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Business Update

AWARD-WINNING MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



UPCOMING EVENTS

- MARCH 12TH:**
Government Affairs Committee Meeting
Time: 7:00 am
Location: Buckman-Mitchell Office
- MARCH 14TH:**
YPN Meet Up
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: Barrelhouse Brewing
- MARCH 19TH:**
Non-Profit Best Practices Workshop #3
Time: 9:00 – 10:00 am
Location: Fresno Pacific University
Visalia Campus
- MARCH 20TH:**
Exporting 101 Workshop
Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm
Location: Tulare Chamber of
Commerce
- MARCH 21ST:**
Impact Leadership Conference
Time: 8:00 am
Location: Visalia Convention Center
- MARCH 26TH:**
Business After Hours Mixer
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: Sons of Italy Hall
- MARCH 28TH:**
Ambassador Breakfast
Time: 8:00 am
Location: Visalia First Assembly

TechCare360, Makes Technology More Friendly for Business Owners

Businesses everywhere are changing the way they operate with the help of technology. In its best form, technology should be a helpful tool that provides us with endless possibilities. It should give people the freedom to work how, when and where they want to work instead of being held back by the confines of an outdated resource. The best tools allow us to be more productive, efficient, and adaptive, all while saving money. This sound reasoning and advice is something that TechCare360 has taken to heart, and it is the reason that Sam and Rachel Ingram began their business almost five years ago.

The mission of TechCare360 is to help business owners to be able to focus on growing their company by taking the worry of dealing with technology away. TechCare360 is a dedicated IT department providing help with networking issues, e-mail issues, hardware concerns, and software. Most small and medium sized businesses cannot afford to hire a full time IT staff member, but they rely on technology to get through their day. And as everyone knows, when dealing with technology, there will always be bumps in the road and problems that require a specific set of skills and knowledge. TechCare360 helps businesses solve this dilemma by providing unlimited technology assistance for their clients 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Rather than paying for a full-time staff member, companies can pay a monthly packaged fee for services.

Sam noted that they “are here to help small businesses that want to save time and money. We serve businesses with 5-250 employees, specifically, many of our clients are non-profits, insurance agents, financial advisors, and professional service companies.” Once hired, TechCare360 becomes another tool for businesses, they provide unlimited e-mail service, data backups, anti-virus, and helpdesk support, all in a monthly package. The services were designed to completely protect and maintain a client’s technology.

Recently, Rachel and Sam participated in the Visalia Chamber Emerge Entrepreneurship Program, one of the takeaways from that class is that business owners should focus on what they are good at and build a strong network of support for those areas in which they are weak. Rachel stated, “Businesses should



be able to focus on their core product or service. We understand how hectic running a business can be, by delegating the technology needs to TechCare360, business owners can gain time, productivity, peace of mind, and money. We manage vendors, fix hardware issues, help you plan for future technology needs and can even help plan for office relocations, expansions, and new hires.”

Another way that TechCare360 can help businesses is by enabling business owners to stay up on industry trends. In many industries, the trend is to allow people to work remotely. More and more people prefer to be able to work from a coffee shop, from home or even while on vacation. This trend in the workplace has led to an increasing number of businesses moving to the cloud (internet) based computing. “TechCare360 gives businesses the ability to work from anywhere and protects the company data, which means that company can allow employees to work on their own personal devices without any security risk. It also means that companies will never need to buy an expensive server again,” said Sam. Allowing businesses to adapt to new trends by providing technology solutions is one of the ways that TechCare360 has been able to grow their business.

Another important factor in the growth of this small company is that Sam and Rachel focus on building strong working relationships with all their clients. Rachel said, “What makes us different is that we work each day to make technology friendly to be helpful and to be honest. We

believe that everyone should use their talents to help others. We are normal people, who just happen to be good with computers and we want to share that with others.” Rachel and Sam will host workshops during the year focused on how to use technology to save time, save money and save your business from disaster. The Chamber is excited to see TechCare360 continue to grow as they provide a much-needed service for business owners throughout our community.

