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Business Update

AWARD-WINNING MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



UPCOMING EVENTS

- JULY 25:**
Business After Hours Mixer
Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Location: Family HealthCare Network
- JULY 27:**
Ambassador Meeting
Time: 8:00 am to 9:00 am
Location: Visalia First Assembly

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Celebrating the Best of Visalia

On Thursday June 8th, the Visalia Chamber of Commerce held the 64th Annual Awards Celebration at the Visalia Convention Center. This long standing event is an opportunity for us to join together as a community and celebrate the best of Visalia. For many, this event is about seeing the good, celebrating the best and remembering that together we have and will accomplish great things. Our community is full of talented and dedicated individuals and successful businesses, so to be nominated for an award and celebrated this night is a true honor. I personally want to congratulate all of the nominees as well as the winners.



Gail Zurek
Visalia Chamber
President & CEO

Recognized and honored were the Small, Medium, Large and Non-Profit Businesses of the Year as well as Young Professional and Man and Woman of the Year. These individuals and businesses have joined a prestigious list of previous winners. It is not uncommon for businesses to use this honor in advertising and I am pleased when they do. This event, and these awards are a wonderful reminder that there is more to business than a transaction. The truth of the matter is these businesses, our business community, is how we have built such a strong and successful community.

More than 550 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. This year two businesses won table decorating awards, the Best Themed table was decorated by the Visalia Convention Center who decorated the table with Beauty and the Beast inspired items. Best Overall Theme

went to BEN E-LECT for their beach themed table.

In addition to the community and business awards, the Annual Awards Celebration is the time when the Chamber's leadership team transitions. Stacy Morris completed her term as Chair of the Chamber's Board of Directors and introduced the new Chair for 2017-2018, Nathan Halls, Deputy Chief Credit Officer, Suncrest Bank. Mr. Halls introduced his leadership team which includes Karen Gross (State Farm Insurance) as Chair-Elect and William Martin (Martin Enterprises) Patrick Salazar (State Farm Insurance), BJ Perch (BJ Perch Construction) and Garth Gipson (Gateway Financial Group) as Vice-Chairs.

The Chamber also took time to thank the outgoing Board members for their time, and support of the Chamber and our mission. Thank you to Rick Feder (Visalia Mall), Todd Mackey (Tropics by Design), Judy Fussel (Buckman-Mitchell, Inc.), Kerry Hydash (Family HealthCare Network), Carlos Garcia (R&F Disposal), and Norris McElroy (Kawneer).

The Chamber is blessed with powerful, thoughtful and dedicated board members. While it is always sad to see board members term out, it is wonderful to see new members add to the leadership of our Chamber. Our success is a direct result of their strategic leadership.

The Chamber would like to thank everyone involved in putting this event together including: the Business Selection Committee, Event Committee, Man & Woman Selection Committee, MSI, Visalia Marriott, Zach Green Films and the Visalia Convention Center. 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.



VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- Reflections of Italy**
September 6-15, 2017
- China**
October 6-14, 2017
- Christmas at the Galt House & Opryland Hotel**
December 3-10, 2017
- The Legendary Blue Danube River Cruise**
May 7-17, 2018
- Discover Panama: The Land Between the Seas**
February 22 - March 2, 2018

Collette Vacations,
Mayflower Tours, Cistilinc
For more information, go to
www.visaliachamber.org/travel

Woman of the Year

Kathleen Remillard

Compassionate, giving, caring, tireless, servant's heart, energetic, willing, and loving are all words used to describe Kathleen Remillard, the 2017 Woman of the Year. Kathleen is a dedicated volunteer who works hard to make Visalia an amazing community. Kathleen is not just a great volunteer, but she is an amazing employee, small business owner, and mother.

The list of non-profits that Kathleen has worked with over the years would take forever to list, a few notable organizations include; the Bethlehem Center, Kaweah Delta Health Care District Hospital Foundation, Visalia Chamber of Commerce, American Cancer Society, Taste the Arts, the Creative Center, the Senior Coalition, and Habitat for Humanity. Each of these non-profit organizations owes Kathleen a huge thank you for the work she has done to help with events such as; blood drives, tea parties, auctions, dinners, golf tournaments and more. Whether she is taking tickets, passing out flyers, making announcements, or coordinating volunteers. These efforts show that Kathleen has a huge heart for her home town. She has given her time and shared her expertise for years with no thought of recognition, which makes her efforts even more amazing.

Kathleen's pride and joy is her children. As such it is no surprise to

note that she has spent countless hours helping with the Redwood football and volleyball Boosters, serving in multiple capacities, the Redwood FBLA as a volunteer, McCann volunteer for fundraisers and a room mom at St. Pauls School for the last 11 years.

In addition to her volunteer work in the community and schools, Kathleen is a valued employee at Delta Nursing and Rehabilitation Center where she works as the Director of Marketing. Kathleen also owns her own marketing consulting business and has published a cook book which was featured on QVC.

The Chamber is so proud to be able to count Kathleen Remillard as a valued Ambassador and supporter. As many of her friends will tell you, she is more of a behind-the-scenes kind of person, making herself available to those that ask for assistance. For this she is most deserving of being named Woman of the Year.



Man of the Year

Terry Ommen

At the 2017 Annual Awards Ceremony, Terry Ommen was named Man of the Year. Terry has been a part of Visalia since the early 1970s when he came to work for the Visalia Police Department. After a 25 year career with the VPD Terry retired and has become the go to Historian when it comes to anything Visalia related.

