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# Business Update

AWARD-WINNING MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- NOVEMBER 7:**  
**Emerge Class: Sales Training**  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Location: COS  
Registration Required
- NOVEMBER 8:**  
**QuickBooks Workshop**  
Time: 9:00 am  
Fresno Pacific University (Visalia Campus)  
Registration Required
- NOVEMBER 8:**  
**YPN Fall Networking Mixer**  
Time: 5:30 pm  
Location: Rocky Hill Brewing  
Cost: \$10.00
- NOVEMBER 28:**  
**Emerge Class – Non-Profit, Web Marketing and Small Business Financing**  
Time: 6:00 pm  
Location: College of the Sequoias  
Registration Required

## Lamp LITER Inn

Visalia's Innkeeper Since 1963

By Nicola Wissler  
Visalia Chamber of Commerce

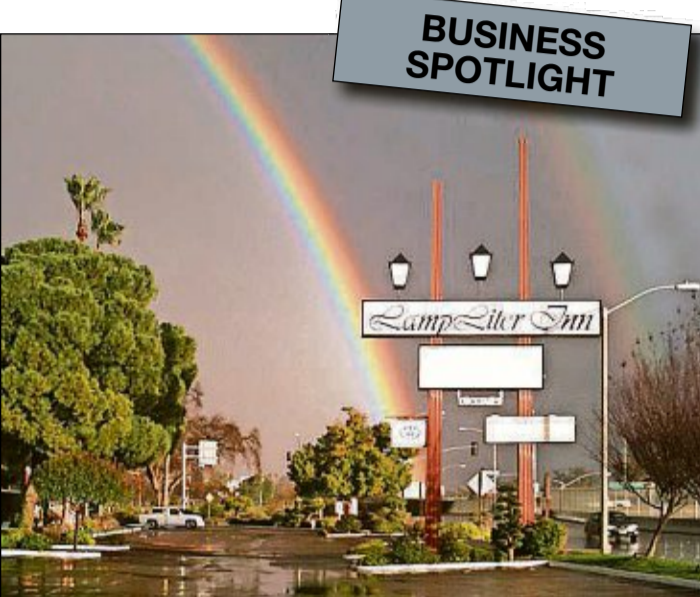
The Lamp LITER Inn is a well-known establishment in Visalia. Built in 1963, the current owners, Lamp LITER Associates, took over the business in 1977. General Manager Robert Lee has been at the head of the business since 1993 helping it to face challenges and celebrate successes. While not a new high-rise hotel, the Lamp LITER Inn provides travelers with vintage charm, and beautiful grounds (5 acres) that other properties in town just don't have.

The Lamp LITER Inn is proud to be a full-service hotel. They are able to provide not just rooms for travelers, but can accommodate



business meetings and conferences including full banquet services for groups ranging in size from 12 – 300 people. Lee noted that they are a popular location for family reunions, class reunions, Rotary & Lions meetings, car show conference goers and many other groups. When asked what draws individuals and groups to the hotel Lee noted two things. "First and foremost it comes down to our staff. While some staff members may come for a short time, and use the Lamp LITER to gain experience that helps them to reach their final career goal, others see the Lamp LITER as their home." Today, most of the key supervisors have been with the Lamp LITER from five to thirty years. Lee and his management team enjoy helping team members find their niche and to watch them to grow professionally. They like to promote from within when they can, and Lee likes to brag about some of their success stories. For example, he currently has one team member who started out as a bellman/grounds keeper, then moved to the front desk and is now the catering director.

The strength of the team starts with clear priorities from the top. The number one priority for the team is to "sell service." This is accomplished by catering to the guest's needs. Lee and his team work hard to make sure that all employees on property are empowered to



**BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

make decisions and can take action when it comes to providing customers with great service. If a guest has a problem, staff members do not always need to get their supervisor's permission to help the guest and find a solution. This high-quality service has led to many word-of-mouth referrals and return customers.

The second reason that people are drawn to the Lamp LITER Inn is that staff members are encouraged to get connected and build a strong network in the community. "Here in Visalia we are a very close-knit community. If we provide the community our support, they in turn go out of their way to support us," states Lee. Success in networking begins with leading by example. Lee is an active member of his Lion's club, Visalia Emergency Aid Council, a former Chamber Board Member, and is currently working with Living Water World Missions which helps to provide access to clean water to people in developing countries. The Lamp LITER encourages staff to give back, and even offers to pay membership fees for employees who want to join local service clubs. Outside

of individual involvement in the community, the Lamp LITER has networked to donate old laptops to be repurposed, provided gift baskets, and give away items for silent auctions and other events throughout the city. The Lamp LITER also provides event space and services for non-profits at affordable rates that help them meet their fundraising goals. While networking in the community is important, Lee also believes that it is important for businesses to help promote the city to tourists.

"Promoting Visalia is not just good business for the Lamp LITER Inn, it is good business for Visalia." For the past year the Lamp LITER Inn, with other local hotels, has worked to form a Tourism Marketing District (TMD) for Visalia. Since January 1, 2018, the TMD has developed a marketing plan that will help to bring new tourists to Visalia. The Visalia TMD is still very new but has already hired a full-time Executive Director to help to reach their goals. "The purpose of this district is to market the city of Visalia to people from around the state, country and targeted countries in order to not only fill hotel rooms but to bring tourism dollars to the local economy," noted Lee. For the Lamp LITER Inn, "When the entire city prospers and succeeds we as a business will also prosper and succeed. It has been very important for us to be involved with this project and we are excited to see what the future has in store."



- Peru: Ancient Land of Mysteries**  
March 23, - April 1, 2019
- China**  
April 5-13, 2019
- Cherry Blossom in Japan**  
April 6 - 16, 2019
- Sunny Portugal**  
May 17 - 26, 2019
- Alaska the Great Land**  
June 19 - 27, 2019
- Gems of Eastern Europe**  
June 28 - July 8, 2019
- Shades of Ireland**  
July 22 - August 3, 2019

Collette Vacations,  
Mayflower Tours,  
Cistline  
For more information, go to  
[www.visaliachamber.org/travel](http://www.visaliachamber.org/travel)  
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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### Every Vote Matters in Local Elections

Tupperware mounted on a marble pedestal is an interesting family heirloom, but it is a cherished reminder of an important lesson I learned as a student. As a teenager I was herded into an auditorium style classroom for my Political Science 101 lecture. The grizzly professor launched into an explanation of the electoral college, its challenges and how our vote doesn't matter. As a child I was taught quite the opposite. I was told that every vote counted, and I couldn't just sit there, I felt my hand float up like a balloon, I just had to ask a question for clarification.

