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Business Update

AWARD-WINNING MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



UPCOMING EVENTS

- JUNE 12: Government Affairs Committee**
Time: 7:00 am
Location: Buckman-Mitchell Office
- JUNE 13: Emerge Class**
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: COS
- JUNE 14: YPN Meet-Up**
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: Barrel House Brewing
- JUNE 14: 2018 Annual Awards Celebration**
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Visalia Convention Center
Tickets Required
- JUNE 26: Business After Hours**
Hosted by Visalia No 1 Partnership
ACA General Partnership
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: Corner of Mooney Blvd & W. Orchard Ave
- JUNE 28: Visalia Chamber Ambassador Breakfast**
Time: 8:00 am
Location: Visalia First Assembly



- Romantic Rhine River Cruise during Oktoberfest**
September 27 - October 7, 2018
- Islands of New England**
October 19-26, 2018
- New York City Holiday**
December 10-14, 2018
- Peru: Ancient Land of Mysteries**
March 23, - April 1, 2019
- China**
April 5-19, 2019
- Cherry Blossoms in Japan**
April 6 - 16, 2019
- Alaska the Great Land**
June 19 - 27, 2019
- Gems of Eastern Europe River Cruise**
June 28 - July 8, 2019
- Journey Around Lake Michigan**
August 10 - 18, 2019
- Oberammergau, Germany & Austria**
June 9-17, 2020

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

21st Century Career Technical Education: It's Not Your Dad's Auto Shop Class

Career technical Education sometimes has a negative connotation. You may be having flashbacks to old high school autoshop, metal and woodshop classes that you only took, perhaps because you figured it would be an easy A. This picture of Career Technical Education (CTE) could not be farther from the reality in classrooms across Visalia Unified School District today. CTE classes are a respected option at local high schools with waiting lists of students wanting to participate. So what is the difference and why should you care?

Over the last decade, research has shown technical education programs and skilled trades have big impacts on local economies. Educators today are being asked to expand their focus to prepare students to be "College and Career Ready" when they graduate. This mindset gives high school students multiple roads that they can follow when they finish high school.

Nationally, Visalia Unified is considered an innovator and pioneer when it comes to creating programs to help students become college and career ready. Visalia Unified now offers 10 Linked Learning Academies between five high schools. Linked Learning Academies combine rigorous academic classes like English, Math and Science with hands on real world learning experiences called Work Based Learning (WBL). Students enrolled in the academies are placed with a cohort of students for four years. The goal is to explore a particular industry and potential career fields while including industry specific information into core academic subjects.

Students participate in facility tours, listen to guest speakers, and attend conferences, job shadows and internships through the academies. The combined effect of academic rigor and WBL gives students a leg up on the competition after graduation. Students are prepared to enter the workforce with skills, are ready to begin community college to obtain skills certification or enter a four year university with a basic understanding of their desired field of study.

Linked Learning Academies and host schools include:
Agricultural Bioscience & Technology (VTEC High School)
Architecture & Engineering (Redwood High School)
Business Finance Academy (Golden West High School)
Computer Science Academy (Mt. Whitney High School)
Engineering & Agricultural Manufacturing (Golden West High School)
First Responders Academy (Golden West High School)
Health Sciences Academy (Mt. Whitney High School)
Law & Justice Academy (Redwood High School)
Media Arts Academy (El Diamante High School)

STRONG, Sports Therapy, Rehabilitation, Orthopedics and five Neuromuscular Gains Academy (El Diamante High School)

In addition to the Academies, Visalia Unified offers 12 CTE pathways. The main difference between a pathway and an academy is that a pathway is not a 4 year cohort tied to core academic classes. The pathways are CTE courses designed to teach student specific skills. Some

students will participate in a pathway program for one year, while other students may decide to participate in a pathway for all four years of high school. Pathways include some of the more traditional CTE classes, but also include new programs designed to help prepare students for the jobs of the future. Below is a list of pathways available to Visalia area students:

- Ag Construction & Woodworking
- Ag Mechanics
- Agri-Science
- Animal Science
- Automotive & Engine/Power Mechanics and Technology Education
- Entrepreneurship
- Food Service/Hospitality
- Medical Assistant Course
- Nurse Assistant Training Course
- Ornamental Horticulture/Plant Science
- Video Production

The success of the CTE programs in Visalia is due in part to the active engagement from local industry partners and employers. Throughout the city of Visalia local business leaders have stepped forward to help make sure that the information being taught is relevant and is preparing students for the real world. Industry Partners participate in advisory committees, working with teachers on curriculum, providing insights into new programs and techniques and offering their expertise as guest speakers. Additionally these industry partners provide work based learning opportunities to students like job shadow and internships. Recently Visalia

Unified recognized 13 industry partners for their dedication to helping our local students to be college and career ready. Congratulations to:

- Justin Alvitre, Hoffman Engineering
- Steve Beal, California Highway Patrol
- Theresa Egurrola, RN, Quail Park Memory Care Residence of Visalia
- Judge Gary Johnson, Tulare County Superior Court
- David Hobbs, Monrovia Nursery
- Justine Levine, California Fitness Academy
- Erin Olm-Shipman, Visalia Fox Theatre
- Kevin McCusker, California Water Service Company
- Bruce Nicotero & Veronica Williams, JOANN Stores West Coast Distribution Center
- Matt Seals, Seals Construction
- Tim Torian, Torian Group
- Rodney Wilson, Electric Motor & Supply Co.
- Nicola Wissler, Visalia Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber is proud of the work Visalia Unified has done over the last five years to increase the opportunities our students have to participate in new and innovative programs. Their efforts to prepare our students to be college and career ready are to be admired. For more information about the CTE programs at Visalia Unified go to <https://www.vusd.org/>.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Chamber Membership Takes On New Name

We want to thank all of our members for partnering with us on another successful year! Their support of the Visalia Chamber means that we have been able to support their business directly, and collectively we have been able to accomplish big things in the community. We have helped businesses grow, helped entrepreneurs to launch new ventures and have supported a growing workforce. On average, our members have been part of the Visalia Chamber for over 15 years. This long term support helps us provide a solid foundation on which businesses flourish.