Terry uses his love of history and Visalia to educate hundreds of people each year. For the past eight years Terry has been a participant in the Leadership Visalia program educating future community leaders, teaching them about important historic buildings and events that shaped this community. Additionally, Terry has participated in the 210 Community Forums focused on the history of Visalia for almost a decade. As the resident expert on Visalia, Terry has consulted with the City of Visalia Planning Commission as they planned the growth of the City. He has helped to make sure that historic homes and buildings are preserved for future residents to enjoy. Many other groups have asked Terry for help with historic projects including the Visalia Fox Theatre, arts organizations, and the Tulare County Library.

Beyond guiding walking tours, making presentations and consulting with the City, Terry is a prolific writer. Terry has written four books about Visalia: Visalia Then & Now, Christ Lutheran Church – a Gathering Place for a Half Century, Wild Tulare County – Outlaws and Images of American – Visalia. In addition to the books he has written Terry writes for many

local publications. Terry wrote a regular column for the Visalia Times Delta "Slices of Time" for eleven years. He writes a monthly article for Lifestyle Magazine and has a Visalia history blog called Historic Happenings.

Terry has also contributed to the community by serving on the Board of Directors for Family Services of Tulare County, Visalia Senior Housing, Tulare County Historical Society and was the creator of the planned Giant Redwoods Interpretive Center at the Beech Post Office.

During the Annual Awards Ceremony Mayor Warren Gubler recognized Terry for his work with the City and named him the Historian Laureate for the City. Terry has been married to his wife for 45 years and is most proud of the fact that he is the grandfather to Maggie and Lars.

The Chamber would like to congratulate Terry on being named Man of the Year. We appreciate the work he has done on behalf of our community and look forward to having Terry teach future Leadership Visalia students about our city in the coming years.



Annual Awards Table Decoration Winners

Best Theme:
Visalia Convention Center



Best Overall Theme:
BEN-E-LECT



Young Professional of the Year

Brett Taylor

Brett Taylor is a native Visalian who graduated from Redwood high school, College of Sequoias and later California State University Fresno. Brett has dedicated his adult years to ensuring that his hometown continues to grow and is a place that he can be proud to raise his family. Brett has given his time and talents to various non-profits, city commissions and his church while advancing his career and becoming a successful young professional.

Brett began his career of service at the age of nineteen when he served a two year mission for his church in South America where he learned and still speaks fluent Spanish. After returning from his mission, Brett married his wife and became a dedicated husband, and today is a father of three children. In 2012 Brett and his wife started their own small business, Lanteri Bookkeeping and Tax services in downtown Visalia. In 2015 Brett was hired as the Chief Executive Officer of the Tulare County Association of Realtors. At the time he was the youngest CEO for a realtors association in the state of California. During his short time at the TCAR he has facilitated a merger with the Orange Belt Board of Realtors growing his organizations membership from 850,1300 members. He was instrumental in creating the Tulare County Association of Realtors Charitable Foundation.

Beyond his professional and family obligations Brett has managed to

find time to serve his community. For many years Brett has served in the Boy Scout program as a Scout Master and Venture Scout Leader. Brett has served on the North Visalia Advisory Committee assisting with cleanup projects, graffiti removal and other community events. He also served on the Tulare County Youth Commission where he helped to award grant money to many youth focused organizations. Most recently Brett served as a campaign treasurer for two City Council Candidates and currently serves as the Chair of the Planning Commission where he has been instrumental in helping to develop the City's Sign Ordinance and the City's Zoning Ordinance updates.

The Chamber would like to congratulate Brett on being named Young Professional of the Year. It is clear that Brett is setting an example for young professionals in Visalia and showing that it is possible to balance work, family and community obligations in a way that our community can be proud of.



VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MISSION ICONS



Business-Government



Business Relations



Promoting Community



Strong Local Economy

Visalia Chamber of Commerce
222 N. Garden St., Suite 300
Visalia, CA 93291

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Best Decision I Almost Didn't Make

By: Jay Anderson



I was a store manager of a large home improvement chain, and was approached by a person who represented a company such as Able Industries. He had a client with him and wanted to know if I had a position available and would I be interested in hiring this individual.

My first thought was to say no. After speaking with both of them for about 30 minutes, I decided to give this person the opportunity to prove his ability to perform the requirements of employment with the company. I assigned the client to work in the nursery department with supervision for a trial period of about 3 weeks. By the end of the trial period, he was able to perform all the tasks required in that department on his own and exceeded my expectations.



The client turned out to be one of my best employees, exhibiting pride in his work with a sense of urgency and was detail oriented, traits all managers seek in an employee. He came to work, ready to work, always on time and never missed a day. As he developed his skills in the department, he became more confident and outspoken, he started opening up to his co-workers and he took the initiative to help customers. I must say, I ended up being very fortunate that I had the opportunity to hire this person.

For two years that I was in that store, working alongside of this person, seeing his work ethic and pride in doing so, made me realize the treasure I was presented with. If I had one piece of advice to give a manager of any company is, don't pass up the opportunity to hire a client from Able Industries, you might be pleasantly surprised and find a valuable employee.