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Working Smarter with Technology

Recently I managed to snag a nerdy best friend and I think everyone needs her. Beth Ziesenis, author and self-described as ‘your nerdy best friend’, spoke at a recent conference I attended. I consider myself a bit of a nerd and more than once have ‘geeked out’ on a piece of new information or technology. When I heard Beth was going to speak about the best apps out there, my little nerdy heart couldn’t help but get excited. Beth’s presentation was tech review meets Consumer Reports.

From the moment Beth climbed on stage, she began helping us work smarter, not harder. I heard that saying, “work smarter not harder”, all the time growing up and still value the sentiment today. As I spend my day working with business leaders, I know I’m not alone in saying it is easier said than done. But as Beth spoke, I began to think “smarter” just might be around the corner.

Beth Ziesenis’ recent book, *The Big Book of Apps* gives readers, her best friends, the best of apps on all types of topics. Need to know the best app to manage your schedule? Beth walks you through her top 5. Need to manage your family’s schedule? (I previously thought I needed to be a NASA engineer to do this.) Beth has three that will do the trick. Wait, there’s an app to track mileage? She knows a way I can remember my password without writing it down or making my password, ‘password’? Within two minutes of Beth’s presentation, I was in awe of all the new, better and smarter ways I could work.

Beth’s book is amazing and well worth the money to purchase. Here are a few apps that in my short time back from the conference, have already changed the game for me.

LastPass When was the last time you heard about a security breach? It seems like there is at least one every other week. We’re constantly being reminded to make complex passwords. In truth, most people have one, maybe two passwords they use across platforms. Not smart and certainly not secure. LastPass is a password app that creates unique complicated passwords for all the sites you visit. Best yet, LastPass stores your passwords so you don’t have to remember which password you used. Everything is just stored in the app under one, last password. Thus, the name LastPass. My app utilizes my thumbprint, so I don’t even have to have a Last Password. I love having the app automatically enter my username and passwords when I visit sites on my phone. They have a premium version, but the free one has worked for me.

Noonlight I find myself having both late evening and early morning meetings. I’ve been guilty of walking to or from my car when my gut told me it wasn’t smart to make that walk alone. We have a great community, but I’d love some piece of mind as find myself at o’dark thirty walking to my next meeting. Enter Noonlight. Noonlight is a safety button that reaches out to the police in the case of an emergency. It works when you open the app and hold your thumb on the button/



Gail Zurek
Visalia Chamber
President & CEO

screen until you feel safe. If you take your thumb off the phone, you have 10 seconds to enter in your code and disable the alarm. If you do not enter your code, they verify you need help as they send your location information to the nearest police station. Do they respond? Is it quick? Well, I inadvertently signaled the alarm while at the conference. I was a bit overzealous and in addition to my phone, I loaded the app to my Apple Watch. Late one night as I was playing with all the other new apps I downloaded, I accidentally and rapidly hit the Noonlight button three times on my watch. Very quickly my phone rang and a nice, real person was asking me if I was safe and/or needed medical attention. I told her I was just embarrassed. She assured me it was fine but would not cancel the alarm until I shared my code. I had to think fast but was beyond grateful that they verified that someone wasn’t just telling me to say everything was okay. I recommend this app for anyone who just wants a bit more peace of mind as they walk to and from meetings.

X.ai I really debated sharing this app because it’s that cool. So, another confession, I find scheduling meetings painful. The back and forth about when to meet and where takes so many emails and time. Sometimes in the back and forth, one of the original open spots changes and then the whole process starts over. Enter Amy Ingram or Andrew Ingram. (Yup, that’s the service’s funny nod to Artificial Intelligence. Get it?! Amy Ingram, A.I.) X.ai is a service that allows artificial intelligence access to your email and schedule and helps work with the other person to find that meeting time. Best part, it is seamless and easy. When I want to schedule a meeting, I simply email the person I want to meet with and carbon copy Amy or Andrew at x.ai. In the email, I communicate like Amy is a real person. After I address the person I want to meet within the email, I simply will say Amy - Can you please set up a time for me to meet (the name of the person in the email) next week or as soon as possible. Amy gets my email and then goes to work. Five minutes or so later, the person I emailed gets an email from Amy, my assistant asking to set up an appointment with me. Amy suggests some times but reassures the person if those times don’t work, she’s happy to find a time that will. Before I know it, the appointment is on my calendar and the person I’m working with raves about my efficient assistant. Then, the day of the appointment Amy emails the person again to confirm the date, time and location of our meeting. I’m in the free trial version of this service but I have a feeling I’ll be investing the \$8 a month for the paid service.