Gail Zurek
Visalia Chamber
President & CEO

questions and concerns that members brought to us. I would encourage you to read our annual report, check out our website and come chat with us about ways we can help strengthen our partnership with you.

One of the changes we have made is in regards to our membership levels. We have decided to change the names of our levels. While the names have changed, the benefits and services remain the same. The names better reflect the attributes of the businesses that select each level of membership. For example, if you are a Bronze level member, your membership invoice will now say Business Connector membership. We have also listened to our members and have simplified our membership and premier investor programs by combining the two programs into one system.

This is a wonderful opportunity to explore a new Chamber membership or changing membership levels. We've found that many members have outgrown the Classic, now Small Business level, and are ready to make a bigger investment with the Visalia Chamber. We are more than happy to chat with you about specific recommendations for you and your business.

We are confident that 2018-2019 will be another successful year. We look forward to using this year to strengthen our partnership with your business and continue to build a strong community in Visalia.

We love serving as a convener of leaders, a catalyst for change and a champion of small businesses. This year we have launched several new initiatives. These initiatives were born out of conversations,

Old Membership Names	New Membership Names	Financial Levels
Chairman Premier Investor	Champion	\$25,000+
President Premier Investor	Visionary	\$15,000+
Executive Premier Investor	Regional Leader	\$10,000+
Director Premier Investor	Keystone	\$5,000+
Investor Level Premier Investor	Cornerstone	\$3,000+
Platinum Member		
Gold Member	Community Investor	\$1,530
Silver Member	Business Builder	\$990
Bronze Member	Business Connector	\$670
Classic Member	Small Business	\$450

VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MISSION ICONS

- Catalyst for Change
- Community Convener
- Champion for Business

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



SHRM of Tulare/ Kings County Presents: Department of Labor: Fair Standards Act

The WHD enforces Federal minimum wage, overtime pay, recordkeeping, and child labor, requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act. WHD also enforces the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, the Employee Polygraph Protection Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, wage garnishment provisions of the Consumer Credit Protection Act, and a number of employment standards and worker protections as provided in several immigration related statutes.

Additionally, WHD administers and enforces the prevailing wage requirements of the Davis Bacon Act and the Service Contract Act and other statutes applicable to Federal contracts for construction and for the provision of goods and services. The presentation will cover an overview of the Agency, Sacramento District Office and a comprehensive overview of the Fair Labor Standards Act, including the Minimum Wage, Overtime and Recordkeeping Requirements, and the Break time for Nursing Mother's Provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act, and common violations and practices found in the Central Valley.

Jamika Lopez began her career with the US Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division as an investigator on the sunny island of Oahu with the Honolulu District Office in 2007.

She then returned to California where she worked as an investigator for the Los Angeles District Office and the Sacramento District Office.

In 2015 she began her role as the Community Outreach Resource & Planning Specialist (CORPS) for the Sacramento District Office. Prior to joining the Department of Labor, Jamika worked for wage and hour class action firms in the San Francisco-Bay Area representing low wage workers. Jamika graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and received her Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. She is committed to practice law in the State of California and is a member of the California State Bar Association.

June 12, 2018
11:30 - 1:00 pm
Location: Visalia Marriott,
300 S. Court St.
Register: www.shrmtularekings.org

Redwood's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Soars At The 2018 California State Leadership Conference

Redwood High School's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter recently returned from the 2018 California State Leadership Conference in Ontario, California where they placed 5th of 93 chapters in the state sweepstakes; this is the best competitive year Redwood's FBLA has had in decades. Individual FBLA students took 1st place in 4 events, qualified 19 times in the Top 10, and 20 students will advance to the National FBLA Conference and represent Redwood this June in Baltimore, MD. Additionally, Mr. Jacob Avila, one of Redwood FBLA's co-advisers, won the Outstanding Local Chapter Adviser of the year award, an honor which is well-deserved due to his dedication to the organization.

"We are really proud of all of our chapter representatives this year at SLC," said Nicole Saputo, Redwood FBLA co-adviser, "and we attribute all the success to the hard work and dedication that the students have put in over the last eight months. Our officer team set a goal back in August to earn a spot in the top 10 in sweepstakes, and I think their dedication to that goal really is displayed today with this win."

Ely Garcia, a senior and Redwood FBLA's President reflected on our 5th place sweepstakes win and attributes our success to "an officer team that was always ready to support each other,
Continued on Page 5

About this publication ...

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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.

- **JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS**
(559) 697-5231
Clothing & Accessories
- **SUNMED HEALTH AND WEIGHT MANAGEMENT**
(559) 205-2585
Medical Centers, Clinics & Hospitals
- **SUNPOWER BY SUN SOLAR**
(661) 379-7000
Solar Energy Products

Renewing

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

- The Barn*

- California Business Machines*
- Chukchansi Gold Resort and Casino
- Classic Charter
- College of the Sequoias*
- Comfort Suites-Downtown*
- Crescent Valley Public Charter
- Financial Engines
- Giant Chevrolet Cadillac*
- Gunning & Gunning, C.P.A.*
- Hampton Inn*
- Hire Up Staffing Services
- HNH Nut Co.*
- Kawneer
- Klink Citrus Association

- Lyle B Stillwater, M.D. F.A.C.S
- Naked Nut, LLC*
- The Open Arms House, Inc*
- Red Lobster Visalia California*
- Security Self-Storage
- Sherwood Law Offices
- Sun Fresh
- Tucoemas Federal Credit Union*
- Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)
- V Town Derby Dames*
- Visalia Adventure Park, Inc.*
- Visalia Fox Theatre

*Indicates membership in the Visalia Chamber **110% Club.**

HAVE FUN. WORKOUT. GET STRONG. FIND A F.I.T. FAMILY AND LOVE THEM HARD!

