministries.

Beyond community service, KRC Safety supports its employees by offering competitive pay and bonuses, retirement accounts with employer match, and cover 100% of the health care benefits for non-union employees. These great incentives along with the commitment to the community are the reason they were awarded Large Business of the Year.



Gary Castro, President of KRC Safety accepts the award for Large Business of the Year.

Medium Business of the Year Giant Chevrolet & Cadillac

The mission of Giant Chevrolet & Cadillac is to strive to provide the best service to their clients while being a great example in the community and to their employees. Whether buying a car, getting a vehicle repaired or purchasing a part, they want their customers to know how much they are appreciated. Giant realizes that it is only thanks to the past, present, and future customers that they have been able to become such a great company.

Giant is doing many innovative things that help to motivate their employees to provide outstanding customer service, and help the employees to feel like a part of the Giant family. Each month there are a variety of incentive programs put into place to help motivate the employees to reach their sales goals individually and as a department. For major holidays including; Christmas, Thanksgiving and the 4th of July, Giant employees are given gift cards in order to provide holiday meals for their families. At the beginning of the school year each family with school aged children is provided funds to purchase back to school supplies and clothing. By providing a great work environment and making the employees feel appreciated, they in return provide Giant customers with great service.

Giant is also very generous to the community and feels that it is their responsibility to be involved. They are the named sponsor of the Giant Chevrolet Cadillac Bowl located on Mineral King which provides a venue for athletic events year round to Visalia's youth. They also donated the

use of one of their old buildings on Main St. to the ImagineU Children's Museum for 15 years until the museum was able to raise funds to build their own facility. Like most businesses they are asked on a regular basis to participate in fundraisers for local non-profits and schools. They do their best to help as many groups as possible including; Jail Ministry golf tournament, Margaret Foley Memorial, Ag Adventures! Learning Center, Sequoia Council Boy Scouts of America, Visalia Emergency Aid, Foodlink, Visalia Rescue Mission, and Toys for Tots and as well as sports teams at most of the Visalia high schools. Additionally, Giant often donates the use of their facility for fundraisers and for book and furniture storage for Visalia Unified School District.



Jack Petty accepted the award for Medium Business of the Year for Giant Chevrolet and Cadillac.

Small Business of the Year El Rosal Restaurant

El Rosal is a family owned and operated restaurant with two locations in Visalia, CA. This family friendly restaurant is customer focused and works hard daily to provide delicious food, a family friendly atmosphere and great customer service. From soups and salads, quesadillas, enchiladas, burritos and more every dish is made with love.

Everyone knows that great food is one of the keys to hosting a great event. El Rosal is a go to restaurant for organizations who are looking to have great food at their fundraisers and parties. Owner Pablo Martinez, regularly donates food to many different organizations including; The Visalia Christmas Tree Auction, Oktoberfest, Food Fight against Hunger, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and the California Restaurant Association. They also support the Visalia Rescue Mission, FoodLink of Tulare County and United Way of Tulare County. It is donations like this that make fundraising events more successful for local non-profits.

Outside of the regular donations that the company makes publicly, El Rosal is a strong supporter of youth activities and quietly makes contributions to youth initiatives including sport teams like the Galaxy Soccer league and

has hosted fundraising events at the restaurant to help raise money to travel to tournaments.

Not only does El Rosal contribute to the community, but they also work hard to provide for their employees. El Rosal gives the children of employee's part time

work allowing them to gain important work and life skills while they earn money to help their families. Additionally, they help provide educational books for the children of employee to help them be more successful in school.



El Rosal won Small Business of the Year at the 63rd Annual Awards Celebration.

Emerging Leader of the Year J.R. Shannon

JR Shannon is a 5th generation family farmer who helps to manage the family's many diverse crops including citrus, wine grapes, almonds, walnuts, row crops along with beef cattle. He plays a key role in the family's commercial development company and is beginning to invest in his own development projects. His entrepreneurial spirit has lead him to develop his own personal farming business, growing citrus and kiwis in Tulare and Fresno Counties.