Jay Anderson serves on the Able Industries, Inc. Board of Directors



California League Announces 2017 All-Star Rosters

Rawhide Send Six Players to All-Star Squad

The California League announced today the rosters of the North and South Division All-Star teams for the 2017 California League All-Star Game, to be played in Visalia on June 20th. The All-Star Game, which will be played in Visalia for the first time in 28 years, will feature 23 prospects rated in the Top 30 of their respective farm systems by MLB.com. The rosters also feature Colorado Rockies top prospect and #10 MLB prospect INF Brendan Rogers, Oakland Athletics third-ranked prospect LHP A.J. Puk, and San Diego Padres second-ranked prospect RHP Cal Quantrill.

Visalia will send six players to the All-Star Game: **SS Sergio Alcantara, RHP Jose Almonte, LHP Kirby Bellow, 3B/1B Marty Herum, RHP Bud Jeter, and RHP Mason McCullough.** The Rawhide will also be represented well by the coaching staff as the California League North All-Stars will be managed by Visalia Manager Shelley Duncan. Duncan will be joined by Pitching Coach Jeff Bajenaru, Hitting Coach Vince Harrison, and Coach Eddie Oropesa, as the coaching staff for the North All-Stars.

Lancaster holds the most All-Star selections with eight representatives playing selected to the All-Star roster, while Modesto, Rancho Cucamonga, Stockton, and Visalia will all send six players to their respective divisions.

Visalia will host the California League All-Star Game and Fan Fest for the first time in 28 years on June 19th and 20th. For tickets and more information visit Rawhidebaseball.com or call **559-732-4433**. You can follow the Rawhide on Twitter (@[VisaliaRawhide](https://twitter.com/VisaliaRawhide)), Facebook ([TheRawhide](https://www.facebook.com/TheRawhide)), Instagram (@[visaliarawhide](https://www.instagram.com/visaliarawhide)) and Snap Chat ([visaliarawhide](https://www.snapchat.com/add/visaliarawhide)).

About this publication ...

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Non-Profit of the Year Central Valley Recovery Services Inc. (CVRS)

Central Valley Recovery Services Inc. (CVRS) was established in 1971 with a commitment to rebuilding broken lives that has spanned 45 years. The vision of the organization is to create a healthier community by reducing alcoholism and addiction through treatment. They believe in and utilize a comprehensive and integrated person-centered approach to achieve recovery from addiction and to sustain a productive life-style. Central Valley Recovery Services offers a continuum of integrated services, including: non-medical detoxification; residential treatment specific for men, women, and perinatal with both mental illness and substance use disorders; outpatient; and family services.

Central Valley Recovery Services currently operates four centers with more than 60 beds as well as outpatient programs. In addition to adult services CVRS operates Mothering Heights which provides perinatal residential recovery services for pregnant, post-partum and parenting women. In total Central Valley Recovery Services serves more than 100 men and women each year in their programs. They train and utilize up to 100 volunteers at any given time and offer counselor certification internships and partner with local community colleges to offer work-study programs to qualified students. The men and women who participate in CVRS provide 1000's of hours of community service each year as they assist organizations in and around the city of

Visalia to support special events as well as ongoing community activities for other non-profit programs.

With a success rate between 55-65% for all programs, CVRS attributes its success to the unique ability that they have to engage and retain participants. Many who complete the program come back to volunteer and work as interns planning to complete counselor certification.

CVRS receives funding from the Tulare County Alcohol and Drug Department as well as Tulare County Probation for Adults in Drug Courts, Proposition 36 and most recently AB109. They work with the Juvenile Detention Facility as well as just completed their fourth year of a contract with Mental Health Services Act revenues.

The Chamber would like to congratulate Central Valley Recovery Services on being named Non-Profit of the Year. Their dedication to supporting community members struggling with addiction is to be commended. We know that the work they do is vital to helping to keep Visalia stronger and a safe place to work and live.



Large Business of the Year Buckman-Mitchell, Inc.

Buckman-Mitchell was founded in Visalia in 1916 by C.T. "Clem" Buckman and Hyman Mitchell. Today the firm is one of the largest independent agencies in the Western United State and is committed to being a leader in the industry. Buckman-Mitchell is "Dedicated to providing quality insurance products while operating with a philosophy that relationships with clients and community matter most."

As indicated in the mission statement, Buckman-Mitchell believes strongly in giving back to the community of Visalia. Employees at Buckman-Mitchell are involved in many professional and community organizations throughout the West. Local involvement includes: The Bethlehem Center, Visalia Chamber of Commerce, Golden State YMCA, Visalia Partners in Education, Family Services of Tulare County, SAC of Tulare County, Visalia Rotary Foundation, Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of California, The Building Industry Association, Visalia Emergency Aid Council and many more. As an organization, Buckman-Mitchell financially supports many local non-profit organizations. In 2017 more than 100 organizations received contributions from Buckman-Mitchell which does not account for personal contributions to organizations made by individual employees.

One innovative way that Buckman-Mitchell gives back to the community is through the Jean Day Fundraiser. Every other week on payday Friday, Buckman-Mitchell employees pay \$5.00 to be able to wear jeans to work, all funds collected support a local non-profit/cause. One cause important to the company is the Ag Leadership Program. For 23 years Buckman-Mitchell has supported the Ag Leadership Breakfast during the World Ag Expo. Together with the help of partners, this breakfast has raised more than 1.3 million



to benefit the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation.

Commitment to community goes far beyond volunteer hours and monetary support. Buckman-Mitchell has a community room in their office which is beautifully decorated and offered to non-profits to use throughout the year for no charge, allowing these organization to hold meetings and functions without having to pay for space. The use of the community room saves organizations funding dollars that can be spent on programs rather than facilities.