F.I.T. TRIBE ACADEMY

PICTURED ABOVE: ACTUAL F.I.T. TRIBE MEMBER FEET!

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ANNUAL AWARDS

JUNE 14 2018
6:00PM | VISALIA CONVENTION CENTER

\$75 PER TICKET

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559-734-5876 OR WWW.VISALIACHAMBER.ORG

College of the Sequoias faculty and students helped over 2,000 6th graders from **Visalia Unified School District** map their future when they tour campus on Tuesday, May 8th. MAPS (Motivate, Access, Plan, Success) is an annual event designed to further the career and college readiness experiences the students have had for the past two years. The day included over 30 exhibits featuring a variety of programs offered at COS, with COS students on hand to answer questions.

Thank you to **M. Green & Company** volunteers who helped with the recent Special Olympic held in Tulare.

The **Arts Consortium** would like to announce that Taste the Arts is coming - October 20th! Taste the Arts is the largest outdoor Arts Festival in the Valley. A FREE, FUN, FAMILY event in Downtown Visalia, Taste the Arts is a community favorite that brings artists to Visalia from across California. But we need your help! We are still looking for a few more sponsors to help make this annual event even better. Last year we had over 5,000 people attended the event and expect more in 2018. For more information and the official application email: Joshua@artsconsortium.org

The **Sound N Vision Foundation** will be offering free Summer youth music, art and dance classes. Check out their website for more information. <https://www.snvfoundation.org/>



G. W. STEWART'S is proud to have donated an auction gift basket to Assistance League of Visalia's, "Evening at the Derby," event! An event that raises money for programs that benefit children in Tulare County!

What a turnout! Thank you to all the local businesses and organizations that supported Big Brothers Big Sisters of America during our Annual **Tachi Palace Golf Tournament!**

We at **Fresno Pacific University - Visalia Campus** are so proud of OL student, Ashley Jaramillo, for making a difference in the lives of foster teens across the valley.

Last month, Ashley and her organization Formal Attire Ready, (F.A.R.), was awarded a donation at The City of Visalia's SOUP event. She was 1 of 4 presenters that pitched their idea of how they could have a positive impact on the community.



"So many foster teens aren't able to attend important moments in time. It's difficult to find the resources for many

foster youth to participate in something many people take for granted." Luckily for them... help isn't F.A.R.

Did you know that **Sportsman's Warehouse** in Visalia is hosting Free fly casting lessons every Wednesday in June at 6:30 pm. Classes will be held at Visalia Oaks Golf Course. Classes are open to all.

BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Patrick L. Salazar

Patrick L. Salazar is an Agent with State Farm Insurance Agency. He has been a Chamber Board member for 6 years. Why is it important to be a Chamber member? I think it's important to give back, provide others with your experience and to promote the small business owner in our community.



Salazar

■ **What brought you to Visalia?** Open a business and raise a family in the Central Valley.

■ **What is your favorite thing about your job/company?** The people I work with, the clients that allow me to provide assistance for all their needs and the freedom to give back to others.

■ **What is your favorite place to go in Visalia when you are not working?** Valley Oaks Golf Course, the people are great out there and you get to spend time with your friends outdoors.

■ **What was your favorite book that you read in the last 12 months and why?** By far, "My New Red Boots", a children's book written by my wife (Lisa), illustrated by Lily Cota and published locally by EduNetSystems. I'm so proud of her perseverance to get this done, and the book has a great message about bullies.

■ **What is your favorite charity or local cause?** My favorite local charity is the West Visalia Kiwanis club. The work we do (100% for children in our community) helps educate, support, award, feed, clothe, sponsor, and attempt to make a difference in kids' lives.

■ **What is your best advice for young professionals?** Balance, climb the ladder of success but don't miss out on opportunities that you will never get back, especially with your loved ones.

■ **What did you want to be when you were in elementary school?** Play centerfield for the San Francisco Giants.

■ **What is your favorite quote?** I have two, the first is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". And Zig Ziglar, "You get all you want in life if you help enough other people get what they want."

Where Will You Make Your Next Favorite Memory?



Want to travel, but you don't have the time to book, and plan your getaway vacation? Travel with the Chamber! Yes you heard right, you can travel with the Visalia Chamber of Commerce. We are offering new and exciting trips you can look forward to in 2019.

Peru.... Llamas? Yes!! There's much more to Peru than llamas!!!

How about Peruvian coffee and tea in the early morning overlooking the beautiful city of Cusco. Then head on out for a day of adventure as you see a few of the wonders of the world on the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. Join us as we travel through one of the world's cultural gems. Join us in Peru, March 23- April 1, 2019. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity, registration deadline September 23, 2018.



China ... Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Yu Garden and The Great Wall of China are just a few of the places you will go when you travel with The Visalia Chamber. Be adventurous!! Feast on authentic food including; hot pot, steamed stuffed buns, and century eggs. Surprise you friends with pictures of scenic images from Lingering Garden and The Ming Tombs. This is your opportunity to travel far beyond China Town in San Francisco. Travel with us to China April 5- 13, 2019. Deadline for registration is February 15, 2019.



Cherry Blossom in Japan ... Cherry Blossoms in full bloom, riding on the bullet train, taking a rickshaw ride and participating in a tea-making ceremony are just a few of your new favorite memories from your trip to Japan. In addition to these great cultural experiences you will have the chance to explore temples and shrines throughout Tokyo and Kyoto. History will be at your fingertips. Join us in Japan, April 6-16, 2019. Deadline for registration is December 7, 2018.



Alaska the Great Land ... Journey to the Land of the Midnight Sun. Not only will you get to see massive glaciers and beautiful wildlife, you will get to experience the Alaskan lifestyle. You will have the chance to ride the famed Alaska Railroad, enjoy "foot stompin"



music, tour Denali National Park and even take an optional helicopter "flightseeing" or river float trip. For those who love fresh fish, it does not get any better than an authentic Alaska Salmonbake dinner during a musical production of the Golden Heart Review. Join us in Alaska June 19-27, 2019. The registration deadline is February 19, 2019.