JR is a very active member of the Visalia community. He has been a member for the Rotary Club of Visalia for more than seven years, and has served as the clubs Agricultural Chairman and received the honor of being name a Karl Weiss Fellow. Additionally, JR is a member of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce and will begin his first term on the Board of Directors on July 1st. JR has been active in the Tulare County Farm Bureau, and the California Association of Wine Grape Growers, both organization provide scholarships to high school students.

JR is passionate about helping the youth of our community succeed and has been a member of the El Diamante Agricultural Advisor Committee for six years, participates in the Mr. Whitney career day and is a Foundation Charter member of the Tulare County Fair Foundation where he helps

gather donations which ensure that children are able to show their animals and projects at the fair.

As a busy father of four under the age of five, JR is becoming more involved in everything kid. He is working with A Place to Grow Montessori School to set up an Ag day for the students, and loves to host local elementary school classes for tours of the farm. Recently JR has begun to coach T-Ball and is very excited to be joining the foundation board for Valley Children's Hospital. JR credits his ability to be so involved in the community to his wife Jayme, whom he met at Fresno State - Go Bulldogs!



2016 Emerging Leader, JR Shannon thanks his family for encouraging him to be engaged in the community

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Most people would be surprised that your local chamber plays a critical role in international trade. While most know our influence promoting local business, advocating on their behalf locally and with the state and through our amazing publications, few know our work helping local businesses sell their products internationally.

In fact supporting international trade through providing Certificates of Origin may be the oldest service the Visalia Chamber of Commerce offers and the oldest service most chambers offer. Certificates of Origin certify that the goods shipped have been produced, manufactured or processed in that country. These certificates are issued by local Chambers of Commerce for companies selling their items internationally. Without a Certificate of Origin, without the support of the local Chamber, international trade cannot happen.

Locally several agricultural companies take advantage of this service. Regularly your Chamber issues certificates for businesses shipping everything from citrus to bull semen to countries around the world. For our staff it's

an opportunity to interact directly with the growers, manufactures and producers of what makes Tulare County one of the most productive export counties in the country.

Speaking of unknown services, many are also surprised to learn your Chamber offers free notary services to silver members and above. While a small detail to some, this service is allows businesses to focus on their work and your Chamber to help in the details. We have had some businesses join the Chamber just for these benefit savings alone! If you are in need of a notary, just call our office to arrange a time.

Our partnership role in teaming up with local business happens in big and small ways. Our role is to develop services and programs that allow local businesses to thrive both here and globally. We take this partnership role in your business seriously. If we can help, either with an existing program or by developing one, please engage us in that conversation. We truly exist for you our members.



Gail Zurek
President & CEO
Visalia Chamber
of Commerce

COMMUNITY LOYAL MEMBERS

A thriving community starts here!



New

The Visalia Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome our newest members. We encourage individuals and businesses to support Chamber Member businesses.

- **AGRICULTURAL SERVICES**
HNH Nut Co.
(559) 798-1517
- **INSURANCE**
Maniaci Insurance Services, Inc.
310-755-5191
- **WORKFORCE TRAINING**
Sandler Training
(559) 412-8178
- **SPORTS TEAMS**
Visalia Galaxy Soccer | Visalia Youth Soccer
(559) 936-2871
- **FLOOR, WALL & WINDOW COVERINGS**
American Floors
(559) 732-7847
- **SECURITY SERVICES**
Citadel Blue Security Services
(559) 553-2570
- **REAL ESTATE**
The Real Estate Connection
(866) 614-6258
- **CASINO**
Chukchansi Gold Resort and Casino
(559) 692-5295
- **ACTION EQUIPMENT RENTALS & SALES**
Party Rentals, supplies & services
(599) 686-8321

Renewing Members

The Visalia Chamber of Commerce thanks the following companies for renewing their commitment to the community of Visalia.