"So it doesn't matter if I vote?" I asked nervously. The professor restated his jaded claim about national elections and the electoral college ending his soliloquy with a slight jab that to think otherwise was naive. A smarter student would have just nodded and allowed the professor to continue without further interruption. But I just couldn't let it go. I raised my hand again and asked about if voting matters in local elections. Clearly annoyed, the professor said that I obviously had a point to make and asked that I share my thoughts. I was thinking about that interesting family heirloom, and my point was that every vote does matter, particularly in local elections.

My grandpa, Jack Strickler, ran for San Bernardino City Council in 1979. It was a tough election that ended in a literal tie between him and Robert McBay. Yes, you read that right, it was a literal tie of votes.



**Gail Zurek**  
Visalia Chamber  
President & CEO

When the tie was announced, supporters called my Grandpa to apologize for forgetting to vote or getting busy, and not making it to the polls. I'm sure Mr. McBay, got the same types of calls. If one of those voters would have cast a ballot, there wouldn't have been a tie. Ultimately the decision was made by a judge who pulled a name out of a Tupperware bowl. My grandpa kept that bowl on his desk as a reminder that he must work with everyone because "clearly he wasn't elected by a mandate from the people". That story became an important one as he shared the importance of voting with me.

That Tupperware bowl and article about the election now live in my office. They are a reminder to me that every person counts and even more so in this political season, your voice matters. It is easy to become jaded and disengage from a process that seems more and more divisive. But our republic, our community needs you. We need your voice, we need you to weigh in on the elections that can and will change Visalia. Please take this right seriously. Read your voter guide, research candidates, understand propositions and bond, measures. Take the time to vote. Despite my grizzly jaded professors view, the Tupperware bowl reminds us that your vote does make a difference.

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





## Application Period Now Open for Business "How To" Program

**EMERGE** Entrepreneurship Program Provides Skills and Resources to New and Future Business Owners

For many, the most difficult part of starting a business is taking the first step. The Visalia Chamber of Commerce Emerge program provides introductory business classes to new and future business owners. Through this six-month program, participants build a strong network, improve business skills through writing a business plan, meet and learn from business experts from nine different industries, and work with a business mentor.

The Emerge entrepreneurship program walks local entrepreneurs and business startups, through the complex steps required to start a successful business. Emerge was designed for two distinct types of participants. 1. Individuals who have a business idea and want to start a brand-new business but don't know where or how to start the process. 2. Individuals who currently own or operate a small business and want to take the next steps to help their business grow or want to make sure that they have not missed any critical steps during their start up process.

"Entrepreneurship is vital to the success of a community. Entrepreneurs bring new ideas, generate tax revenue and provide jobs for the local community," stated Gail Zurek, President/CEO of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce. Programs like Emerge are vital to communities that want to grow and compete with larger cities. "The Emerge program will provide the opportunity for entrepreneurs to learn what questions they should be asking, to work through the financial details, and create a map to accomplish necessary tasks, while getting support from business experts," Zurek noted.

The program includes twelve evening classes held at the College of Sequoias Visalia campus from 6:00 - 8:30 pm. Each of the 12 classes focuses on a different aspect of business including: business law, accounting, marketing, permits, human resources, insurance, sales training and non-profit management. During each class session local industry experts speak to the class and provide relevant real-world expertise that class members can incorporate into their new business ventures. Emerge participants work with instructors and business mentors to create a realistic business plan which provides guidance for the company as it grows.

Emerge participants must complete an application, participate in an interview, attend an orientation and be 18 years or older. Tuition is \$350.00 dollars and includes all class materials, business plan template, and resource guide. The deadline to submit applications is November 20, 2018. Individuals interested in a single class may register for \$50.00 each session.

Applications and other materials can be found at [www.visaliachamber.org/emerge](http://www.visaliachamber.org/emerge) or by calling the Visalia Chamber of Commerce at 559-734-5876.

## VUSD Remains Steady on State Testing

California State Department of Education has released information reflecting performance on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) in English language arts and mathematics from the 2017-2018 school year. The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) scores remained in the high 40's for English language arts and the low 30's for mathematics. While English language arts scores showed little gain and math scores showed a small drop, Visalia Unified continues to lead Tulare County in both English language arts and math.

With the belief that a single annual report is insufficient to inform improvement efforts, we will continue to use local measures that more readily apprise us of our progress. The District's efforts will remain steadfast on improving teaching and learning. As we continue to build our collective understanding of the interaction between the newly-implemented assessment system and the Common Core Standards, we are confident that our efforts will be reflected in future improvement rates.

To view State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson's news release, visit the California Department of Education website at [www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr18/yr18rel62.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr18/yr18rel62.asp).

## About this publication ...

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## GROUND BREAKING • GRAND OPENING • RIBBON CUTTING • CEREMONIES



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Ribbon Cutting

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Ribbon Cutting

### Bethlehem Center

1638 N Dinuba Blvd. • Visalia • 559-734-1572



Ribbon Cutting

### Kaweah Delta Cardiology Clinic

820 S. Akers St., Suite 130 • Visalia • 559-624-6520

## 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.

#### Community Investor:

■ **VALLEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**  
(559) 353-3000  
Medical Centers, Clinics, & Hospitals

#### Business Builder Members:

■ **GRID ALTERNATIVES**  
(559) 261-4743  
Employer Services

■ **TAB BUSINESS NETWORKS**  
(559) 205-6342  
Computer Programming & Support

#### Business Connector Members:

■ **SEQUOIA PLAZA FLOWERS AND MORE**  
(559) 734-3236  
Florist

#### Small Business Members:

■ **ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF VISALIA**  
(559) 737-1907  
Human Services

■ **COMPONENT COFFEE LAB LLC**  
(951) 719-6104  
Bakery & Desserts

#### ■ HOMETOWN BUFFET

(559) 733-3660  
Restaurants

#### ■ HUMANA HEALTH INSURANCE

(559) 221-2522  
Insurance

#### ■ VISIT VISALIA

(559) 713-4325  
Travel & Tourism

### Renewing

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

#### Keystone Members:

■ 4Creeks Inc.