Check out The Visalia Chamber of Commerce website www.visaliachamber.org or call 559-734-5876.

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

Matt Case

Matt Case is a Sales Associate at Central Valley Business Forms He has been in this position for four years.



Case

■ **What are some of the ways you'd recommend getting involved/working with/partnering with the Chamber?** I am so grateful to the Visalia Chamber for the networking opportunities they have afforded me as a part of the Ambassador Committee. By volunteering and attending all their events, I have been able to reach out into the community and meet people I would not otherwise have had the opportunity to connect with. They offer unique ways to create new working relationships that then extend into friendships. As a volunteer, you get a great return on your investment of time and resources.

■ **What has Chamber Membership meant for your company?** Exposure. Going to ambassador meetings and mixers, is a great way to get your name out there. I am also in the Visalia Leadership class of 2017 and 2018. I have met so many great people in both programs. We also are exposed to like-minded companies looking to support local businesses. Part of our success is because we have supported the Chamber of Commerce and they have encouraged their members to do business with Central Valley Business Forms.

■ **The best part of Visalia is?** Our community. People of Visalia still love to support local. It does help buying and shopping local. The people of Visalia are so supportive and loyal. Meeting people - it is the part of my job I love the most. I really enjoy attending local car shows. My father in Law and I publish the Old Cars and Motorsports paper which we distribute around the community and the central Valley.

■ **What is your favorite local charity/non-profit?** There are so many great local charities and non-profits in our community. I really admire their hard work in our community and appreciate each one of them.

Health and Fitness Expo at the Visalia Convention Center

Join us for the inaugural Visalia Health and Fitness Expo at the Visalia Convention Center on Sunday, June 24th from 11am-4pm. The Visalia Health and Fitness Expo will feature health and fitness vendors displaying and selling health and fitness related products and services. Vendors will include medical clinics, fitness clubs, studios, nutrition, martial arts, dance and cheer clubs, weight loss management, eye and dental care, massage therapists, sports shops, allergists, bike shops, dermatologists, extracurricular activities, healthy eating and much more! Meet instructors and experts, ask questions and take part in fitness classes.

Take advantage of healthy lifestyle cooking demonstrations provided by Mache and Precision Prep, workout demonstrations on the main stage provided by Training for Warriors, Fit Tribe, Kaweah Delta Zumba, Oak Street Studios, Body Effect and Dr. Raman Verma, seminars and the kid's zone.

The Visalia Health and Fitness Expo was created to be all about YOU and provide information about all of the programs, services and opportunities that are available right here in our community with health and fitness in mind. The Visalia Health and Fitness Expo will educate the community about health, fitness and wellness opportunities to live a healthier lifestyle.

General Admission tickets are \$5.00, 12 and under are free.

The Fitness VIP pass is \$20 and includes expo entrance, four 30 minute workouts provided by local trainers/studios and complimentary treats and prizes after each workout. There will be one work out at a time. Attend all four or choose the ones that work best with your schedule. There are only 100 Fitness VIP passes available. The VIP Fitness 30 minute workouts that you will have the opportunity to participate will be provided by Training for Warriors, Fit Tribe, Kaweah Delta Zumba and Oak Street Studios.

Tickets can be purchased at the Visalia Convention Center Box Office, Monday through Friday, or online at www.visaliatix.com. For more information call the Visalia Convention Center Box Office at (559) 713-4040.

Sponsorships and vendor space is still available. Please contact Kathy Fraga for sponsorship and vendor information at kathy.fraga@visalia.city or 559-713-4456.

Thank you to our Event Sponsors: Kaweah Delta Health Care District, Visalia Cyclery and SUNMED Health and Weight Management.



VUSD Announces Elementary School Groundbreaking

Ground will be broken on the new elementary school in northwest Visalia at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29. The community is invited to attend this special celebration.

The groundbreaking ceremony, at the corner of Ferguson Street and Denton Avenue, will include comments by Board President William Fulmer and Superintendent Todd Oto. The architect, builder and representatives of community organizations will also be on hand for the celebration.

Over the next few months, an advisory group comprised of staff, students and parents will work to develop the school name, mascot and colors. The new school is set to open August 2019.

“We take very seriously our commitment to keep up with our community’s growth, and this fast-growing area of Visalia needs this school,” Dr. Oto noted. “New elementary schools are funded with developer fees, and we maximize these funds by utilizing existing state-approved designs.”

For further information, please contact Robert Gröeber, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services, at 559-730-7529 or rgroeber@vusd.org.

Visalia Chamber of Commerce Announces 2018 Man, Woman and Young Professional of the Year

2018 marks the 65th year that the Visalia Chamber of Commerce will honor individuals and businesses consistently go above and beyond to support and give back to our community. This year, more than a dozen individuals were nominated by the community for these prestigious awards. Different from years past, the selection committee requested that the Chamber announce the winners of Man, Woman and Young Professional of the year in advance of the Annual Awards Celebration on June 14, 2018. “While announcing the winner in advance takes away some of the suspense during the Annual Awards Celebration, it provides the family and friends of the recipients the opportunity to make arrangements to attend the celebration to support their friend or loved one who is being recognized” stated Gail Zurek, President & CEO, Visalia Chamber of Commerce.

The Following individuals have been selected as the 2018 Man, Woman and Young Professional of the Year.

Man of the Year: Sam Logan

Woman of the Year: Dena Cochran

Young Professional of the Year: Cody Stephens

In addition to the above mentioned awards, the Visalia Chamber will announce the winner of the Business of the year awards at the Annual Award Celebration.