- Bonadelle Neighborhoods
- Habitat for Humanity of Tulare County*
- International Agri Center*
- Key West Cleaners*
- Klink Citrus Association
- Patrick L. Salazar State Farm Insurance Agency
- Sun Fresh
- V Town Derby Dames
- Sherwood Law Offices
- Kaweah Delta Health Care District*
- Kawneer Company, Inc.*
- Little Italy Restaurant*
- Security Self-Storage
- SERVPRO of Visalia
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Central Valley, Inc*
- Boy Scouts of America - Sequoia Council
- HR Mobile Services
- Keith Williams DDS
- Gateway Financial Planning Group
- Bryan Company
- Legacy Investments
- Westamerica Bank
- Colima Mexican Restaurant*
- Tulare County Sheriff's Department
- Auto Oil Changers*
- Dowling Aaron Incorporated*
- Tulare-Kings Right To Life
- Visalia Cyclery*
- Alex's Paint & Body*
- BJ Perch Construction Inc.*
- Casa Grande Senior Care Home*
- Country Club Cleaners*
- Family Services of Tulare County
- Forcum/Mackey Construction*
- Gerald M. Schneider, D.D.S.*
- J.C. Lansdowne, Inc.*
- J.R. Nelson's Roofing, Inc.*
- Quality Jewelers*
- Scott, Mainord & Langley & Simmons, Inc.*
- Serpa Packaging Solutions*
- Valley Industrial & Family Medical Group
- Valley Oak Credit Union
- Willis Equipment Co., Inc.*
- California Water Service Company
- Integrated Vision Care Optometry
- Quail Park Retirement Village*
- Empire Supply Co., Inc.

*110% Club Members

BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Visalia Chamber of Commerce welcomes four new Board Members

The Visalia Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce Andrea Camarena (Goal Line Media), Phil Cline (Phil Cline Consulting) Caity Meader (Family Services of Tulare County) and J.R. Shannon (Legacy Investments) are the newest members of the organization's Board of Directors. The Chamber would also like to thank the following Board members for their valuable time and service on the Chamber Board of Directors; Karen Telallian (DMI Agency) and Colby Wells (Southern California Gas Company).

"The Chamber is grateful for the leadership and service we have received from the individuals who are completing their service this year. We would like to thank them for volunteering their time and expertise on behalf of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce," stated Gail Zurek, Visalia Chamber President & CEO.



Phil Cline is a resident of Visalia and a Tulare County native. He is a graduate of Exeter Union High School, College of Sequoias, Cal State, Fresno and San Joaquin College of Law.

Mr. Cline served 4 years in the United States Air Force. He has been married to Marcia Cline for 44 years. They have one son, Jarrett, an attorney, and a daughter, Amanda, a teacher. They have 3 grandchildren.

Mr. Cline held elective office as District Attorney for 20 years before his retirement in 2013. Before assuming the mantle of D.A., he was a trial attorney in the office specializing in the prosecution of homicide cases. During his tenure as District Attorney, Mr. Cline created a number of innovative programs including the county's first Rural Crime program to protect the Agricultural Industry, first White Collar Crime unit, first Worker's Compensation Fraud unit, and first specialized Sexual Assault team. He also served on a number of statewide task forces and on the California District Attorneys Association Board of Directors.

Mr. Cline currently does consulting work regarding governmental issues and teaches Constitutional Law at the College of Sequoias.

Caity Meader has served as the Executive Director of Family Services of Tulare County since May, 2012 – returning to her hometown of Visalia after 13 years in San Diego where she received her Bachelors of Arts degree from San Diego State in Social Work and a Masters of Arts degree in Nonprofit Leadership & Management from the University of San Diego. Family Services of Tulare County is a local nonprofit, supporting nearly 100 employees and more than 3,000 clients per year with the mission to help children, adults, and families heal from violence and thrive in healthy relationships.

Caity is a fourth-generation member of Soroptimist International of Visalia, a service club focusing on improving the lives of women and girls. She and her husband Jeff recently adopted three children, completing their family of six.

JR Shannon is a 4th generation farmer born and raised in Visalia. He attended Redwood High School where he played football before heading to Fresno State where he played 1 season. He met his wife Jayme while at Fresno State and has been blessed with four children Cash, Kingston, Shiloh, and Kherington. JR is a member of the Visalia Rotary Club, a board member for Valley Children's Hospital Foundation, and El Diamante High School Agriculture Advisory committee member.