#### Cornerstone Members:

■ CSET-Community Services Employment Training \*

#### Business Builder Members:

■ Central Valley Collision Repair

■ Quality Paint & Body, Inc \*

■ Wonder Valley Ranch Resort & Conference Center

#### Business Connector Members:

■ Arts Consortium

■ Brain Balance Achievement Center of Visalia

■ Dust Control

■ Golden State Family Services, Inc \*

■ Pipeline Church Visalia \*

#### Small Business Members:

■ Ashoori & Co. Jewelers

■ Black Bear Diner

■ Brandman University

■ Compac \*

■ Equity Group, Inc. \*

■ Family Builders Foster Family Agency \*

■ Hadley-Marcom Funeral Chapel \*

■ Hydrite Chemical Co

■ Integrated Care Systems \*

■ Megan Ide, DDS & Shirley Lei, DDS \*

■ Paloma Development Co. \*

■ Rainmaker Productions

■ Robert Half International DBA Officeteam/Accountemps

■ Roseland Studios \*

■ ServiceMaster by Hellstern

■ Students International \*

■ Tulare County Deputy Sheriff's Association \*

■ Visalia Sunset Rotary

#### Friend of the Chamber:

■ Mike Boudreaux,

Tulare County Sheriff/Coroner

■ Sam Logan | Merrill Lynch

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

# Visalia Chamber of Commerce Takes Positions on November Ballot Measures

The Visalia Chamber Board of Directors upon the recommendation from the Chamber Government Affairs Committee has taken positions on the following ballot measures. For more detailed information on each of the ballot measures please go to: [www.visaliachamber.org](http://www.visaliachamber.org).

### Visalia Chamber Supports:

**Prop 1: AUTHORIZES BONDS TO FUND SPECIFIED HOUSING 1 ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE.**

**Summary:** Authorizes \$4 billion in general obligation bonds for existing affordable housing programs for low-income residents, veterans, farmworkers, manufactured and mobile homes, infill, and transit-oriented housing. Fiscal Impact: Increased state costs to repay bonds averaging about \$170 million annually over the next 35 years.

**Prop 2: AUTHORIZES BONDS TO FUND EXISTING HOUSING PROGRAM FOR 2 INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE.**

**Summary:** Amends Mental Health Services Act to fund No Place Like Home Program, which finances housing for individuals with mental illness. Ratifies existing law establishing the No Place Like Home Program. Fiscal Impact: Allows the state to use up to \$140 million per year of county mental health funds to repay up to \$2 billion in bonds. These bonds would fund housing for those with mental illness who are homeless.

**Prop 3: AUTHORIZES BONDS TO FUND PROJECTS FOR WATER SUPPLY AND QUALITY, WATERSHED, FISH, WILDLIFE, WATER CONVEYANCE, AND GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY 3 AND STORAGE. INITIATIVE STATUTE.**

**Summary:** Authorizes \$8.877 billion in state general obligation bonds for various infrastructure projects. Fiscal Impact: Increased state costs to repay bonds averaging \$430 million per year over 40 years. Local government savings for water-related projects, likely averaging a couple hundred million dollars annually over the next few decades.

**Prop 4: AUTHORIZES BONDS FUNDING CONSTRUCTION AT HOSPITALS 4 PROVIDING CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE. INITIATIVE STATUTE.**

**Summary:** Authorizes \$1.5 billion in bonds, to be repaid from state's General Fund, to fund grants for construction, expansion, renovation, and equipping of qualifying children's hospitals. Fiscal Impact: Increased state costs to repay bonds averaging about \$80 million annually over the next 35 years.

**Prop 5: CHANGES REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNERS TO TRANSFER THEIR PROPERTY TAX BASE TO REPLACEMENT PROPERTY. INITIATIVE 5 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE.**

**Summary:** Removes certain transfer requirements for homeowners over 55, severely disabled homeowners, and contaminated or disaster-damaged property. Fiscal Impact: Schools and local governments each would lose over \$100 million in annual property taxes early on, growing to about \$1 billion per year. Similar increase in state costs to backfill school property tax losses.

### Measure A: VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Summary:** To protect quality education with funding that cannot be taken by the State, shall Visalia Unified School District: upgrade classrooms, labs and computer systems to support science, technology, English, arts and math; prevent school/classroom overcrowding; and improve school safety/security; by issuing \$105,300,000 in bonds at legal rates, repaying an annual average of \$7,560,000 for 30 years, at approximately \$36 per \$100,000 of assessed value, with independent oversight, no money for administrators, and all funds staying local?

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The **Visalia Mall** will continue to host the Food Truck Friday fall series. Every Friday, check out a number of food trucks parked in the east lot between Macy's and Blaze pizza.

Congratulations to **210 Café** as they celebrate their 10 year anniversary with 210 Connect, bringing the community together to talk about important issues.

**Sequoia Parks Conservancy** is looking for photos to include in an upcoming publication! Locations we are looking for include Cedar Grove, Rae Lakes, Bubbs Creek, Bullfrog Lake, and many more. If you are interested in having your photos included in this amazing book, please visit [www.sequoiaparksconservancy.org/bookphotos](http://www.sequoiaparksconservancy.org/bookphotos).

**St. Anthony's Retreat and Conference Center** would like to remind everyone that as we enter into our busy Fall Schedule we are also getting ready for our Annual Festival of Trees. Tickets are on sale now for this Fantastic Evening to kick-off the Christmas Season. This year its on Thursday, November 29th. Get you tickets now for this great event. Ticket price of \$25, includes all kinds of food and drinks plus a great time for all.

Congratulations to **Suncrest Bank** they are celebrating their 10 year anniversary this year. For more than 10 years, our staff has served the Valley's business and personal banking needs. Stop by to see us at any of our 7 locations, and find out why so many people are making the switch to community banking. <https://www.suncrestbank.com/about-us/locations-hours/>

**Visalia Emergency Aid Council** said Wow! Great end to a great week! 32,000 meal kits from Feeding Children Everywhere & Cigna Visalia. Thank you so much!

Ever thought about volunteering to help make a difference for survivors and their families in your local community? Come learn more! Our monthly **Family Services of Tulare County** Volunteer Info Night



will take place next Tuesday, November 20th at the Rape Crisis Center 1120 West Main Street, Visalia. It is a really great opportunity to learn about our Volunteer Program and the many ways you can currently serve.