Small Business Finalists

2 Market Visuals
Gross & Steven Inc.
Momentum Broadcasting
Store It
Zeeb Commercial Real Estate

Medium Business Finalists

4 Creeks
Best Buy Market
Park Visalia Assisted Living

Large Business Finalists

Rabobank
Tucoemas Federal Credit Union
VF Outdoor
VWR

Non-Profit of the Year Finalists

Able Industries
CSET
Habitat for Humanity of Tulare/Kings Counties
Happy Trails Riding Academy
ProYouth

The Visalia Chamber will host the 65th Annual Awards Celebration June 14, 2018 at the Visalia Convention Center. Hors d’oeuvres and cocktails begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by a formal dinner at 7:00 p.m. with the program beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for the Annual Awards Celebration are \$75 or you may reserve a table for \$600. Tickets may be purchased online at www.visaliachamber.org/awards or by calling the Chamber at (559) 734-5876.

For more information about the Annual Awards Celebration go to www.visaliachamber.org/awards.

HEALTHCARE NOTE

Patients and Community First

Our patients are at the heart of everything we do and the reason we work to bring the highest levels of care to our community. Here is how we are using regular feedback to best meet the needs of our region and put patients first at Kaweah Delta.

After carefully considering how it would improve the health, safety and convenience of patients, last month we brought a state-of-the-art health electronic records system to Kaweah Delta. We worked years to bring this system online – it is used by the top healthcare systems in the nation and creates one healthcare record for patients complete with tests, treatments and medications received at any Kaweah Delta campus. It will help us improve patient safety and better care for our patients by improving how we communicate as a team about their health needs.

Our three Community Advisory Committees continue to provide valuable feedback as they explore future healthcare needs, community relations and the hospital of the future. At the moment, our Hospital of the Future committee’s work is most newsworthy, as it studies options to bring our hospital into compliance with state earthquake standards by 2030. The committee was behind our Board’s decision to enter into an agreement with a structural



Gary Herbst
CEO Kaweah Delta
Healthcare District

engineering firm, to study whether a scale-model can be built and tested against a simulated earthquake to comply with state law. Before we continue, in June, we will meet with Robert David, the head of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, to confirm that he will accept the model of our Mineral King Wing for seismic testing and reclassification.

In July, we take the next step in our Emergency Department (ED) expansion to meet the needs of our growing community. This phase involves the new construction part of our expansion into part of our main parking lot off Mineral King Avenue. The project will nearly double the size of our ED and its waiting area, but it will impact parking. I encourage you to use our free valet parking service (9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends) or head to the city parking structures across from our medical center at Acequia Avenue and Locust Street. We have worked with the City to increase all-day parking in both structures and will add more hands to help with valet parking.

I sincerely thank every person who has made the commitment to help us better serve our patients and this community.

CITY UPDATE

GIS Open Data for a Smarter Visalia

To increase transparency, provide greater customer service and to empower business, citizens and organizations, Visalia is now the first City in Tulare County to adopt an Open Data Site for our Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Division.

Accessible through the City website (www.visalia.city), users can also visit the site “Open Visalia” directly at <http://geodata.visalia.city>. Once there, users find a one-stop shop for data, imagery, maps and applications all made accessible by the City of Visalia GIS Department.

Created “For a Smarter Visalia,” the Open Data Site features a few of the most requested datasets, as well as 2016 and 2018 aerial imagery. Users can access pre-set apps that include Planning Information, Subdivision Map Lookup, Sewer & Stormwater, or City Council District lookup, just to name a few.

For those ready to delve deeper, users can access specific tags



Warren Gubler
Mayor, City of Visalia

through the search function and download data in various geospatial formats. For example, under the Planning tag there is Zoning, General Plan, Urban Development and Urban Growth Boundaries, Addresses and LAFCO Sphere of Influence.

If there is a dataset that isn’t available, users can connect with the GIS Division in City Hall East at 559-713-4358 or at gis@visalia.city, and through a records request and payment of fees have the request fulfilled.

Data driven decision making benefits everyone in our community. The more accessible and usable these GIS data points are, the greater impacts it can have for all of us. For more information on the GIS Open Data Site, contact City of Visalia GIS Analyst Greg Mattis at 559-713-4628 or at greg.mattis@visalia.city.

To contact Mayor Gubler directly, email warren.gubler@visalia.city.

THE LAW AT WORK

Service Animals in the Workplace



California has long protected the rights of disabled workers, requiring employers to reasonably accommodate employees with a disability. California law allows persons with disabilities to bring service dogs and emotional support animals to work. Under the Fair Employment and Housing Act, an employer may be required to make an accommodation for employees requesting service dogs, psychiatric service dogs and emotional support animals at work. An example of such an accommodation would be making an exception to the employer’s usual rules about not bringing dogs to work.

A request for a service animal is not automatically allowable – the law does allow employers to require that an assistive animal in the workplace be free from offensive odors and display habits appropriate to the work environment (i.e. house-broken). California employers may also require that the animal not engage in behavior that endangers the health or safety of other employees.

Furthermore, a requested service animal accommodation may be denied where granting it would constitute an undue hardship on the employer, or where the continued presence of the animal



Brett T. Abbott
Gubler & Abbott LLP

would constitute a “direct threat” to the safety of persons in the workplace. Objective evidence is required to support a claim that an animal would pose a direct threat – general observations about potential threats will not suffice. As always, the employer bears the burden of proving an undue hardship or threat to employee safety.

In sum, when an employee requests permission to bring an assistive animal into the workplace, employers must carefully evaluate the request, taking into consideration whether the request would pose a threat to employee safety or whether it would pose an undue hardship to the company. These considerations must be balanced with the requirement placed upon all employers to reasonably accommodate employees with a disability.