He served 9 years on the California Association of wine grape growers' board. He enjoys commercial development and has helped his family's commercial business grow in northwest Visalia and started his own commercial development business focused on rejuvenating East Main Street. In his free time he loves watching and attending Fresno State Football games, trying all the great restaurants the Central Valley has to offer and spending time with his family at the coast or mountains. He's always been one to model his life off his favorite poem by Robert Frost "The road not taken."

Andrea Camarena operates a consulting firm Goal Line Media in Visalia where she helps both businesses and individuals identify and implement media projects that can help them reach their unique goals. Andrea recently shifted into the role of entrepreneur after a 12-year career in journalism and three years in marketing.

Andrea appreciates the opportunity to be inspired by the families and business owners of the Visalia, Exeter and Lindsay communities where she spends a majority of her time working and volunteering. Over the years, Andrea has enjoyed working with the Bethlehem Center, BEN-E-LECT Foundation, American Cancer Society, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the Catholic Professionals Club and as an ambassador with the Visalia Chamber. She can't wait to contribute further to the great mission of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce.

Andrea is a mother of three who can be seen hauling her family from soccer game to soccer game on the weekends. She enjoys cheering for her Alma Maters Redwood High School and Saint Mary's College of California.

Go Gaels!

GROUNDBREAKING • GRAND OPENING • RIBBON CUTTING • CEREMONIES



Ground Breaking

VUSD Elementary School

Giddings & Shannon Parkway



Ribbon Cutting

Payality

1600 Draper St., Kingsburg • 559-634-1008

What a month for **Happy Trails!** On May 14 nine Tulare and Kings Motorcycle Clubs united for "Run for Autism" poker ride. Over 200 riders supported the event generating over \$20,000 for scholarships and programs at Happy Trails.



The **Visalia Convention Center** was filled with the sound of folks cheering on their favorite steeds as **Happy Trails** hosted over 550 friends and supporters on May 30 at our annual spring fundraiser - "Night at the Races." Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and all the folks who wagered on the races, this event generated over \$100,000 to support our programs of Equine Assisted Activities and Therapy. On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and riders we send a heartfelt thank you all those who supported both events.

On June 16th, **Kaweah Delta Health Care District** Graduate Medical Education Program graduated their first class of physicians and celebrated the fact that more than 40 percent of the original class of residents has decided to stay and practice in the area.



For the third year in a row, **Valley Business Bank** in Visalia has been recognized as a "Super Premier" performing bank by The Findley Reports on Financial Institutions. The ranking is the highest possible by the Findley Reports, which provides performance benchmarking for the banking industry. It is based on the bank's 2015 operating performance.

Twenty-six high school students in **Kaweah Delta's** first Medical Apprentice Program (MAP) will also become the district's first group of volunteers in its Kaweah Care Junior Volunteer Program. The students in the district's first MAP are from Visalia Unified School District's Linked Learning Academy of Health Sciences. The new junior volunteer program, starts July 11, and allows anyone 15-18 years old in the community to become a volunteer at the district doing tasks such as reading to patients, bringing patients blankets, refilling their water or helping with clerical tasks.



"Rawhide Family" Expecting Four Babies in July

GM, Assistant GM, Athletic Trainer and Catcher all expecting baby boys next month

VISALIA — It's not considered good planning when you hear about a baseball player expecting a child during the season. Four members of a Minor League team & front office expecting during the season and all during the same month? Now that's unheard of!

The 2016 season will make the history books for the Rawhide one way or another – of course everyone is hoping for a Championship season. However, as a consolation prize, four "Rawhide Babies" will be a pretty impressive feat in itself!

Who's expecting? **Team General Manager Jennifer Pendergraft** & her boyfriend Clayton Reynolds are due July 9th. **Assistant General Manager Charlie Saponara** & his wife Brynn are expecting their second child on July 1st. **Rawhide Athletic Trainer Chad Moeller** & his wife Vanessa are expecting their first child on July 2nd. And closing out the lineup is **Rawhide Catcher Tyler Baker** & his wife Brooke who are expecting on July 23rd. All of them are expecting boys!