Go "Over The Edge" for **The Source!** Join this exciting and fun community event. 92 lucky participants will rappel down the face of the Visalia Marriott on November 10th! They will raise money and awareness for our vital programs. This event will also kickoff our capital campaign to buy a permanent home for The Source and the LGBT+ community. Sign up to rappel at [visaliaovertheedge.com](http://visaliaovertheedge.com) or donate to one of our individuals or teams. Sponsorship opportunities available. Email [nick@thesourcelgbt.org](mailto:nick@thesourcelgbt.org) with any questions.



## BOARD SPOTLIGHT

### Michael Ashoori



Ashoori

Michael Ashoori is the CFO, and a Graduate Gemologist at Ashoori & Co. Jewelers.

**How long have you been a Chamber Board member?** Not long enough, I joined the board this year.

**Why is it important to be a Chamber member?** For as long as I can remember we have been Chamber members! My mom, Sarah Ashoori served on the board for several years as well. We were honored to receive the award of Small Business of the Year in 2010. The Chamber is great not only for networking opportunities but it will help grow your business's overall credibility.

**What brought you to Visalia?** Born and raised!

**What is your favorite thing about your job/company?** Serving generations of families.

**What do you like to do when you are not working?** When you are in customer service you are always working!

**Where is your favorite place to go in Visalia when you are not working?** The Visalia Country Club.

**What is your favorite charity or local cause?**

I am a Proud Rotarian, I joined The Visalia Breakfast Rotary in 2010 and love giving back to our community.

**What is your best advice for young professionals?**

Attitude is the key to success. Start your day with a positive mindset, set your goals and don't let anything stop you from reaching them. Nothing happens overnight.

## VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT School Facilities Matter



Goshen Elementary classroom before modernization ...



... and after modernization!



School facilities matter. As an organization, teachers working with kids is the most important thing we do, and one of the most important things that supports that relationship is a modern classroom.



**Todd Oto, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent, Visalia Unified School District

Visalia Unified has placed Measure A on the ballot this November. If Measure A passes, we will receive \$105M that, with matching funds from the State, will allow us to bring \$225M in improvements and new facilities to our schools.

Measure A is about ensuring that our oldest neighborhoods have schools that compare favorably with schools in our newest neighborhoods. Measure A is also about building a new school to balance enrollment and opportunity across our high schools.

Let's go back a few years and review what our prior bond measure, Measure E, has brought and will bring to our schools:

Measure E was the general obligation bond passed by Visalia voters in 2012. It brought \$60M in local bond money to the District, and, along with State matching dollars, will enable the District to complete \$130M in projects for our students. Measure E's cost to Visalia taxpayers started out at \$30 per \$100K of assessed value annually, but that rate has dropped to \$18.30 today and will be paid off in 2041, if not sooner.

Measure E brought the following projects to our students:

- Construction of Ridgeview Middle School
- Ranger Hall at Redwood High School, which includes 16 classrooms and new bathrooms
- Solar panels at 12 schools in Phase 1 of our District-wide solar project
- Single point of entry through the office during the school day at all our campuses
- New composite play structures replacing the old galvanized metal structures at elementary schools across the District
- Upgrades to Goshen Elementary classrooms, including new epoxy floor treatments, ceiling treatments, and wall treatments including expanded whiteboard space, new technology including flat screen monitors, new flexible classroom furniture, upgraded bathrooms, updated ADA access, new library/media center, staffroom, and office
- Upgrades similar to those completed at Goshen coming to Ivanhoe Elementary in summer 2019
- Upgrades at Golden West High School in summer 2019 and continuing throughout the campus over the following 2 years
- Upgraded science wing at Redwood High School in summer 2019

■ And when more State reimbursement money comes back from completed projects, we will begin upgrades to:

- Crowley Elementary School
- Mineral King Elementary School
- Washington Elementary School
- Redwood High School gym and quad

Measure A is the general obligation bond on the November 6, 2018, ballot. If passed, it will generate \$105M in local bond money, and after State reimbursements will result in nearly \$225M in projects for our students. Measure A's cost to Visalia taxpayers is expected to be \$36 per \$100K of assessed value annually, and we anticipate that annual obligation will decrease over time also. Measure A will be paid off in 2050 if not sooner.

If passed, Measure A will bring the following projects to our students:

- Modern science labs at all middle and high schools
- Next step in safety/security at all schools as identified by a task force including teachers, administrators, parents, and Visalia Police and Fire Departments
- A fifth comprehensive high school to balance equity and access to program and extra and co-curricular opportunities for all students
- Upgrades similar to those made possible by Measure E to the following 18 school sites:
  - Conyer Elementary School
  - La Joya Middle School
  - Crestwood Elementary School
  - Linwood Elementary School
  - Divisadero Middle School
  - Mountain View Elementary School
  - Elbow Creek Elementary School
  - Mt. Whitney High School
  - Global Learning Charter School
  - Pinkham Elementary School
  - Golden Oak Elementary School
  - Valley Oak Middle School
  - Green Acres Middle School
  - Veva Blunt Elementary School
  - Highland Elementary School
  - Willow Glen Elementary School
  - Houston Elementary School
  - Hurley Elementary School

Facilities matter. Our kids and our teachers need great spaces to learn and teach in, and the investment that our community can make in school facilities through Measure A will help us provide the best education possible for current and future generations of Visalia students.



## Measure A Committee Secures Key Endorsements

Measure A, the bond measure to support Visalia schools, has earned the endorsement of several key community organizations, including the Visalia Chamber of Commerce.



Upon approval by 55 percent of voters, Measure A will provide funding for upgrades to all schools in Visalia and fund more significant improvements (known as modernization) at 18 of the older elementary and middle schools. Measure A will fund a comprehensive new high school, to help address overcrowding and balance student populations among all high schools.

With local investment via Measure A, the State of California will match 50-50 for new construction and 60-40 for modernization upgrades. The state match will stretch the local investment of \$105 million to approximately \$225 million. The estimated bond cost is \$36 per \$100,000 assessed value. No funds will be used for salaries, and Visalia Unified School District's strong fiscal rating means lower interest rates.

In addition to the Visalia Chamber of Commerce endorsement, Measure A is backed by Visalia Unified Teachers Association and the

boards of the Visalia Economic Development Corporation, the Building Industrial Association of Tulare and Kings Counties, Tulare-Kings Counties Builders' Exchange and the Tulare-Kings Hispanic Chamber.