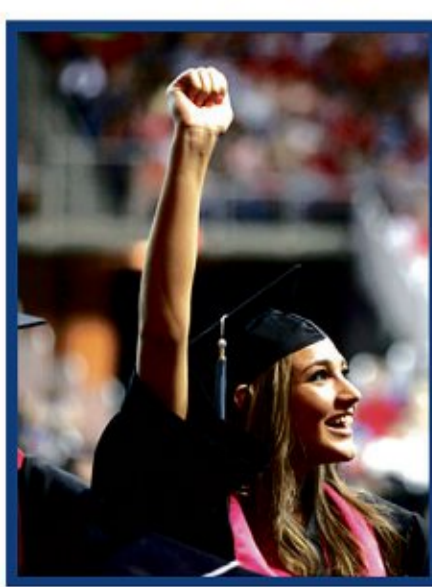
This article is for education and information purposes only; it should not be construed as legal advice. If you have an employment law question for inclusion in a future article, contact Brett T. Abbott at Gubler & Abbott (brett@thecalifornialawyers.com). For specific employment law advice or other legal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

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Accepting Applications for August 2018



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Details: bit.ly/abbaprogram

Contact information:
Jesse Farias, Undergraduate
Recruitment Counselor
Fresno State Visalia Campus
jfarias@mail.fresnostate.edu
559.278.5346 • 559.622.1818

LEADERSHIP VISALIA

Leadership Visalia Shines a Light on Human Trafficking

By Yvette Florendo
Rain for Rent, Bakersfield, Leadership Visalia Student



The topic for our Legal/Social Services day session was "Shining a Light on Human Trafficking". A presentation conducted by Katrina Brownson, Deputy District Attorney, Alicia Zayas from Child Welfare Services and Barbary Cruz with Family Services of Tulare County was eye opening to say the least. They brought information that focused on what human trafficking is, where and how it happens, how it's prosecuted, and what happens to a person, child or adult, once they have been exposed to "the life". Here are some fast facts:

- Who:
1. Someone who may have experienced prior sexual abuse.
 2. Undocumented immigrants
 3. The media's influence on sexual conduct.
 4. Run away and homeless youths
 5. Born into a family living this type of lifestyle.

Where: In your town or city! National statistics show human trafficking currently involves over 100,000 children. So far there have been 602 victims identified locally.

How: Manipulation. Traffickers specifically target individuals in these populations because they are vulnerable to recruitment tactics and methods of control. Studies show that the brain is fully developed for women at the age of 21 and 25 for men. Most girls are lured in at the age of 12 to 14 and for boys 11 to 13.

The outcome for children once they have been exposed to this lifestyle is scary. They drop out of school, rarely confide to anyone outside of their circle, and because of manipulation, believe they are helping their 'John' by submitting to this abuse. The sentence for human trafficking is 10 years, but when Proposition 57 passed it decreased the sentence to only 2 years.

There are programs that have been created to focus solely on this issue and trying to rescue victims, as well as trying to get to at risk

youth before they fail prey. Soon, grades 7-12 will have curriculum on human trafficking (AB 1227). Ways we can all help is look for signs - drug use, tattoos, up to 3 cell phones, signs of domestic violence. Talk to your children about what a healthy relationship looks like. Tell young girls and boys that they are of worth! If you suspect someone has fallen victim call (888) 539-2373 or text Info or Help to Be Free (233-733).

Freedom House provides services to human trafficking victims or those who may be at risk. This service provides a safe space for youth under 18 and AB12 (extended foster care) ages 18-22. They have a variety of services, however a major focus is on awareness in the community.



Alfredo Ceja of CASA Tulare County, spoke to us about the difficulty of establishing a connection with foster children that have been identified as victims and supporting them. It is unfortunate to hear the difficulty social workers experience when trying to find homes for these victims. The reason behind most foster parent's resistance can be safety issues or simply because victims tend to fall back into trafficking. It can be overwhelming and frustrating. The good news is that there are victims who want help and programs in place once they are ready.

The last part of our day ended at Adventure Park for some team building activities. A special thank you to our day leader, Shelley Ellis, on an informative day!

This wraps up our day sessions for our leadership class and graduation is fast approaching. Looking back on these past 9 months I can say I am better because of the people I was exposed to and the leadership advice I received. Thank you to our facilitator Dante Rosh, the Steering Committee and Visalia Chamber of Commerce. I know I can speak for my class when I say your time and guidance is cherished!

Spring Cleaning

By Ryan Stillwater
Director of Development, Visalia Rescue Mission



Fortunately, there are great options right here in Visalia who want your unwanted items.

Here's the shortlist:

1. Visalia Rescue Mission (VRM)

To effectively advance our various ministries, our Thrift department turns your unwanted items into rescued treasures, which are sold in one of our three stores, online, or recycled. Residents in our Life Change Academy gain crucial work experience in this department to prepare them for employment post-graduation, including employment or apprenticeships with VRM.

Primary donation locations:

- Rescued Treasures: 2523 S. Mooney Blvd, Visalia (donations accepted M-Sa, 9:00am-6:00pm)
- VRM Donation Center: 500 E. Race Ave., Visalia (donations accepted M-F, 8:00am-4:00pm)

Call 733-3180 to schedule a pick-up (M-F) or schedule online at: vrnthrift.org. You can also find locations of our additional stores and donation bin locations.

To donate a vehicle, call their Mission Motors line at 429-8777.

2. Love INC of Tulare County

Love INC (In the Name of Christ) accepts gently used items,

including mattresses. "Mattress are given to persons in need through our mattress ministry. Recipients can also receive blankets and linens." They also accept clothing, furniture, housewares, tools, books, and more.

Donations can be dropped off at 2121 E. Tulare Ave. or 316 E. Kern St., both in Tulare. (M-Sa, 9:00am-4:30pm). You can schedule a pick-up by calling 733-8870.

3. Habitat for Humanity of Tulare/Kings County

All proceeds from Habitat's ReStore sales goes toward the construction of more Habitat for Humanity homes in Tulare/Kings Counties. They accept donations of usable building materials and supplies.

Donations can be dropped off at ReStore: 637 S. Lovers Lane, Visalia (M-F, 9:00a.m. - 4:00pm, Saturday, 9:00am-3:00pm). You can also call 734-4056 to make arrangements for any necessary pick-ups. For more information, visit: hfhtkc.org/donate-to-the-visalia-restore

4. Visalia Emergency Aid Council

VEAC accepts gently used clothing, furniture, and household items. They also accept small and large appliances that are functional or may need minor repair. Each month VEAC provides over \$2,000 in merchandise to families in need and clients referred from our partner agencies. All proceeds benefit their food pantry.