"True to Minor League Baseball style, we decided this coincidence was something worthy of a quirky promotion," Pendergraft explained. In partnership with Kaweah Delta Hospital the promotion is: **"Red, White & Due!: A Day**

Dedicated to Expectant Mothers' to take place during the Friday, July 1st 7pm game vs. the San Jose Giants.

- The details:
- Making a Debut: Expectant mothers will be encouraged to submit their baseball-themed photos via Rawhide & Kaweah Delta social media sites to enter themselves for a chance to win a free Baby Shower at the Ballpark's Hall of Fame Club facility.
 - On Deck: The first 100 expecting moms at the game will receive a free baseball themed onesie.
 - Adding to the Lineup: All expecting mothers get free seating in the Hall of Fame Club AC during the game.
 - Little Peanut: Discounted bags of peanuts for sale.
 - Annnnd the Delivery!: If a woman goes into labor at the game, her child receives free Rawhide birthday parties for life.

In addition to the festivities, Kaweah Delta will have class information available at the game, as well as delivery nurses who will answer any questions. They will also be hosting a photo booth in the Hall of Fame Club, and a raffle drawing with tons of great mommy-to-be prizes.



Valley Business Bank Receives National Recognition for Financial Performance

May 23, 2016 – Valley Business Bank has once again been recognized on American Banker Magazine's Annual List of the Top 200 Community Banks. The bank is currently ranked at 116 in the nation for financial performance over a 3-year period. The top 200 list is compiled from the 684 community banks in the United States that are under \$2 billion in total assets and meet certain other criteria. The bank was first recognized in 2014 with a ranking of 194 and has improved its position each subsequent year.

"We are pleased to receive this recognition and it is gratifying to see a steady increase in our ranking," said Allan Stone, president and CEO of Valley Business

Bank. "This designation reflects the hard work and dedication of the entire Valley Business Bank team. Our strong financial performance goes hand in hand with providing our customers with the highest quality banking products and excellent customer service."

Valley Business Bank recently celebrated its 20th Anniversary of serving the banking needs of those in Visalia, Tulare, Woodlake and Fresno. The bank has received numerous other performance awards including the 5-star BAUFERFINANCIAL, Inc. rating and the 2015 Most Active Lender Award by the Business Finance Center of Tulare.



YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS Academy FOR KIDS WHO MEAN BUSINESS



The Young Entrepreneurs Academy is looking for the next BIG IDEA

Do you know a student who could be the next Mark Zuckerberg or Oprah Winfrey? If so, the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) is the program for them. The YEA! program is a unique class that transforms local students into real, entrepreneurial success stories through a fun, exciting, project-based approach. In the class students generate business ideas, develop business plans, pitch to a panel of investors and sell their new, real products and services at a trade show event!

Students interested in participating in the YEA! program do not need to have any previous business experience to be successful. Students don't even have to have a business idea in order to join the program. The kinds of students who excel in YEA! are highly motivated, driven, creative thinkers who are excited about new ideas, new opportunities and are looking to do something big.

The YEA! program is a fast-paced, exciting environment. The

"The Tulare & Visalia YEA! program will host an information session on July 20th 6:00 pm at the VUSD Office."

Visalia YEA! program is currently accepting application for the 2016-2017 class. Students interested in applying for the YEA! program will need to complete the application, get a recommendation letter, obtain a transcript and participate in a personal interview. Applications can be downloaded from: www.visaliachamber.org/yea. Applications are due by August 15th, however student will be accepted throughout the summer. There is no application fee for this program.

If you know a student who you believe would benefit from and enjoy participating in the YEA! program please download the nomination form found at www.visaliachamber.org/pages/yea and send it to the Visalia Chamber.

For more information on the YEA! program contact Nicola Wissler at the Visalia Chamber of Commerce 559-734-5876.