Buckman-Mitchell recognizes the value of their employees and shows their appreciation throughout the year. They hold an employee appreciation week which includes Bingo, BBQ, games, gift cards music and a grand Prize drawing. They also encourage staff members to participate in events like the Corporate Games. Additionally Buckman-Mitchell encourages their staff to stay current with licenses and industry designations and pays 100% of the cost for staff members to continue their personal development.

The Chamber would like to congratulate Buckman-Mitchell on being named Large Business of the Year and thank them for their generous contributions to our local community.

Medium Business of the Year Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group

Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group was named Medium Business of the Year on Thursday, June 8th. Provost & Pritchard is an employee owned company that has been a member of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce for 13 years. The mission of Provost and Pritchard is to deliver superior value through innovative, efficient and responsible solutions that assist their clients in accomplishing their goals. They achieve this by hiring and retaining talented staff that are committed to the success of those projects and to developing long term relationships with their clients.

Provost & Pritchard provides its employees with many out of the box fun ways to keep moral high during the year. They host a Summer and Winter Olympics where teams participate in a parody of Olympic games like "staple put" or "brain freeze relay", they also take very seriously Pi Day and National Ice Cream Day. Each year the company hosts a video competition where each office writes, builds sets, performs, films and edits a five minute themed video. In addition to the fun activities Provost & Pritchard has created University of Provost where approximately 48 times a year a member of the staff teaches/presents a lunch time class on a variety of subjects from professional development to best vacation locations. There is a monetary award for those staff members who attend a minimum number of University of Provost classes or participate as an instructor.

Outside of the office, Provost & Pritchard allows for Community Time Off (CTO) which allows employees to work together to give back to the community while on company time. They also do a Charity Match program each fiscal year the firm will match up to two contributions by each employee (up to \$100 per employee) towards



a charity or community service organization. CTO and the Match program allow Provost & Pritchard employees to be involved in local organizations like Kid's Day Newspaper Sales, school dance teams, World Ag Expo, Woodlake Lions Rodeo Queen Committee, Innovate Tulare-Kings, Tulare County Young Farms and Ranchers and many more.

As an organization Provost & Pritchard has made financial contributions to the Tulare County Farm Bureau Education & Scholarship Fund, Habitat for Humanity, Food Link of Tulare County, Visalia Rescue Mission, the Arts Consortium and the Central California Blood Center, just to name a few.

The Visalia Chamber is proud of the work that Provost & Pritchard does in our community. We applaud their innovation in the work place and congratulate them on being named Medium Business of the Year.

Small Business of the Year The Planing Mill Artisan Pizza

The Planing Mill Artisan Pizzeria pronounced "Plain-ing" Mill got its name because the building it is located in is part of the original Visalia Planing Mill which produced specialty wood products for generations of Visalians. The Planing Mill is a neighborhood pizza parlor with a gourmet twist. Hungry Visalians can order salads, sandwiches, appetizers and pizza as well as craft beer and wine. Everything at the Planing Mill is made in-house which is something that they pride themselves on. They believe that with good ingredients a pizza can be just as good as a gourmet meal.

The success of the Planing Mill is attributed the amazing staff that focuses on producing quality food, amazing service and providing a comfortable family friendly atmosphere. They believe in making great food at affordable prices in a fun, casual atmosphere. Something else that sets the Planing Mill apart is the outdoor dining experience. If you are interested in dining al fresco you can head out to the patio and grab a seat at one of the handmade wine barrel tables and enjoy your food under the sun. Planing Mill also offers catering for parties and business functions.

Beyond creating amazing food, The Planing Mill is dedicated to giving back to Visalia. They created a program in conjunction with the Visalia Rescue Mission called Pizza with a Purpose. Pizza

with a Purpose is a monthly fundraiser where the proceeds from that evening, pizza sales are donated to the Rescue Mission. Starting this year the program has expanded and now,

each month a different Planing Mill employee gets to choose a non-profit to partner with for the Pizza with a Purpose fundraiser. Owner Tim Lewis loves that his employees get to have a say in who they work with each month and is happy to be able to help multiple non-profit organizations through this innovative program. In addition to Pizza with a Purpose, Planing Mill Pizza often donates food and gift certificates for events to help support local organizations.

The Chamber would like to thank The Planing Mill Artisan Pizzeria for their support of the local community and for their commitment to providing a family friendly restaurant with delicious food.



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.

4 SEASONS HANDY MARKET

(559) 734-4204
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Recreation, Hobbies & Sports

- Fresno CDFI Fresno Community Development Financial Institution*
- Gateway Financial Planning Group
- Golden Gate Media Group
- Habitat for Humanity of Tulare & Kings Counties*
- Kaweah Delta Health Care District*
- Kawneer*
- Keith Williams DDS*
- KFSN - TV Channel 30
- Office Depot
- The Open Arms House, Inc*
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Central Valley, Inc*
- Security Self-Storage
- SERVPRO of Visalia
- Sherwood Law Offices*
- Sun Fresh
- Wathen Castanos Homes*

*Indicates membership in the Visalia Chamber 110% Club.

Renewing

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

- Chukchansi Gold Resort and Casino*
- Financial Engines*

BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Visalia Chamber of Commerce welcomes five new Board Members



de la Vega

The Visalia Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the newest members of the organization's Board of Directors.

Marisol de la Vega Cardoso, Chief Business Development Officer for Family HealthCare Network.

Joanna Todd, Vice President, Account Executive at Buckman-Mitchell Insurance Inc.