Call 635-8525 to schedule a pick-up or drop-off at 620 W. Houston Ave. in Visalia (M-Sa, 9:00am-5:00pm or Sunday, 10:00am-4:00pm)



Fresno Yosemite International Airport Sets Record Passenger Growth in First Quarter 2018

Fresno Yosemite International Airport accommodated 367,278 passengers during the first quarter of 2018, a 10.3 percent increase in domestic and international passenger traffic over the same period in 2017, a record first quarter for the airport.

International passenger traffic grew an impressive 10.6 percent. Fresno Yosemite International Airport is currently ranked fourth in the nation for carrying passengers between Fresno and Guadalajara, Mexico. Similarly, domestic passenger traffic grew 10.2 percent compared to the first quarter in 2017.

"The strong passenger traffic reflects our airline partners' confidence in the Fresno market and is demonstrated by recent transitions to larger aircraft, expanded flight frequencies and the launch of service to new destinations," said Director of Aviation Kevin Meikle. "We appreciate the support from our community and Central California's travelers for choosing Fresno Yosemite International Airport as their gateway to the world."

Air service development activities resulted in substantial increases in passenger volume triggered by expanded flight frequencies and the launch of service to new destinations such as:

- United Airlines adding daily mainline service to San Francisco operated with a 166 seat Boeing 737 aircraft.
- Volaris offering new nonstop service to Morelia, Mexico three times a week.
- American Airlines increasing flight frequencies to Los Angeles from three daily departures to five.
- United Airlines increasing daily departures on United Airlines to Los Angeles from two flights to four.
- Alaska Airlines seasonal adjustment adding a third daily departure to San Diego.

Fresno Yosemite International Airport is expected to continue the growth trend with the start of new scheduled air service and seasonal adjustments offered by the domestic and international carriers.

New airline choices, expanded flight and destination options for travelers flying through Fresno Yosemite International Airport this summer include:

- Frontier Airlines nonstop flights to Denver three times a week starting May 22.
- Daily nonstop service to Chicago on United Airlines beginning June 7.
- Twice daily flights to Las Vegas on Mondays and Thursdays on Allegiant beginning June 1.
- Twice daily departures to Guadalajara, Mexico beginning June 16 on Volaris.
- Daily service to Guadalajara, Mexico on AeroMexico starting June 1.

Like us on [facebook.com/FresnoYosemiteInternational](https://www.facebook.com/FresnoYosemiteInternational) or follow us on [@FresnoAirport](https://twitter.com/FresnoAirport) and [Instagram @iFlyFresno](https://www.instagram.com/iFlyFresno).

Redwood's Future Business Leaders of America

Continued from Page 2

members who were ready to try something different, and advisers who were determined and held all of us accountable to a shared vision of success." Students competed in various events such as objective tests which assessed their knowledge of various aspects of different industries in the business world, role-playing and speaking events which assessed their knowledge of the industry as well as their communication skills, and group events which promoted teamwork and collaboration; all in all, our students were able to demonstrate their passion for the business industry and came out on top.

Jonathan Zamora, a senior and Redwood FBLA's VP of Marketing, took home two 1st place state titles in his events and said, "Being a helping hand in bringing home that 5th place sweepstakes was the most rewarding experience of the conference." He added, "It felt absolutely incredible to win in the first event, but the second one was something I could have only dreamed of; hearing the chapter cheer so loud was the most exhilarating feeling and it truly was a blessing."

Redwood High School is proud of its FBLA chapter and is excited to see what they will do at the National Conference on June 28-July 1 in Baltimore, MD.

Please join us for an exciting, informative and cutting-edge Neurological Educational Seminar

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2018 • 1:00 P.M. -2:00 P.M.

The Lifestyle Center | 5105 West Cypress Ave., Visalia CA 93277

Featuring Special Guest Speaker

Perminder Bhatia, M.D.

Board Certified Neurologist

Seminar focus topics include:

- **Complex partial – Focal Epilepsy – Open Label Study**
- **Alzheimer's Day Break Study**
Clinical trial medication targeted to possibly decrease formation of amyloid Plaques.
- **Agitation in Alzheimer's**
With an Alzheimer's diagnosis medication for agitation management.
- **Hallucinations – Psychosis in dementia**
Involves any type of dementia, not limited to Alzheimer's disease.

Presented by:

Quail Park Memory Care Residences AND The Alzheimer's Foundation of Central California

Tree to Table: A Dinner in the Groves

You're invited to join McKellar Family Farms for our inaugural "Tree to Table" fundraising dinner at Historic Seven Sycamores Ranch. Meet us under the vine arbor for an elegant "farm-to-table" dining experience, prepared by Chef David Vartanian of The Vintage Press. Each course will be creatively prepared with locally produced ingredients.

- 5:30 pm: Join us for hors d'oeuvres, wine and an optional wagon ride tour of the farm
- 6:30 pm: Dinner will be served

All the proceeds from this event will benefit McKellar Family Farms, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, as we work to expand our ag education programs and share our farm with people from the community and around the world. By attending and/or sponsoring this event, you will help us raise funds to open our Self-Guided Tour facility, which will give visitors an interactive and educational citrus farm experience.