These are only three of the hundreds Beth Ziesenis shares in *The Big Book of Apps*. If you’re like me, you’ll turn a couple of pages and realize there are easy ways to work smarter. Let me know your experience with these apps, or any others she talks about.



- Sunny Portugal**
May 17 - 26, 2019
- Gems of Eastern Europe River Cruise**
June 28 - July 8, 2019
- Shades of Ireland**
July 22 - August 3, 2019
- Journey Around Lake Michigan**
August 10 - 18, 2019
- Greece: In the Footsteps of Paul the Apostle:**
October 2 - 12, 2019
- Treasures of Egypt**
February 18 - March 2, 2020

Continued on Page 6

Visalia Chamber of Commerce
222 N. Garden St., Suite 300
Visalia, CA 93291
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VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MISSION ICONS



Catalyst for Change



Community Convener



Champion for Business

Visalia Unified School District Hosts Industry Partner Roundtable Lunch Events for Linked Learning Academy Students



Beginning on February 15, 2019 Visalia Unified School District will be hosting 5 Leaders of Tomorrow Industry Roundtable Lunches for more than 450 sophomores in the Linked Learning Academies throughout Visalia. The events will begin at 11:30am and are being held at the Visalia Unified School District Administration Building.

The goal of the event is to provide students with the opportunity apply the knowledge they have gained in the classroom by meeting with local industry partners. Each student will have the opportunity to meet with at least 5 different industry partners whose careers align with the Linked Learning Academy in which the student is enrolled. For the last year and a half, students have been learning about their chosen field of study, and this event will allow them to dive much deeper with an industry expert. Students will be able to learn what skills employers are looking for, find out what an entry level job with an employer in their field might look like, and find out about the many different types of jobs that can be found in their chosen industry.

Participating industry partners will also benefit from this experience. Industry partners will have a chance to talk directly to students who are interested in pursuing a career in a chosen field. Partners will have the chance to ask the students questions about the materials that they are learning in class and discuss trends in their industry.

Each of the 10 Linked Learning Academies will be participating in this education event. Below is a list of the event dates and which academies will be participating.

February 15th – Law & Justice Academy and First Responders Academy

February 25th – Architecture & Engineering Academy and Business Finance Academy

March 5th – Computer Science Academy and Media Arts Academy

March 8th – Health Science Academy and STRONG Academy

March 13th – Ag Bioscience Academy and Ag Mechanics Academy

About Visalia Unified School District's Linked Learning Academies: VUSD offers 10 career themed Linked Learning Academies. Academies offer a four-year sequence of courses, but with the addition of two or more academic courses that combine to create a cohort of classes and a school within a school model for students. These programs are focused on college and career readiness, depending on the needs and next steps of our students. These programs are ultimately designed to prepare students to meet the needs of the 21st Century employer and ensure that we have a qualified workforce to support Visalia and Tulare County in the future.

If you would like to be involved with future events, please contact the VUSD College and Career Readiness department at (559) 730-7510. The VUSD College and Career Readiness team is looking for industry professionals who would like to be a part of the Visalia Partners in Education to help prepare students for college and career readiness. Industry partner opportunities include: job shadowing, internships, professional mentoring and guest speaking events and more.

Contacts:
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About this publication ...
Business Update is the official monthly publication of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce, 222 N. Garden St., Ste. 300, Visalia, CA 93291, (559) 734-5876. Periodicals, Postage Paid at Visalia, CA 93277; Publication No. USPS 494-660. Annual Subscription rate \$15. Postmaster: Send address changes to **Visalia Chamber of Commerce**, 222 N. Garden St., Ste. 300, Visalia, CA 93291. Advertising information, call the Visalia Times-Delta at 559.735.3235. **Editor: Nicola Wissler. Layout: Times-Delta Media Group.**

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Ribbon Cutting

Assistance League of Visalia

PO Box 4108, Visalia • 559-737-1907

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.