Scholarship Sponsor: GatewayFinancial - Sterling & Smith Funeral Homes - Rabobank - Visalia Country Club Innovation Commercial Flooring - 3P Energy Partners

Friends of Yea! Sponsor: McDonald & Associates - Marie Pinto - Port of Subs - The Lunch Box Edward Jones Financial / Many Basra - Valley Life Charter Foundation

THE LAW AT WORK

Photographs and Fingerprints: Biometrics in the Workplace

It seems like almost every week some new exciting technology comes out that, even just five years ago, seemed like science fiction. Retinal scans, fingerprint scanners on our phones, and facial recognition software are a few examples that come to mind. And like most technologies, most of these find their way into the workplace in some form. So what obligations do employers have with regards to employees' biometric information (fingerprints, photographs, etc.)?

Labor Code section 1051 prohibits California employers from obtaining fingerprints or photographs from employees and then sharing that information to third parties. It is actually a crime (misdemeanor) if an employer violates this law. So, employers are allowed to collect employee fingerprint information, but they are absolutely restricted from sharing the information with other entities.

What about using fingerprints or handprints in time keeping systems? Employers would be wise to use caution. In light of the code section mentioned above, employers should take steps to ensure that the company providing the technology does not have access to employee biometric information. Care must also be taken to ensure that biometric information is not inadvertently disclosed to third parties. In this age of cyber-threats and hacking, it's not hard to imagine a scenario where this could happen.



Brett T. Abbott
Gubler & Abbott LLP



Employee photographs have their own rules. Labor Code section 3344 prohibits the use of a person's "name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness" in advertising or selling products without that person's prior consent. Penalties under this code section can be severe – the greater of \$750 or the actual damages suffered by the person whose photo was used, as well as any profits attributable to the unauthorized use (plus the person's attorney's fees and court costs). Courts can also award punitive (punishment) damages as well. As such, before using any employee's name, voice, photograph, etc. in any sort of marketing or advertising, be sure to obtain the employee's written consent first.

I'm sure the next five years will bring more technological advances that will find their way into the workplace. And while it can be hard to keep up with new technology, the law requires that businesses do.

This article is for education and information purposes only; it should not be construed as legal advice. If you have an employment law question for inclusion in a future article, contact Brett T. Abbott at Gubler & Abbott LLP (bta@thecalifornialawyers.com). For specific employment law advice or other legal assistance, contact Gubler & Abbott LLP, (559) 625-9600, 1110 N. Chinowith St., Visalia, CA 93291 (www.thecalifornialawyers.com).



HEALTHCARE NOTE

Celebrating 75 years

Written by Rick Strid, CEO, Visalia Medical Clinic

Visalia Medical Clinic is proud to celebrate 75 years of providing state-of-the-art care, delivered with compassion by highly trained physicians.



Rick Strid
CEO
Visalia Medical Clinic

"To recognize and thank them, VMC will celebrate 75 days and 75 ways of saying thank you."

A committee made up of staff, physicians and physicians' spouses is putting together a list of daily activities. Ideas include 75th anniversary T-shirts, pizza parties, "positive reinforcement day," VMC history trivia day, a treasure hunt, crazy hat day and ice cream sundae day.

The 75 days will culminate in an all-employee barbecue at the clinic. Administrative staff and physicians will help serve, as a way of giving back to the employees who make VMC work.

VMC makes a difference in Visalia through quality patient care with just the right blend of the human touch and technology. Health care is so critically important to the overall health of a community, and as the population ages, quality care will become even more important.

And we remain committed to community involvement as yet another way to say thank you to the people and patients who support the Clinic and contribute to our success.

We are excited about 75 days of saying thank you and we will be challenged to continue that attitude of gratitude on day 76...77.... 78...

The community is full of unsung heroes, to whom a thank you means so much. Thank you, Visalia, for letting VMC help you *Be Well*.



TUCOEMAS

(continued from page 4)



Laura Hudgins,
VP of Human Resources

Laura Hudgins, was recently promoted to Vice President of Human Resources. Hudgins began working at TUCOEMAS in 1999 as a teller where she moved quickly through the ranks of the organization. In 2012, Laura graduated from Western CUNA Management School, Pomona. As the VP of Branch Operations for the last 3 years, Laura has worked closely with the former VP of Human Resources, Cindy Summers.