"We are grateful for the support of these important organizations," noted Mike Olmos, retired Visalia City Manager and Chairman of the Visalians for Measure A Committee. "The members recognize that education is foundational to the quality of our community today and in the future. Measure A is critically important in terms of ensuring that we can continue to meet the needs of our growing community, our employers and our students."

"If we don't provide the local match via Measure A, state funding will be lost to other districts. To postpone this personal sacrifice will only lead to higher costs. The students of tomorrow deserve our support today."

For information on Measure A, visit [www.AforVisaliaSchools.com](http://www.AforVisaliaSchools.com) or contact Mike Olmos at [mike.olmos@icloud.com](mailto:mike.olmos@icloud.com) or Nancy Lockwood at 733-3737, [nlockwood@thelockwoodagency.net](mailto:nlockwood@thelockwoodagency.net).



## 4Creeks, Inc. Names New Chief Executive Officer, Danielle Avila, MBA, to Lead the Company Into New Era of Growth and Expansion.



Avila

4Creeks, Inc., a Civil Engineering firm based in Visalia, named a new Chief Executive Officer of the company. In April 2018, the 4Creeks board of directors appointed a new CEO to lead the company forward, naming Danielle Avila, MBA to the position. This is the first time the company has named a person to the role of CEO or President outside of the founding partners.

Mrs. Avila, a Tulare native, has been with the company since 2012 in various capacities, most recently as Chief Financial Officer. Avila graduated with her MBA from Fresno State in 2013 after joining the 4Creeks team. She takes over the role from Founder and Principal Land Surveyor, Randy Wasnick, to allow him to focus more on strategic business growth opportunities.

"Danielle has been an integral member at 4Creeks, since she joined us," said Chairman of the Board, Matthew Ainley, PE. "Her commitment, determination, and passion for making 4Creeks a great place to work has been key in allowing us to serve our clients' needs and make an impact in our community. We are excited to have her lead our organization forward. She is a great fit for the demands of this role and we are proud to have one of the Central Valley's brightest young talents leading our organization."

About 4Creeks, Inc.

4Creeks, Inc. was founded in 2008. With a vision of delivering high quality engineering solutions, 4Creeks is a design firm that provides progressive solutions. We are committed to partnering with our clients, local businesses and the community to discover the best design strategies. We believe in the entrepreneurial spirit and desire to be a leader in innovation. Those attributes are embodied in a staff that is committed to humility, curiosity, and quality. Our team is dynamic, collaborative and fun.

4Creeks currently has five offices in California, including Visalia, Porterville, Fresno, San Luis Obispo, and Bakersfield. For more information on the company and services provided, email [info@4-creeks.com](mailto:info@4-creeks.com) or visit [www.4-creeks.com](http://www.4-creeks.com).





## Visalia Medical Clinic Expands Pediatrics Department

After nearly two years helping to build a new hospital in Saudi Arabia, pediatrician Saba Khalid, MD, FAAP, is now seeing patients at Visalia Medical Clinic.



Khalid

"I was asked to help plan policies and procedures in the pediatric unit in the new hospital, which was being built in partnership with the Henry Ford Health System, USA," Dr. Khalid explained.

Previously, she served in pediatric teaching capacities, was a pediatric hospitalist and a pediatrician in Chicago for nearly 20 years.

"I worked for a few months as a temporary physician with Visalia Medical Clinic earlier this year," Dr. Khalid said. "I liked the area and I was tired of being on the other side of the country. I wanted to do something different."

Dr. Khalid has always wanted to work with children and she considered teaching. She then discovered medicine and decided to become a pediatrician.

"The challenges today are the new media options, where children are on phones and tablets and don't even notice each other – and there is the issue of cyber bullying," Dr. Khalid noted. "On the other hand, parents come in much more informed having done their own online research. They ask good questions."

Dr. Khalid served her residency in pediatric surgery at the National Institute of Child Health in Karachi Pakistan; her residency in pediatrics at the Kulsoom Bai Valika Hospital in Karachi; and a residency in obstetrics and gynecology in Karachi. She served a residency in pediatrics at Lutheran General Children's Hospital, an affiliate of the University of Chicago.

Visalia Medical Clinic, an affiliate of the Kaweah Delta Medical Foundation, offers the expertise of more than 60 providers. VMC also offers a lab and imaging including CT and MRI. For information, call 739-2000 or visit [www.vmchealth.com](http://www.vmchealth.com).

## Trish Arnold Attends LPL Financial's National Conference

Trish Arnold from LPL Financial in Visalia, recently attended LPL Financial's Focus 2018 conference, one of the financial advice industry's premier events and the largest annual conference hosted by LPL.

Held in Boston, more than 3,000 independent financial advisors attended Focus to learn new strategies and skills, hear from industry leaders on a variety of topics, network with peers and discuss trends in the financial advice space.

"As an advisor, I am interested in best practices and insights on new developments to be able to better serve clients," said Trish Arnold "Attending LPL's Focus conference allowed me to network and hear from some of the brightest advisors and experts in the industry on relevant challenges and opportunities facing financial services today. I am looking forward to taking this experience back to my practice to provide further value to my clients."

Trish Arnold is an LPL Financial advisor. LPL is the nation's largest independent broker-dealer\* and a leader in the retail financial advice market, providing resources, tools and technology that support advisors in their work to serve their clients' financial lives.

About Trish Arnold  
Trish has a passion for helping individuals, families and businesses create comprehensive life planning, an approach that takes a holistic view of what you truly value. Trish is extremely involved in the community, and served as an Event Chair for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

About LPL Financial  
LPL Financial is a leader in the retail financial advice market and the nation's largest independent broker-dealer\*. We serve independent financial advisors and financial institutions, providing them with the technology, research, clearing and compliance services, and practice management programs they need to create and grow thriving practices. LPL enables them to provide objective guidance to millions of American families seeking wealth management, retirement planning, financial planning and asset management solutions. [LPL.com](http://LPL.com)

## HEALTHCARE NOTE Family HealthCare Network Continues to Promote Breast Cancer Awareness and Early Detection Strategies



This month, Family HealthCare Network (FHCN) joined health care and community based organizations nationwide to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Each year in the United States, more than 240,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 40,000 women die from the disease. The Center for Disease Control indicates that other than skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women, and that getting a mammogram regularly can lower the risk of dying from breast cancer.