Business Connector Member:

■ **ALLSTATE INSURANCE**
(559) 697-6322
Insurance

Small Business Members:

■ **CALIBER COLLISION**
(559) 250-2438
Automotive Service, Repair & Parts

■ **FRIENDLY COMPANION**
(559) 802-3382
Home Health

■ **GIGI KRAUS PHOTOGRAPHY**
(559) 697-3612
Photography, Video & Production Companies

■ **LUX DERMATOLOGY**
(559) 627-9901
Health

Renewing

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

Regional Leader Members:

■ Epic Print & Promo
■ Visalia Rawhide Baseball Club

Keystone Members:

■ Tachi Palace Hotel & Casino *

Business Builder Member:

■ Bueno Beverage Company *

Business Connector Members:

■ 210
■ Carl Nelson Insurance Agency *
■ Citizens Business Bank
■ Classic Charter
■ Orthopaedic Associates Medical Clinic, Inc *
■ SHRM of Tulare/Kings County
■ Visalia Sales Yard *

Small Business Members:

■ Cafe 225

- CannaCanHelp INC
 - Central Valley Coffee News
 - El Rosal Restaurant
 - Fresno Pacific University Visalia Center
 - Hands in the Community
 - Lotus Fresno *
 - Miracle-Ear *
 - Oral E. Micham, Inc. *
 - Personnel Solutions Unlimited, INC.
 - Quail Park On Cypress
 - Seals Construction *
 - Success Learning Center & Visalia Music School
 - The Planing Mill Artisan Pizzeria
 - Tulare County Library
 - United Signs International, Inc.
 - Visalia Electric Motor Service | Magnetech Industrial Services, Inc. *
- Friend of the Chamber:**
- Peggy Wilson/Century 21 Jordan Link

*Indicates membership in the Visalia Chamber 110% Club.

Visalia Chamber of Commerce Seeks Proposals for Visalia SOUP

How do you "feed" a good idea? Visalia SOUP is looking to fund the best ideas out there.



The Visalia Chamber of Commerce is now accepting proposals for the 4th Visalia SOUP event on April 25, 2019. Visalia SOUP supports Visalia's best ideas to make our community stronger. Visalia SOUP raises money, builds community support and connects local resources to help entrepreneurs carry out their ventures.

Visalia SOUP supports the entrepreneurial spirit by creating a venue for the community to gather, listen to great ideas that support the community and to help fund projects that will make a lasting impact. Presentation proposals can be about a new or expanding business, a community project, an event or other ideas. Proposals must be submitted by April. All proposals can be submitted at: <http://www.visaliachamber.org/visalia-soup-proposal>.

Visalia SOUP is a community-based crowdfunding dinner. The idea, modeled after the program in Detroit, Michigan, is a way to promote community-based development through crowdfunding, creativity, collaboration, democracy, trust and fun. To attend, a recommended donation of \$5 gets you entry into the event, soup, bread and a vote. Attendees will hear from four presenters, who have four minutes to describe their idea to the group (without the use of technology), and will answer four questions from the audience. During the event, attendees eat, talk, share resources, and vote on the project they think benefits the city the most. At the end of the night, the ballots are counted, and the winner goes home with all of the money raised to carry out their project. Winners come back to a future SOUP dinner to report their project's progress. The fourth Visalia SOUP will be held on April 25, 2019 at Sevel Oaks Church. Visit www.visaliachamber.org/soup for more details.