Lela Dancil,
Branch Operations Manager

Lela Dancil was recently promoted to Branch Operations Manager at TUCOEMAS Federal Credit Union. She has been with TUCOEMAS since 2001 and has previous experience with Central Coast Federal Credit Union in Seaside California where her husband was stationed at the Presidio of Monterey. She has worked in several areas, starting as a teller, worked in membership and was the Service Center Supervisor for eight years. Lela has additional experience working with Operations, Compliance and BSA. She has been selected to attend the 2016 academic year at Western CUNA Management School (WCMS).



Brice A. Yocum
Chief Executive Officer/President

Brice Yocum is the new CEO at TUCOEMAS Federal Credit Union taking over the helm last month when Linda Reese retired after 44 years. A Tulare County native, Yocum has been a member of Tucoemas Federal Credit Union for nearly 20 years. A graduate of the Sid Craig School of Business at Fresno State, Yocum went on to graduate studies in Human Resources Management at Chapman University. He later completed his law degree at Pepperdine University, where he focused on entrepreneurship and dispute resolution and is a licensed attorney in California. He is a third-generation walnut farmer, the former Director of Fresno Pacific University's MBA program and serial proponent of small business in the Valley. "I couldn't be more excited about this opportunity," states Yocum, the product of a strong family tradition of working with financial institutions. "My father recently retired, again, from an outstanding career serving the financial needs of the Valley's agricultural community," Yocum says with a smile, "it's a tradition I'm proud to follow."



Local Water Provider Ranks Highest in the West in J.D. Power Residential Water Customer Satisfaction Study

California Water Service (Cal Water) has been ranked highest in overall customer satisfaction among water utilities in the western United States, according to J.D. Power's 2016 Water Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction StudySM. The utility also achieved the highest score in the region for communications.

The results, announced by J.D. Power late last month, were based on responses in March 2016 from residential customers who had had experiences with their utility within the past six months. The Overall Water Utility Satisfaction Index measures key performance indicators in six areas: delivery, price, billing and payment, conservation, communications, and customer service.

"For 90 years, we have worked to deliver quality, service, and value to our customers," said Acting Assistant District Manager Eric Charles. "We are so proud to receive this award and humbled by our customers' feedback, and we will continue to serve our customers diligently for the next 90 years and beyond."

This is the first year J.D. Power has conducted a customer satisfaction study for water utilities. The study ranked U.S. water utilities serving a population of at least 400,000 residents by analyzing more than 28,000 online customer interviews. Utilities were categorized into the Midwest, Northeast, South, and West geographic regions.

Cal Water serves about 43,100 service connections in Visalia and about 2 million people through 480,300 service connections in California.

The company has provided water service in the Visalia area since 1926. Additional information may be obtained online at www.calwater.com.



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CLIP & SAVE

CALENDAR - JULY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Visalia City Council Meeting	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Government Affairs Meeting Buckman-Mitchell Office 7:15 am	13	14	15	16
17	18 Visalia City Council Meeting	19 Sales Training Seminar - Fresno Pacific University 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	20 YEA! info session - VUSD Office 6:00 pm	21	22	23
24	25	26 Business After Hours Tri Counties Bank 5:30 - 7:30pm	27 Stop Harassment Training Lamp Liter Inn 7:30 - 10:00 am	28 Ambassador Breakfast Visalia First Assembly Church 8:00 am	29	30
31						

Labor Law Compliance Series

Stop Harassment Seminar

Lamp Liter Inn

Wednesday, July 27, 2016 • 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Breakfast Included

Pre-Registration: \$35 for Members - \$50 for Non-Members

At the Door: \$45 for Members - \$55 for Non-Members

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

For Registration call 559-734-5876



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WHAT ARE THE
IDEAS YOU ARE
DREAMING ABOUT?

**YOUNG
ENTREPRENEURS
Academy**

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy is a year long academic academy hosted by the Visalia Chamber of Commerce that teaches core entrepreneurial skills to middle and high school students. Any student who has ever wanted to start or run their own business will take the steps necessary to launch a small business while participating in hands on learning experiences in the YEA! program.

WWW.VISALIACHAMBER.ORG/YEA