As the largest primary care provider in the City of Visalia and Tulare County, FHCN's efforts to promote early detection and prevention of breast cancer is critical in the communities we serve. In March 2017, FHCN began offering mobile mammography services through a partnership with Assured Imaging, Inc. The mobile program includes the set-up of mobile mammography equipment in the comfort of an FHCN exam room. Patients are able to access the service in a space that



Kerry Hydash  
President & CEO  
FHCN

is familiar to them in their selected health home. The mobile mammography services at FHCN had an immediate impact. Initially offered at two of our health centers, the services soon expanded to nine sites. In the program's initial eight months, nearly 2,800 patients were screened. Through the just first eight months of calendar year 2018, however, nearly 3,600 patients have received screenings, surpassing the previous year by 28.5%. Mammography services are currently offered Monday through Friday, and various Saturdays.

The mobile mammography program has offered expanded access to thousands of our patients who otherwise may have had to wait several weeks to months to receive a screening. Offering these services increases the opportunity to lower the risk of breast cancer for thousands of our patients annually. Through these efforts, FHCN continues to achieve our mission "to provide quality health care to everyone in the communities we serve."

For more information about FHCN's mammography services, please call 1-877-936-3426, or check FHCN's website at [www.fhcn.org](http://www.fhcn.org).

## CITY UPDATE

### PD and County Mental Health Launch Pilot Program

From the success of our Environmental Cleanup Opportunity (ECO) Program to the Police Department's Homeless Outreach and Proactive Enforcement (H.O.P.E.) Team, we have now come together with the County of Tulare to launch a pilot partnership that focuses on identifying and providing outreach and immediate services to individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Our Visalia Police Department has one H.O.P.E. officer, Nate Henry, teamed with one Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency Mental Health Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Jerry Castro. Working together as a response team, the pair has been in the field for just over a month, engaging individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. As they connect with these folks, they are able to identify if they may be eligible for mental health services, alcohol and drug programs, veteran and/or self-sufficiency services administered by the County.

It is here that Mr. Castro and HHS's work shines, as the County's multidisciplinary team includes clinical experts, alcohol and drug



Warren Gubler  
Mayor, City of Visalia

specialists, self-sufficiency staff, and veterans services representatives, who all work together to provide a holistic approach to services.

Our overall goal of this program is to connect individuals to services, and to ensure that services are provided in a culturally competent and professional manner. Currently running two days a week, this pilot partnership is slated to run for 18 months. However, it may be extended, based on results.

Through this collaborative pilot program, our City's law enforcement is working side by side our County's Mental Health staff, arranging for immediate assistance to individuals in need of these vital services. It is through partnerships such as this that we can connect with those experiencing homelessness and provide them a hand up.

For more information, contact Sergeant Gary Williams at 713-4089. To contact Mayor Gubler directly, email [warren.gubler@visalia.city](mailto:warren.gubler@visalia.city).

## THE LAW AT WORK

### New Employment Laws for 2019



ATTORNEYS AT LAW - LLP

Each year brings revisions to existing laws or new laws entirely. This is of course true for California employment law as well. In fact, employment laws seem to shift with greater frequency than other areas of the law. The year 2019 will bring with it a host of new laws that employers need to be aware of. Below are some key changes.

**SB 820 (Settlement of Sexual Harassment Claims):** This new law prohibits provisions in settlement agreements entered into after January 1, 2019 that prevent disclosure of factual information pertaining to claims of sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender discrimination or related retaliation that have been filed in court or before an administrative agency. The new law does not prohibit a provision that prevents the parties to the agreement from disclosing the amount of the settlement.

**SB 1300 (FEHA Amendments):** This bill amends Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) in a number of respects, including to add a provision making it an unlawful practice for an employer to require an employee to release a FEHA claim in exchange for a bonus, raise, or continued employment.

**SB 1343 (Sexual Harassment Training):** Existing law requires employers with 50 or more employees to provide supervisors with sexual harassment training. This new law expands the training requirement to employers with 5 or more employees and requires that employers provide at least 2 hours of training to supervisory employees and at least one hour of training to non-supervisory employees by January 1, 2020 and once every two years thereafter.

**AB 1619 (Sexual Assault; Statute of Limitations):** This new law greatly enlarges the statute of limitations for filing a civil action



Brett T. Abbott  
Gubler & Abbott LLP

for damages for sexual assault to 10 years after the alleged assault or 3 years after the plaintiff discovered or reasonably discovered injury as a result of the assault, whichever is later.

**SB 1976 (Lactation Accommodation):** This new law makes changes to existing lactation accommodation law. The existing law requires employers to make reasonable efforts to provide a location other than a toilet stall to be used for lactation. The new law specifies that the location should be a place other than a bathroom and further specifies that it generally should be a permanent location but that it can be a temporary location if (1) the employer is unable to provide a permanent location due to operational, financial, or space limitations; (2) the temporary location is private and free from intrusion while being used for lactation purposes; and (3) the temporary location is not used for other purposes while being used for lactation.

**SB 1252 (Copy of Payroll Records):** Existing law already requires that employees have a right to inspect or copy their payroll records and that they must be allowed to do so within 21 days of such a request. This new law clarifies that if an employee requests a copy of the records, the employer must provide the copies (as opposed to requiring employees to copy the records themselves).

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](mailto:brett@thecalifornialawyers.com)). For specific employment law advice or other legal assistance, contact Gubler & Abbott (559) 625-9600, 1110 N. Chinoweth St., Visalia, CA 93291 ([www.thecalifornialawyers.com](http://www.thecalifornialawyers.com)).

## INTRODUCTION TO Quickbooks

Presenter: Lance Wilkins, M. Green & Company



9:00AM-4:00PM

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- Working with and reconciling bank transactions
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LEADERSHIP VISALIA

# Stepping Into the Shoes of Local Government

By Daisy Guzman  
Senior Program Coordinator, CSET



The Leadership Visalia Class of 2019 began its first session on Friday, October 12. The focus was an overview of the

different government branches: federal, state, and local, as well as our role in determining who is elected. We were welcomed by Karen Gross, Chairman of the Visalia Chamber. Karen inspired us to build relationships and get involved within our community. We were very fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet Congressman Devin Nunes. Congressman Nunes provided an in depth overview of how policies are formulated and the different processes that are followed. One of the most rewarding aspects in his role is seeing the flourish in entrepreneurship and business ownership.