#3

NON-PROFIT BEST PRACTICES WORKSHOP

Policies and Procedures

MARCH 19, 2019
9-10AM | FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
VISALIA CAMPUS | 245 N. PLAZA DR. | 93291

Internal Controls

Diversity Policies

Conflict of Interest Policies

Record Retention

Presented by:

SIGN UP WITH US
Cost per person **\$10.00**
(559) 734-5876
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/non-profit-best-practices-3-policies-and-procedures-tickets-55527418002>

APRIL 22, 2019
5:00PM
DOORS OPEN
5:30PM
PANEL DISCUSSION
WYNDAM HOTEL
9000 W. AIRPORT DR.
VISALIA, CA 93277

INFO SESSION WILL COVER:
How to apply
Minimum qualifications:
High School
Adult Ed
Community College
Student Demographics
Time Commitment
How to Plan a Lesson
Classroom Management

INDUSTRIES OF FOCUS
Arts Media
Architecture
Automotive
Business Finance
Construction Inspection
Construction Technology
Drafting
Electrician
Engineering
Industrial Maintenance
Welding

TRANSFORMING INDUSTRY SKILLS
TO CLASSROOM CAREERS

TEACH YOUR TRADE

WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM

Southern California Gas Company was at the World Ag Expo this year teaching people about how SoCalGas is clean, renewable and affordable.



Quail Park on Cypress would like to thank our Life Engagement Team. They understand the importance of staying busy and active with our residents. Activities enrich relationships, boost physical and emotional health and are a natural mood enhancer. We LOVE our job!



Pita Kabob would like for you to join them for a

series of Saturday afternoon live music engagements at the Downtown Gastropub Beer Garden with ZZAH! We're excited to have them in the Beer Garden EVERY THIRD SATURDAY afternoon from 1-4PM! Local jazz band ZZAH have been together for over 45 years—locally and on the road—and plays world jazz with flavors from around the globe.

The Bethlehem Center clothing center is in need of clothing donations. We would greatly appreciate the following items: Men's: pants, underwear, socks, shoes and jackets. Women's: jackets. Thank you so much for your support and thoughtfulness! Please feel free to call us @ (559) 734-1572 or walk donations in to the office between 8-4 M-F!



Sequoias and Snow - a stunning sight to see! Leave the winter driving to the experienced guides at **Sequoia Sightseeing Tours**. We would love for you to join us for a spectacular experience amongst the World's Largest Trees!

GRID Alternatives installs are getting bigger! In 2008 we were only operating in California - fast forward to 2018, and our impact is international! Last year, we installed over 8 MW of clean energy benefiting low-income communities. We can't wait to see what the transition to renewable energy will look like in 2028!

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Partnering with Parents in Creating Futures



Good schools are successful for many reasons. Capable teachers who care about students, a strong curriculum and good instructional materials, a positive culture and kids who are excited about their futures all contribute to the quality of a school. While no single thing creates a great school, everything has an impact in some way.



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

teacher organizations that take different forms. Both PTAs and PTOs are great organizations that help coordinate parent support for schools at all levels and are much supported by school folks. When I was a principal, I appreciated what these groups brought to my school, for having a group of people who would help was a priceless resource. As Superintendent, I see the deep commitment that parents across Visalia have to serving schools and students, and I can appreciate this support even more.

Parents who get involved in their children's schools help their kids set goals, demonstrate increased enthusiasm and higher expectations for learning, support good study habits, ask about learning, value learning new things, and encourage reading. The sum of these advantages is associated with increased learning and higher achievement for students.

The world has changed much since the time many of us were students in public schools, but the positive impact that parents can have on their children and their schools remains constant. If you are a parent who helps at school, I thank you for your support: you are making a difference and you are appreciated. If you are a parent who would like to be more involved in your child's school, reach out to your principal. He or she can help you find ways to connect with the school that suit your time and interests. You won't regret working with your child's school, and we need your help in creating futures for your children and the children of Visalia.

One element that has much impact on a good school is parent support. It would be difficult to overstate the positive influence that engaged parents have on schools and on student achievement. Parent involvement comes in many forms, and often evolves as students progress through grade levels. In early grades, parents commonly volunteer in their child's classroom or in the school library, attend parent-teacher conferences or help with the school carnival or other large school events. Parents of middle and high school students often specialize and engage with the school through athletics, music or other activity booster groups. And throughout the public school careers of their children, parents attend school events, programs and games. All of these are important ways for parents to be connected to the experiences of their children as they progress through school.