Mary Beatie, Senior Planner at Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group

Crystal Jordan, Director of Operations, Associations at Armstrong Property Management

Bruce Nicotero, General Manager of Jo-Ann Fabric & Craft Store West Coast Distribution Center



Todd



Beatie



Jordan

"The Chamber is excited for these outstanding individuals to join our team. Each of these Board Members brings a new business perspective and a strong voice to the table that will help us to better serve our diverse membership," stated Gail Zurek, President/CEO, Visalia Chamber. "We look forward getting to know

our new Board Members better over the next few months; keep an eye out for future Board Spotlight articles.

The new board members will begin their term on July 1st. Board members can serve up to three, two year terms.



Nicotero

GROUNDBREAKING • GRAND OPENING • RIBBON CUTTING • CEREMONIES



Ribbon Cutting

Smart & Final

3424 S. Mooney Blvd. • Visalia • 559-625-9044



Ribbon Cutting

Karen Gross/State Farm Insurance

1325 W. Main St. • Visalia • 559-625-8700



Ribbon Cutting

Visalia U.S. Army Recruiting Center

4037 S. Mooney Blvd, Suite A • Visalia • 559 627-1906

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

Tania Gomez-Hill



Gomez-Hill

Tania Gomez-Hill is the Family Service Director at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. She has been with the company for 1 year with eight years of experience in the funeral industry.

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel is Visalia's only locally owned and operated Funeral Chapel with on-site cremation, and has been proudly serving the families and community of Tulare, Fresno and Kings Counties since 2003. Owners, Jeff Salser and Steve Dillard, have a vision to provide highly personalized, compassionate and professional service before, during and after every funeral/cremation. Every Salser & Dillard family benefits from their cutting-edge approach to funeral service, whether it be the interactive Memorial Tributes on their website, highly personalized Memorial Products and Tribute DVDs, or their ability to Webcast a Loved One's service from their Chapel so those unable to travel can still receive closure. As a Family Service Director, she assists families in planning ahead for their final wishes, preventing their loved ones from making difficult decisions during a stressful time, which provides the greatest gift of peace you could ever give a family.

What are some of the ways you'd recommend getting involved/working with/partnering with the Chamber? Members can meet and network with other members and our local business owners by attending all the wonderful events sponsored by the Chamber such as ribbon cuttings, fundraisers, workshops, etc. Another way to be involved and to grow both individually and professionally is to take the opportunity to become an Ambassador or to join the Leadership Visalia Program.

What has Chamber Membership meant for your company? Membership to the Visalia Chamber of Commerce not only allows our business to be more involved with other businesses which share many of our same needs and concerns, but it also adds an element of confidence and reliability to our business in the eyes of the community. Additionally, it offers us unique marketing opportunities as well as professional benefits.

The best part of Visalia is...? Visalia offers a wonderful, friendly small town feeling and the people are genuine and caring. Not to mention Visalia has a thriving downtown with a multitude of fantastic restaurants and shops.

What is your favorite local charity/non-profit? Habitat for Humanity of Tulare & Kings Counties

Happy Trails Riding Academy would like to thank all of their sponsors, donors and attendees for making Night at the Races a huge success. A shout out to Redwood Mock Trial Team for their hard work at the event. Over \$100,000 was raised for their therapeutic riding center for children and adults with disabilities.



Read for Life



Happy Trails Riding Academy

The **V Town Derby Dames** are now ranked 109 out of more than 300 derby teams across the country. Congratulations on the new ranking, keep up the good work.

The **Visalia Fox Theatre** will host Blood Sweat and Tears benefitting **Hands in the Community** on July 15, 2017. Purchase your tickets today.

Golden State Family Services participated in Red Nose Day to end hunger for children around the world.

Congratulations to the 2016-2017 Female Leadership Academy student graduates. The academy just one of the many programs hosted by **ACT for Women and Girls**.

Are you looking for something fun for your children to do during summer break? Check out the amazing summer camps hosted by the **ImagineU Childrens Museum**. Gadgets & Science (July 10 - 14), Big paws, big feet (July 17 -21), Liquid fun (July 24 - 28).

Graduation day for our first Shelter Buddies! These stupendous third-graders from the **ProYouth HEART** after school program in Goshen earned Certificates and Shelter Buddy bracelets for their work in improving their reading



Golden State Family Services

levels and helping the animals at the Animal Care Center find forever homes. Our sincere thanks to our partners for helping to make Shelter Buddies a reality!

Form And Function Repurposed - Hosted by Arts Visalia

In July 2017, Arts Visalia is pleased to present Form and Function Repurposed, an exhibit hosting four artists who utilize rescued materials to create new forms with dimension and storyteller emphasis. Within this show will also be a number of repurposed artists in our gift shop. On display for the exhibition will be art pieces by Brent Mosley, Shirley Keller, Buddy Jones, and David Griswold.

Brent Mosley is the Board President of the Arts Consortium. Brent has a keen eye and actively creates art. Each piece is unique but shares a commonality of surreal beauty. He is a photographic DJ via his website Sleekmaus and has explored many other avenues of art as well.

Shirley Keller currently resides in Three Rivers and is a part of the First Saturday arts events in Three Rivers. Many of her pieces incorporate dot work which was inspired by painters from Mexico and Australia. She began painting dots on thrown away objects, turning them into recycled art.

Buddy Jones is a wood artist. His latest piece is a wood sculpture at the southeast corner of Main and Church in Visalia. He sculpts many decorative pieces from rescued wood and collects abandoned wood from various places throughout the Central Valley.