Today we learned that when challenged by community issues, where to go directed, who to contact, and where to attend meetings. City Manager Randy Groom elaborated on Visalia's rich history and shared his personal experiences. In addition, Mr. Groom encouraged the class to seek out our local leaders and take advantage of their open availability to our community. As the day progressed the class took a trip to the Tulare County Board of Supervisors Chambers where we had a Q&A with Supervisor Amy Shuklian, Vice Mayor Bob Link and Trevor Lewis from Assemblyman Devin Mathis' office. The class had an opportunity to get to know each of them on a more personal level and see the solid collaboration between the city, county and state organizations. Their message echoed Mr. Groom's advice



'this is where the rubber meets the road'. Policies are set in place by the public vote.

The class took one final trip to City Council chambers where we were able to simulate a City Council Meeting. The experience was phenomenal! Classmates took on the roles of Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members. With the guidance of City Manager Randy Groom and Vice Mayor Bob Link, we were able to see the different components and processes that go into decision making at for our City Council. Today's session was amazing, and as members of our community, we were inspired in regard to civic engagement and educated in the decision making process. Gail Zurek, CEO of the Visalia Chamber, inspired us to ask the "why", champion our beliefs, and to always be curious. A special thanks to Suncrest Bank for breakfast, The Board of Supervisors for lunch and Karen Gross, Randy Groom, Supervisor Shuklian, Trevor Lewis, Congressman Nunes and Vice Mayor Bob Link for their leadership.



## 38th Annual Christmas Tree Auction: "A Holiday Affair" to Raise Money for More Than 20 Local Charities

Generosity and grandeur are combined as the Visalia Chamber of Commerce presents the 38th Annual Christmas Tree Auction Holiday Affair set for Friday, December 7, 2018 at the Visalia Convention Center.

The Annual Christmas Tree Auction raises money and awareness for non-profit organizations impacting Visalia. More than four million dollars has been raised for local charities over the last 37 years. Underscoring the significance of this annual event, the Christmas Tree Auction is the primary fundraising mechanism for participating non-profits.

Volunteers have already started to design and decorate 13 elaborate Christmas trees to be auctioned off live the night of the event. Additionally, that evening proceeds from silent auction items, including small decorated trees will benefit more than 20 local charities including:



- My Fathers House
- Read for Life
- Samaritan Center of Tulare County
- Seven Oaks Church
- St. Paul's School
- The Ruth Wood Open Arms House
- Valley Oak SPCA
- Valley PBS
- Visalia Rescue Mission
- Visalia Police Explorer Post #32
- Young Life Tulare County

Hosted by the Visalia Chamber of Commerce, the Annual Christmas Tree Auction has become a local holiday tradition. Each year more than 1,200

people dressed in their finest holiday attire kick off the season with a giving spirit. This year's event includes an appearance by the Mt. Whitney Drum Line, music provided by DJ John McCullough and a special Holiday sponsored surprise during the evening. This is an event not to be missed.

Tickets:

Lounges are now on sale. Lounges are \$1,500 and include souvenir wine glass, designated seating (for 8) in a semi-private lounge, access to VIP winery, live entertainment, VIP hors d'ourves, wine tasting, appetizers, dancing, live auction and silent auction. Lounge entrance is 6:00 pm.

General Admission tickets are on sale now. Tickets are \$80.00 per person and include appetizers, wine tasting, dancing, live auction and silent auction. General Admission entrance is 7:00 pm. General admission tickets may be purchased online at [www.Eventbrite.com](http://www.Eventbrite.com).

Positions on November Ballot Measures • Continued from Pg. 2

### Visalia Chamber Opposes:

**Prop 8: REGULATES AMOUNTS OUTPATIENT KIDNEY DIALYSIS CLINICS CHARGE FOR DIALYSIS TREATMENT. INITIATIVE STATUTE.**

**Summary:** Requires rebates and penalties if charges exceed limit. Requires annual reporting to the state. Prohibits clinics from refusing to treat patients based on payment source. Fiscal Impact: Overall annual effect on state and local governments ranging from net positive impact in the low tens of millions of dollars to net negative impact in the tens of millions of dollars.

**Prop 10: EXPANDS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' AUTHORITY TO ENACT RENT CONTROL ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY. INITIATIVE STATUTE.**

**Summary:** Repeals state law that currently restricts the scope of rent control policies that cities and other local jurisdictions may impose on residential property. Fiscal Impact: Potential net reduction in state and local revenues of tens of millions of dollars per year in the long term. Depending on actions by local communities, revenue losses could be less or considerably more.

**Prop 12: ESTABLISHES NEW STANDARDS FOR CONFINEMENT OF SPECIFIED FARM ANIMALS; BANS SALE OF NONCOMPLYING 12 PRODUCTS. INITIATIVE STATUTE.**

**Summary:** Establishes minimum requirements for confining certain farm animals. Prohibits sales of meat and egg products from animals confined in noncomplying manner. Fiscal Impact: Potential decrease in state income tax revenues from farm businesses, likely not more than several million dollars annually. State costs up to \$10 million annually to enforce the measure.

### Visalia Chamber Takes No Position:

**Prop 6: ELIMINATES CERTAIN ROAD REPAIR AND TRANSPORTATION FUNDING. REQUIRES CERTAIN FUEL TAXES AND VEHICLE FEES BE APPROVED BY THE ELECTORATE. 6 INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

**Summary:** Repeals a 2017 transportation law's taxes and fees designated for road repairs and public transportation. Fiscal Impact: Reduced ongoing revenues of \$5.1 billion from state fuel and vehicle taxes that mainly would have paid for highway and road maintenance and repairs, as well as transit programs.

**Prop 7: CONFORMS CALIFORNIA DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME TO FEDERAL LAW. ALLOWS LEGISLATURE TO CHANGE 7 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME PERIOD. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE.**

**Summary:** Gives Legislature ability to change daylight saving time period by two-thirds vote, if changes are consistent with federal law. Fiscal Impact: This measure has no direct fiscal effect because changes to daylight saving time would depend on future actions by the Legislature and potentially the federal government.