One of the parent involvement opportunities that connects across all grades from Kindergarten through commencement are parent-school organizations. These can differ from school to school. Many of our schools have PTAs—official Parent Teacher Associations that link to a state- and national-level organization. Some of our schools have PTOs—parent

Sheriff Unveils Memorial Highway

Sheriff Mike Boudreaux unveiled the Deputy Scott Ballantyne and Pilot James Chavez Memorial Highway Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, three years to the day after the Sheriff's light sport aircraft, Sheriff One, crashed on a hillside near Lake Success.



The Memorial Highway honors the fallen, Sheriff Boudreaux said.

"The Deputy Scott Ballantyne and Pilot James Chavez Memorial Highway is one that I wish never existed. Three years after that tragic day, we all still mourn the loss of two very dedicated and talented men. It's a reminder of the dangerous job the men and women of the Tulare County Sheriff's Office do day in and day out. Although this highway dedication doesn't bring our heroes back, it is a way for us to honor them and the ultimate sacrifice they made," he said.

People came from across the country to attend the unveiling ceremony which took place at Lake Success. A moment of silence was observed at 4:15 p.m. at the time of the crash.

Two brand new signs mark the Memorial Highway on Highway 190 near Lake Success, located above and below the hillside where the crash took place. The signs were installed Friday and were covered up until Sunday.

The Ballantyne Chavez Memorial Highway occupies the 4-mile portion of California State Highway Route 190 between its intersection with Pleasant Oak Drive and just south of HQ Drive, between postmile 22.53 and postmile 26.53.

In September of 2017, Sergeant Javier Martinez, who serves as president of the Tulare County Deputy Sheriff's Association, began the process of getting a memorial highway named in honor of Deputy

Ballantyne and Pilot Chavez. He worked with Assemblyman Devon Mathis to get it passed through the state and with KRC SAFETY Co., Inc. to have the signs made.

The cost for the project, estimated at \$30,000, including the signs, installation and permits, was donated by KRC SAFETY.

Sheriff Boudreaux thanked the Deputy Sheriff's Association and Assemblyman Devon Mathis for their hard work on this project as well as KRC SAFETY for its generosity.

Their legacy lives on

In 2016, the Sheriff's Office was devastated by the crash of Sheriff One and the loss of Deputy Ballantyne and Pilot Chavez. But with resolve, the Sheriff's Office has become stronger and even more committed to the service and protection of the people of Tulare County through aerial support.

In 2017, Sheriff Boudreaux unveiled two new Cessna airplanes which were paid for with insurance money from the plane crash and operational budget savings. The two aircraft provide safety to the men and women in uniform on the ground and a safer community for Tulare County.

"The population of Tulare County has grown big enough that it demands the need for aerial support for law enforcement and to increase the safety of our communities and to protect our agricultural partners," Sheriff Boudreaux said.

The Sheriff's Cessna 206 aircraft is named Tribute in honor of the fallen, specifically Ballantyne and Chavez.

Tribute's tail numbers, 189JC, combine Deputy Ballantyne's Badge No. 189 with Pilot Chavez's initials, JC.

Fresno Yosemite International Airport Sets All-Time Record With Over 1.7 Million Passengers Served

Milestone Year With a 14 Percent Increase Triggered By New Air Service and Expanded Frequencies



Fresno Yosemite International Airport (FAT) announced record-breaking passenger volume with more than 1.7 million travelers served in Calendar Year 2018. The Airport's record year represents a 14 percent increase over Calendar Year 2017, which welcomed over 1.5 million passengers.

"This significant achievement is driven by the support from travelers, businesses, community leaders as well as airline and airport partners who play a key role in the Airport's continued growth," said Director of Aviation Kevin Meikle. "As the new year begins and the Airport continues to grow, preparations on the FAT forward expansion program has begun and a new surface parking lot is scheduled to open in the summer."

Expanded flight frequencies, transitions to larger aircraft and the launch of air service to new destinations that occurred in Calendar Year 2018 contributed to record-setting passenger traffic. In May, ultra-low

cost carrier Frontier Airlines launched service to Denver. United Airlines began nonstop seasonal service to Chicago in June and is resuming that service this March. International carrier Volaris also added nonstop service to Morelia, Mexico.