David Griswold began creating birdhouses from a client's barn that had blown down. The texture of the lives of the farmers is represented in the wood he recycles and it tells a story of purpose and struggle in an environment not always compliant with the wishes of the new steward.

This show runs from July 5 through July 28. The opening reception will be held on Friday July 7th, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and is sponsored in part by Bueno Beverage, Jack & Charlie's, the Vintage Press Restaurante, the Southern Pacific Depot Restaurant and Renewable Solar. An artist talk with Buddy Jones will be held July 8 at 2:00 p.m.

In August the gallery will again host Young at Art, an exhibition of the work of the children's art classes taking place this summer. Each artist will have at least one piece in the exhibit representing each of the summer's theme, Elements of Art – line, color, shape, space, form, value, and texture.

Art classes for children and adults are ongoing at Arts Visalia and continue through July! Our seven weeks of children's classes for our summer program, Young at Art, focus on the basic elements of art. Students who participate in the program will be featured in the next exhibit in August for Young at Art.

Adult day workshops in Printmaking and 3-Dimensions and are offered on Saturdays from 9am-3pm.

Please download registration forms from our website artsvisalia.org, or stop in and pick up the summer schedule at the gallery! For more information and class descriptions, please go to artsvisalia.org, call us at 559-739-0905 or visit us at the gallery, 214 East Oak Avenue, Visalia, California 93291.

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Summertime is a Busy Time!



Everyone knows that the school year includes a break during summer. But for a school district, the summer break really is a time of very important work.

While many Visalia students enjoy a summer break from school, some students use this time to take advantage of opportunities to expand or recover learning opportunities. This summer, over 4,000 high school students take summer school courses through our extended year (the "official" name for summer school) program at El Diamante High School and Golden West High School. These students seek to take advantage of the opportunity to repeat classes to recover credit toward graduation or to take classes in advance of the coming school year to clear space in schedules for other classes that allow them to accelerate. Our high school extended year program is larger than it has ever been, based on demand from students and their families.

We also have summer programs of different types available to students at different grade levels. One of these is focused on allowing middle school students to become proficient in academic subjects and to begin their high school careers on time. Another of these, Summer University, is offered on the Divisadero and Four Creeks campuses and allows 200 middle school students to extend their learning over summer through experiences organized around career pathways. Based on individual need and their academic learning plans, some special education students take courses over summer as well to extend their learning. Selected elementary school libraries will be open during summer, and programs that support migrant students will be available on those same sites. And through our continuing partnership, ProYouth Heart will offer a summer enrichment program at five school sites.



**Todd Oto,
Ed.D.**

Superintendent,
Visalia Unified
School District

New in Visalia Unified this year is our sponsorship of the Seamless Summer Feeding Program. The program offers free meals for all children who are aged 2 to 18 years. This is an opportunity for our school sites to provide access to an important service.

Summer is also a time for facilities maintenance and improvement. We are hard at work on a number of projects that would not be possible to complete efficiently when students are in school.

Roofing, electrical upgrades, flooring replacement, heating and cooling upgrades, asphalt resurfacing of play areas and parking lots are all major efforts for the summer. All of these projects are undertaken in addition to our usual deep cleaning of classrooms and floors, gym floor refinishing, and sanitizing of bathrooms and kitchens. The goal of our maintenance and facility folks is to ensure that all of our schools, facilities and grounds are clean, safe, well-maintained, secure and ready to support students and teachers in their work.

Finally, summer is a time for staff development for teachers. This work is varied. For lead teachers in subject areas or grade levels, summer work focuses on the development of curriculum and assessments that are used across the district. For all teachers, training related to materials or instructional strategies is offered. This year, we are partnering with our teachers association in hosting a mini conference for teachers in August. In all cases the possibility for teachers to learn, work, and prepare deeply for the upcoming school year and not miss time with students in classrooms represents an important opportunity to become better able to support increased achievement.

Summer is a busy and important time of the year for Visalia Unified! We have lots of things going on that will help us to make the 2017-2018 school year the best one possible for every student.

THE LAW AT WORK

Do You Have To Pay Employees To Attend Company-Sponsored Events?



To bring employees together and have some fun, businesses often will put together after-hours social events. Some of these events take the form of company picnics, company-sponsored trips to watch a baseball game, or even company retreats to far-flung destinations. While these activities are certainly appreciated by employees, an interesting question arises – is there ever a time when employees must be paid for attending these after-hours activities?

Generally, there is a four-part test to determine whether an employee must be paid for after-hours company-sponsored events. Technically, this rule was drafted for situations like lectures, meetings, or training programs, although four-part test has been applied to other employer-sponsored events.

An employer is **not** required to pay employees for an event if **all** the following apply:

1. The attendance is outside business hours
2. Attendance at the event is voluntary
3. The activity is not directly related to the employee's job
4. No substantive work is performed during the activity



**Brett T.
Abbott**

Gubler & Abbott LLP

Considering the above rule, what is the best way for employers to sponsor social events that do not require employees to be compensated? One option is to make it explicitly clear that attendance at the event is voluntary, making sure that employees don't feel pressured into attendance. Be mindful in choosing where the event will take place – having the event off-site as opposed to at the workplace makes it less likely that the event will be considered sufficiently work-related as to trigger compensation. Also, make sure that the event is not held during typical business hours.

Finally, ensure that any preparatory work or work attendant to the event is done by exempt (usually salaried) employees.