**Prop 11: REQUIRES PRIVATE-SECTOR EMERGENCY AMBULANCE EMPLOYEES TO REMAIN ON-CALL DURING WORK BREAKS. 11 ELIMINATES CERTAIN EMPLOYER LIABILITY. INITIATIVE STATUTE.**

**Summary:** Law entitling hourly employees to breaks without being on-call would not apply to private-sector ambulance employees. Fiscal Impact: Likely fiscal benefit to local governments (in the form of lower costs and higher revenues), potentially in the tens of millions of dollars each year.

## Provost & Pritchard Continues to Grow with the Addition of Four New Employees

The Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group team continues to grow with the addition of four new staff members: Sean Smith, PE, QSD/P, a senior engineer, and Taylor Pinkerton, an assistant engineer, will be working in the firm's Clovis office; Raul Lopez-Martinez, an assistant engineer, in the firm's Los Banos office; and Markus Nygren, an assistant engineer, in the firm's Bakersfield office.

"We are very pleased to add these four individuals to our talented team of professionals," said Ronald Samuelian, Provost & Pritchard's president. "Sean brings many years of water resources experience to augment our services to our clients. Taylor, Raul and Markus will also help strengthen our water resources and municipal engineering teams."

Smith has more than 10 years of professional experience, having spent the past six years with Madera Irrigation District, and the last four as the District Engineer. He has been involved with projects related to all aspects of water related projects such as canal structures, pipelines and long crested weirs. As District Engineer he was one of the key contacts for the District's compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). He also prepared and administered several grant programs with working at the District.

Pinkerton is a recent graduate of Texas A&M University where she earned both her masters and bachelor's degrees in Biological and Agricultural Engineering. During her time in school she also worked as a graduate teaching assistant and a student research assistant with an emphasis in water resources engineering.

Lopez-Martinez graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo with his degree in BioResource and Agricultural Engineering in 2015. Before joining Provost & Pritchard he spent more than two years designing irrigation systems.

Nygren also graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo with his degree in BioResource and Agricultural Engineering. He has completed coursework in agricultural structures, irrigation surveying and water hydraulics.

## Assistance League Helps Students Be Prepared For School



Members Mary Correia, Suzanne Babcock, Marguerite Brown, Beverly Yoshida, and Sandy Forbes with happy students.

Assistance League of Visalia's mission is to help the children of our communities. Operation Schoolbell® is our major philanthropy, and in just two months, 1,600 backpacks were distributed to students in 14 schools throughout Tulare County. In addition, our first major clothing event at JC Penney's clothed 260 students referred by Visalia Unified School District's SAFE technicians. Students in grades K-12 shopped with their parents for school appropriate clothing. Elementary students spent \$100 and 7-12 students spent \$125. Assistance League volunteers and JC Pennys' employees as well as community members helped with the shopping spree which clothed 240 students in 3 hours.

This event will be followed by two more during the school year with the hope of clothing 750 to 1000 students. Assistance League is a nonprofit organization that depends on the generosity of community businesses and individuals.

Our immediate goal is to raise \$10,000; if you or your business would like to help clothe a child, contact us at 559-737-1907 or our website [assistanceleague.org/visalia](http://assistanceleague.org/visalia) or email [assistanceleaguevisalia@alvisalia.org](mailto:assistanceleaguevisalia@alvisalia.org).

Our League consists of members from all walks of life. We would like to invite you to join us in our efforts to enrich the lives of children in Tulare County. Information can be obtained by calling 559-737-1907 or at our website [assistanceleague.org/visalia](http://assistanceleague.org/visalia) or email [assistanceleaguevisalia@alvisalia.org](mailto:assistanceleaguevisalia@alvisalia.org).





Continued from Pg. 1

**Journey Around Lake Michigan**  
August 10 - 18, 2019

**Greece: In the Footsteps of Paul the Apostle**  
October 2-12, 2019

**Oberammergau, Germany & Austria**  
June 9-17, 2020

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For more information, go to  
[www.visaliachamber.org/travel](http://www.visaliachamber.org/travel)



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REGIONAL LEADERS:



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M. Green and Company, Naked Nut  
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MEDIA PARTNERS:



CLIP & SAVE

CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	5	3
4	5 Visalia City Council Meeting 7:00 pm, City Hall	6 VOTE TODAY!	7 Emerge Class 7:00 pm, COS	8 YPN Fall Mixer 5:30 pm, Rocky Hill Brewing	9	10
11	12	13 Chamber Government Affairs Committee Meeting Buckman-Mitchell Office, 7:00 am	14	15	16	17
18	19 Visalia City Council Meeting 7:00 pm, City Hall	20	21	22 Turkey	23	24
25	26	27	28 Emerge Class 6:00 pm, COS	29	30	

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Comedy Blast Opens  
New Visalia First  
Auditorium



Hands in the Community announces their upcoming night of laughter — *Comedy Blast* — on January 25, 2019, 8:00pm, featuring the off-the wall duo of comedian Ken Davis and ventriloquist David Pendleton. This will be a night of side-splitting hilarity for the whole family presented at Visalia First Assembly's newly opened, 2600-seat state-of-the-art auditorium, located at Akers and Caldwell.

Named by *The Dallas Morning News* "One of the funniest comedians to come down the pike," Ken Davis is also an award-winning author of 12 books, frequent radio and television guest and a very funny guy. Well-known in corporate and faith-based circles for his entertaining motivational presentations, Ken is a master story-teller who serves up life-changing truth on a platter of hearty laughter and poignant wisdom.

Part two of *Comedy Blast* headliners is David Pendleton, who will not only amaze you with his ability to make you believe that anything can talk, but his comedy act will also keep you laughing from start to finish. David's flawless technique as a ventriloquist sets him apart from just about any other ventriloquist you have ever seen. Pendleton brings to his show a cast of comedic characters including lovable but blunt Aunt Tilly, a 94-year old spinster; the classic quick-witted trouble maker, Mack Elroy; the dopey yet adorable hound dog, Buford; and the slightly misguided albino vulture, Vern.

Event sponsor, Hands in the Community (HNC), is a community benefit organization established to provide volunteers and groups to assist with crisis and short term services for the underserved in Tulare and Kings County. The purpose of HNC is to provide an efficient network of volunteers/groups that responds to the hands-on needs of people in our community.

Seats for this "wild and crazy" event are \$30.00 for Premium and \$25.00 for General admission. Tickets go on sale October 1st and can be purchased online at [hnconline.org](http://hnconline.org).

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