FAT forward is the largest expansion program in the Airport's history and will include a \$115 million multi-year, multi-phased program that will include Terminal and parking expansions and a new International Arrivals facility. Expected to be operational by late 2022, the expansion will provide a world-class transportation facility capable of meeting the demands of the region and serve as a convenient, friendly airport with the best traveler amenities for years to come.

Recent expansion activities to keep pace with the Airport's growth trend include the installation of a new passenger boarding bridge and Gate 6/8 remodel. The remodeled gate area provides new seating, charging outlets and dynamic signage in an open space setting complemented by a new passenger bridge for quick and easy boarding.

Record passenger growth in 2018 contributed to an annual economic impact of \$844 million to the regional economy and an employment base of 9,800 direct, induced and indirect jobs. Citing strong financial performance and record passenger levels, the Airport received a two notch upgrade in 2018 from Standard and Poor's Global Ratings from 'BBB+' to 'A', with a Stable Outlook.

Like us on facebook.com/FresnoYosemiteInternational or follow us on Twitter @FresnoAirport and Instagram @iFlyFresno.

VUSD Announces Engineering Week Activities



Engineering Week 2019 is under way at Redwood High School, featuring a

presentation by local engineering and architecture firm TETER, job shadows, tours and more.

The activities are part of National Engineers Week, and are sponsored by TETER and provided through Visalia Unified School District's College & Career Readiness program.

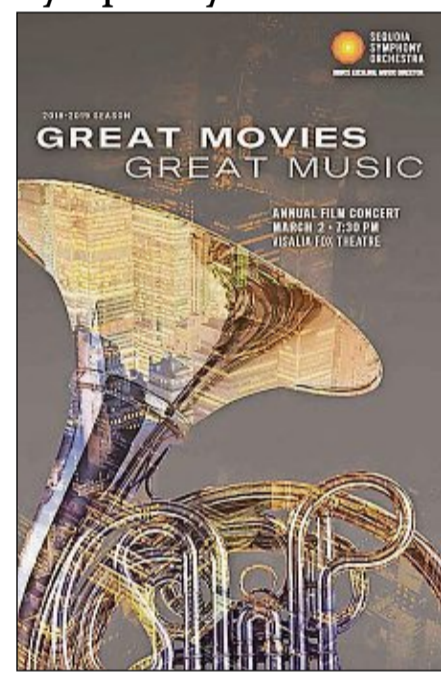
Students will tour the TETER headquarters in Fresno, hear presentations on structural, mechanical and electrical engineering, and hear an introduction to architecture. Additional activities include an essay contest as part of DiscoverE Girls' Day and a series of engineering-themed movies as part of freshman exploration day.

Girls enrolled in the Academy of Architecture and Engineering, Physics and Chess Club at Redwood High School also have the opportunity to enter an essay explaining why they want to become an engineer. The winning author will win a limited edition Engineers Invent Amazing Ladies T-shirt.

"Engineering Week happens because of sponsors such as TETER," noted Theresa Polich, work-based learning manager in VUSD's College & Career Readiness Program. "We are so grateful to TETER and to the staff at Redwood for helping to pull together an amazing week for our students."

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Theresa Polich, (559) 730-7991; tpolich@vusd.org

Great Movie Heroes On Hand at Symphony Concert



Batman, Wonder Woman and other super heroes will be on hand when the Sequoia Symphony performs exciting movie themes of super hero films at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 2 at the Visalia Fox Theatre.

The symphony's annual film music concert will feature well-known themes from such films as "Superman," "The Incredibles," "Batman," "The Avengers" and many others.

Before the concert, those attending the Red Carpet reception can have their pictures taken with Spiderman, Captain America and characters from "Star Wars" from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The reception includes wine, hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and drawings. Fresno Lexus will have their latest model on display.

Those portraying the "Star Wars" characters are part of the 501st Legion Star Wars group that creates their own authentic costumes and makes appearances and raises money for a variety of charities. The super heroes are part of Hero Alliance.

The audience is invited to attend the pre-concert preview by music director Bruce Kiesling at 6:45 p.m.

Tickets for the Red Carpet reception are \$35.