Cost: \$75 per person
 Tickets: treetotable.eventbrite.com or mckellarfamilyfarms.com

Sponsorship opportunities are available. To inquire, please call (559)731-7925 or email info@mckellarfarms.com

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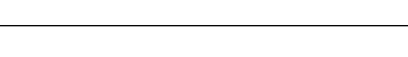
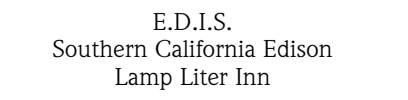
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CLIP & SAVE

CALENDAR - JUNE 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	City Council Meeting City Hall, 7:00 pm	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	Chamber Government Affairs Committee Meeting Buckman-Mitchell Office, 7:00 am	13	YPN Monthly Meet-Up Barrelhouse Brewing Co., 5:30 pm 2018 Annual Awards Celebration Visalia Convention Center, 6:00 pm	15	16
17	City Council Meeting City Hall, 7:00 pm	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	Business After Hours Corner of Mooney Blvd & W. Orchard, 5:30pm	27	Visalia Chamber Ambassador Meeting Visalia First Assembly, 8:00am	29	30

Helpful Checklist to Start Your Own Business

By: Nicola Wissler
 Visalia Chamber of Commerce



Have you ever wanted to open your own business? Do you know the steps necessary to make your business launch successful? The Visalia Chamber of Commerce Emerge Program teaches class participants the steps necessary to open a successful new business. Many of the problems new business owners face occur because they were in a rush to open the doors of their new business. Everyone wants to launch quickly, however if the process is rushed, business owners often miss important steps that can cause them major headaches down the road. The Emerge program suggests that potential business owners begin planning for their new business at least one year in advance. Twelve months gives you the time you need to do research, file paperwork, begin marketing, and make sure that you have dotted all the i's and crossed all of the t's.

For those who have already taken the leap of faith and opened a new business, the Emerge program is a great way to force yourself to take a step back to see if there were any areas that you might have overlooked as you launched. Often, once the doors open and customers are walking in is when unforeseen roadblocks come up. Emerge helps business owners to navigate those obstacles.

As part of the Emerge class, participants receive a one year start-up checklist. Here are a few key items from the list. Take a look and see if any of these items are missing from your own list.

1 Year out:

- Assess the impact on your family and personal life - how will a new business affect your personal relationships and finances? A new business can cause a lot of strain if lines of communication are not open.
- Build your personal skills by taking formal management/business course. The Emerge program is a great simple program to help you gain confidence as a business owner.

6 months out:

- Begin writing a business plan and define your target market. Not every person in the city is your target customer.

- Begin researching a location for your business. Do you know what type of space will work best for your business and if the place you like is zoned for your type of business?

4 months out:

- File for an EIN number with the State of California as well as a DBA with the County Recorder's office.
- Secure outside funding if necessary.

3 months out:

- Set up your books, purchase software and get trained on how to use it to help you determine cash flow needs.
- Determine employee needs. How many people will you need to hire, should you use an employment agency, what benefits are you required to provide to employees.

2 months out:

- Prepare a marketing plan.
- Determine if you need a business license or any other licenses in order to run your business.
- Secure business insurance. Be sure to find out what is required for your business.

1 month out:

- Move into your business location & hire staff.
- Do a soft opening to make sure all of the equipment works and the staff understand their role.

After you open:

- Join the local Chamber of Commerce - they can provide ongoing resources, networking, and help.

If this check list has been helpful, we suggest that you call the Visalia Chamber of Commerce 559-734-5876 and enquire about the Emerge Program. More information can also be found at www.visaliachamber.org/emerge.

Visalia Chamber of Commerce Welcomes Four New Board Members

The Visalia Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce Matt Ainley (4-Creeks Inc.), Michael Ashoori (Ashoori & Co. Jewelers), Brent Calvin (College of the Sequoias), and Richard Feder (Visalia Mall) as 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; Patrick Salazar (State Farm Insurance), William Martin (Martin & Martin Enterprises), Stan Carrizosa (College of the Sequoias), and Vincent Salinas (Financial Advisor Associate).

"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.

Matt Ainley was born and raised in Visalia, CA; he attended Mineral King, Elbow Creek, Valley Oak, and Golden West High School. Upon graduation, he went to Westmont College in Santa Barbara to play baseball and majored in Engineering/Physics. Matt moved back to Visalia to work at Quad Knopf, for 8 years before leaving to start 4Creeks. 4Creeks is entering its 10th year of business. Matt is married to Janelle and they celebrated their 17th anniversary this year. They have 3 children; Reese, Linden, and Luke. His hope is to provide for sustainable, high paying jobs, pride in the Central Valley, and be a force to impact others for good.

Michael Joseph Ashoori was born September 21st 1986 in Visalia California. He grew up and was raised in Visalia and has a passion for growing our community. Michael attended the Gemological Institute Of America (GIA) where he attained his Graduate Gemologist degree in 2005. He is currently

the CFO at Ashoori & Co. Jewelers and is a proud 3rd generation jeweler. In May 2010 Michael married his best friend and love of his life Betina. Michael currently serves as the membership chair of the Visalia Breakfast Rotary.

Brent Calvin is the Superintendent/President at the College of the Sequoias. He has been with the District since 2002 having previously served as Athletic Director, Dean of Business and Social Sciences, Hanford Campus Dean, Interim Superintendent, Vice President of Administrative Services, and Vice President of Student Services. After graduating from the College of the Sequoias in 1987, he received his B.A. in Business Administration from Cal State Fullerton. He holds an MBA from Cal State Dominguez Hills and a Master's in Education from Northcentral (AZ) University. Prior to joining the District, Mr. Calvin owned an engineering firm in southern California which he sold in 1998.

Richard Feder is the General Manager overseeing operations, marketing, leasing and development of the Visalia Mall owned and managed by GGP, Inc. out of Chicago. He has more than 30 years experience in the shopping center industry including experience with an upscale, mixed-use lifestyle center, three regional malls, and four different real estate companies. Prior to joining Visalia Mall, Richard served as the General Manager/Marketing Manager at Prime Outlets, Inc. in Chicago and was the Assistant General Manager of Coronado Center, in Albuquerque also owned by GGP, Inc.

For nearly three decades, Richard has been an active member in the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) and his local Rotary club. Additionally, he has served on the board of directors for several Chambers of Commerce, VCVB, VPIE and the Visalia Economic Development Corporation (VEDC).

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