So go ahead and plan that company picnic! Just make sure to abide by the above rule, or your company may be on the hook for more than the hot dogs and watermelon.

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. Chinoweth St., Visalia, CA 93291 (www.thecalifornialawyers.com)

LEADERSHIP VISALIA
VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LEADERSHIP VISALIA WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES IN NETWORKING, LEADERSHIP STYLE, MENTORING, PROBLEM SOLVING TECHNIQUES, INSIGHT INTO LOCAL, COUNTY AND STATE GOVERNMENT

Applications are due by July 31, 2017
Contact: Dante Rosh at 559 | 734-5876 or dante@visaliachamber.org

LEADERSHIP VISALIA

Leadership At Work

By Colin Franey
Franey's Carpet One Floor & Home Design



We returned to where it all began. On Friday, May 19, the Leadership Visalia Class of 2016-2017 gathered one final time. We came to say thank you to our employers, families, and friends for their support and help. We celebrated the completion of a journey we started 9 months prior, proud of our accomplishments and growth. We accepted not only accolades and awards, but also the mantle of Leadership Visalia Alumni/ae. The day sessions, meetings, and class project might be over, but our roles as leaders in our community is just beginning. We heard from our key note speaker Nathan Halls, a reminder that leadership can take many forms. It can be a simple act of mowing the lawn for a neighbor who is unable to; in that act you are putting the community first. The question was asked of us, "How will you contribute?" I am still working on my answer to that question but I am excited to further my engagement in our community and take on new roles and responsibilities as a future leader of Visalia. What we learned in the program has already had profound impact on the lives of several of my classmates and I know it will continue to alter the course of our lives in ways big and small for years to come.

Leadership Visalia is nothing short of transformational. The program gathers a group of individuals with diverse backgrounds, careers, and aspirations; but who all want to develop professionally and personally. Basic guidelines and



Gracie Sanchez (Visalia Rescue Mission) celebrates her graduation with others from VRM.

requirements are established but it is up to the class to define and establish a vision of a better Visalia. We explore what makes our community unique and asked how we could contribute meaningfully to it. Our dedication and commitment to each other and our shared goals and ideals enabled us to complete the program. Whether you are a life-long resident or transplant to our beautiful city, if you volunteer in the community every weekend or are looking for your first opportunity to give back, Leadership Visalia will challenge, excite,

and inspire you.

If you are an employer looking to encourage professional and leadership development consider sending an employee through Leadership Visalia. If you or someone you know is passionate



Daryl Sanchez (Family HealthCare Network) poses with family and co-workers to celebrate the end of the program.

about helping others and is looking for ways to become more involved, consider Leadership Visalia. We are fortunate to have many good leaders currently serving our community, but as we look to the future we will need strong men and women who have the passion and desire to lead. Leadership Visalia is preparing those leaders, whether they lead a household, company, church, non-profit, or the

entire city. How will you contribute?

Leadership Visalia is currently accepting applications for the Class of 2017-2018. Visit the Chamber website to learn more. The deadline for submission is July 31st.



Visalia Unified School District's Career Technical Education 2016-2017 Wrap Up

By: Kim Batty
WBL Consultant and Linked Learning Advisory Board Member



Only one word can describe Visalia Unified School District's Career Technical Education's (CTE's) year... SUCCESS! We have over 5,000 high school

students in Visalia enrolled in CTE pathways and Linked Learning Academies. This is cumulative of the 15 Career Pathways and 10 Linked Learning Academies throughout VUSD. VUSD has some of the top CTE and Linked Learning teachers in the state of California delivering a graduation rate of 100% of their CTE students (2015-2016 data). The teachers and VUSD CTE staff work diligently to ensure the students are college and career ready upon graduation.

Thanks to hundreds of valued businesses and community leaders, appropriately named Visalia Partners in Education (VPIE), the students participated in 207 job shadow experiences throughout Tulare and Fresno Counties. In addition, 27 of these partners hosted internships for 80 high school students this summer. Many of these partners were also on hand throughout the year to attend VUSD career fairs for 8th graders, be a guest speaker in the classroom, and also host an industry tour for students. VUSD appreciates the commitment

of Visalia Partners in Education for the 2016-2017 school year in helping as **WE CREATE FUTURES** for our Visalia students.

Lastly, but surely not least, the next school year brings some changes to the VUSD CTE team. We want to thank Bill Davis, Director of CTE, for his hard work in the development of the Linked Learning Academies and expansions of the CTE pathways over the past 4 years. The VUSD CTE team and teachers wish him all the best at his new position at Golden West High School. The VUSD CTE team and VPIE board of directors welcomes Jim Sullivan, Director of College and Career Readiness, as the new leader of the CTE department. VUSD's CTE department will continue to grow and thrive under Jim's leadership.

If you would like to be involved in events held by the VUSD Career Technical Education department please call (559) 730-7510. The VUSD CTE department is always looking for industry professionals who would like to be of part the Visalia Partners in Education and help prepare students for college and career readiness. Visalia Partners in Education opportunities include: job shadowing, internships, professional mentoring and guest speaking events.



Preventive Controls for Human Foods Training

New Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulations require that certain food safety related activities, such as the management of food safety plans, must be completed by a "preventive controls qualified individual" (PCQI) who has "successfully completed training in the development and application of risk-based preventive controls".

The Preventive Controls for Human Food regulation is intended to ensure safe manufacturing processing, packing and holding of food products for human consumption in the United States.

This course developed by the FSPCA is the "standardized curriculum" recognized by FDA and fulfills the FSMA requirement for a PCQI (Preventive Controls Qualified Individual).

Join us for this training that is certified and approved by the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) and the FDA. The class will be taught by a FSPCA Lead Instructor.

Participants will receive an official FSPCA Preventive Controls Qualified Individual certificate after the class.

Course Outline

- Introduction to Course
- Food Safety Plan Overview
- Good Manufacturing Practices and Other Prerequisite Programs
- Biological Food Safety Hazards
- Chemical, Physical, and Economically Motivated Food Safety Hazards
- Preliminary Steps in Developing a Food Safety Plan
- Hazard Analysis and Preventive Controls Determination
- Process Preventive Controls
- Food Allergen Preventive Controls
- Sanitation Preventive Controls
- Supply Chain Preventive Controls
- Verification and Validation Procedures
- Record-keeping Procedures
- Recall Plan
- Regulation Overview—cGMP and Hazard Analysis and Risk Based

For more information or to register go to: <http://www.cos.edu/TrainingCenter/foodsafety/Pages/default.aspx>



OCTOBER 6-14, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS
Tian An Men Square, Temple of Heaven, Palace Museum, Forbidden City, Summer Palace, Great Wall, Ming Tombs, National Embroidery Institute, Economic Development Zone, Lingyin Temple, Westlake, Yu Garden, Lingering Garden, Tiger Hill

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VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
222 N. Garden St. Suite 300, Visalia

Open Arms Home Revealed

The non-profit Open Arms House was unveiled at an open house event. The extensive remodeling on the house, located at 3234 W. Iris, was funded through donations and is complete; however, donations of furniture, television sets, hospital beds and other furnishings are still needed.

"Thanks to very generous donations from Kaweah Delta Hospice Foundation and the Lyles-Porter Family, fundraising started off very strong, and we were able to raise almost \$700,000," noted board chair Carol Nickel. "However, the remodeling and expansion was costly, and we are now seeking support to fully furnish the house and to have \$400,000 in the bank to fund our first year."

The house will be dedicated to Ruth Dunagan Wood, a long-time supporter of hospice, at a celebration in September.

The home will be available to those who are enrolled in a hospice program and who can no longer remain in their own home, Nickel explained. The cost per day will be determined by each resident's ability to pay, and community support and grants will underwrite the cost of maintaining the home.

For information on The Open Arms House, contact Carol Nickel, 280-0640.

CLIP & SAVE

CALENDAR - JULY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	Visalia City Council Meeting	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	Chamber Government Affairs Committee Meeting Buckman-Mitchell Office, 7:15 am	12	13	14	15
16	Visalia City Council Meeting	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	Business After Hours Mixer Family HealthCare Network, 5:30 pm	26	Ambassador Breakfast Visalia First, 8:00 am	28	29

CITY UPDATE

Chamber Business Update

For those who have seen the road work signboards and flashing lights around parts of Visalia, you may be wondering what construction projects are underway. Your City of Visalia Community Development Department has multiple projects in process, two of which will make many Visalians driving routes a little smoother.

The Tulare Avenue Extension Project includes the extension of Tulare Avenue from Lovers Lane to McAuliff Street and aims to improve circulation for the residential neighborhoods east of Lovers Lane. Construction just began and is projected to be completed in fall of 2017.

The Project will provide easier access to Kiwanis Park on Tulare Avenue, while alleviating congestion on Lovers Lane, and the Noble Avenue intersection. Tulare Avenue will effectively punch through to McAuliff Street and the Project includes the signalization of the Tulare Avenue and Lovers Lane intersection.

The Ben Maddox Way Rehabilitation Project will bring a complete removal and replacement of one and a half miles of roadway along Ben Maddox Way from Center Avenue to the northern City limits (just north of St. John's Parkway).



Warren Gubler
Mayor, City of Visalia

The Project includes a Full Depth Reclamation Process with Cement (FDR-C), grind and overlay with the installation of pavement fabric.

Some existing curb ramps will be upgraded to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, along with miscellaneous underground improvements. Night work will be necessary, as well as road closures along portions of Ben Maddox Way and adjacent side streets. However, Visalia Transit service will not change and residents and businesses will not have either mail or garbage service affected.

Projects such as these help keep Visalia moving, just please remember to slow for the cone zone and travel safely both in and outside of construction areas.

For more information on current road construction, visit www.visalia.city or email communityfeedback@visalia.city. To contact Mayor Gubler directly, email warren.gubler@visalia.city.

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I AM FOR THE CHILD

It is with great pride that CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Tulare County would like to announce the newest graduating class! CASA's new advocates were sworn in as officers of the court on May 17, 2017.

CASA advocates speak up for the innocent children who are victims of abuse and neglect. These are ordinary people doing extraordinary things for our community's most vulnerable children.

From left to right: Kaley Henry, Jennifer Davidson, Krystle Clevenger, Catherine Ipema, Naomi Alberstein, Briahna Reeves, the Honorable Judge Loza, Dante Rosh, Sara Parsons, Macarena Etcheberry, John Lehmann and Modesto Gomez.

For more information about becoming an advocate, please attend an orientation. Orientations are every Monday at 5:30pm and Thursdays at noon (except for Holidays) at the CASA of Tulare County office 1146 N. Chinowth St., Visalia, CA 93291. If you have any questions please contact Carrie Margosian at 625-4007 Email: carrie@casatulareco.org or visit our website: www.casatulareco.org

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