Tickets for both the concert and Red Carpet reception are available at the symphony office, 208 W. Main Street, Suite D, Visalia, downstairs in Montgomery Square. Tickets are also available at 732-8600 or go to www.sequoiasyphonyorchestra.com.

Visalia Medical Clinic Chief Executive Officer to Retire

After 25 years as the Chief Executive Officer of Visalia Medical Clinic, Richard (Rick) Strid is retiring and beginning a new career in teaching.

Strid has overseen significant growth in the multi-disciplinary clinic, which now offers over 60 providers as well as on site imaging, lab, physical therapy and a sleep lab. Under Strid's leadership, the clinic was named Large Business of the Year by the Visalia Chamber of Commerce in 2014.

He has also been very involved in the community, having served as a member of the board of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce, Wish Upon a Star and Grace Community Church. He is involved in the Rotary Club of Visalia and is a graduate of Leadership Visalia.

Strid and his wife, Kim, plan to stay in the community, watching their five granddaughters grow, and he has accepted a teaching position in the Health Care Administration department of Fresno Pacific University.

"VMC has been privileged to have Rick at the helm for the past 25 years, guiding the organization through huge changes in health care," noted Ralph Kingsford, president of VMC. "He has certainly earned his retirement and the board, physicians and staff are grateful for his leadership. He will be missed."

Visalia Medical Clinic, an affiliate of the Kaweah Delta Medical Foundation, offers the expertise of more than 60 providers. The Quick Care and Sequoia Prompt Care walk-in clinics are open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information, call 739-2000 or visit www.vmchealth.com.



Strid

Dozens Of Tulare County Classrooms Receive United Way Funding For Books

Over \$22,000 in funding is being distributed to 48 local classrooms by



the United Way of Tulare County (UWTC). Kindergarten through 3rd grade teachers from Dinuba to Woodville, and Earlimart to Woodlake, have been awarded grants from The Literacy Project, a program of the United Way aimed at lowering the rate of illiteracy in Tulare County while promoting and encouraging reading. UWTC Executive Director, Rosemary Caso said many of the teachers applying for funding have students who do not have exposure to books in their home, and rely on classroom books to fill the need. Caso added teachers often use their own salaries to purchase needed books and materials for their classrooms.

"It is important for students to have access to books which will engage and excite them in reading," said Caso. "Reading lays a strong foundation which builds success in school, career, and life." According to Caso, UWTC was able to fund every application received this year. Monies for The Literacy Project were the result of UWTC's Women's Leadership Council and their Power of the Purse fundraiser. UWTC also received major support for The Literacy Project from Ruiz Foods, UPS, Ed Dena's, and Wells Fargo.

You Can Be A Superhero

Superheroes aren't just people with mystical powers, they're often ordinary people who go the extra mile to bring light and love into our society. CASA volunteers are the superhero advocates who seek restorative justice for our community's children and adolescents in foster care, giving them the best options for the lives they deserve. Join CASA of Tulare County for our 3rd annual Superhero Run on March 23rd, where your super power is in giving and supporting our CASA kids, advocates and staff. You don't want to miss out on a nice run through scenic Mooney Grove Park and afterward enjoy a delicious breakfast, raffles, costume contests, and an exciting morning spent celebrating our CASA heroes! Register now at www.casatulareco.org and join us! Don't forget to dress up in your favorite superhero attire!



This is an exciting time for us as we seek ways to partner with others and plan for how we will best care for our community now and in the future. I would like to share how our partnership with 250 members of this community is transforming the way we do things at Kaweah Delta, how our affiliation with the No. 1 ranked heart program in the world will elevate heart care in our community and how our partnership with Sierra View Medical Center in Porterville will reduce the cost of providing health care to this community.

It has been more than a year since we created a series of community groups of approximately 250 people, to better engage with our community following the 2016 defeat of Measure H. The general obligation bond had intended to help fund Kaweah Delta's initial proposal for a "new acute care hospital" to partially replace a sizeable portion of the acute care hospital beds that do not meet earthquake standards in Kaweah Delta's Mineral King Wing. We never expected to find "silver linings" in the defeat, but it has been a phenomenal experience and in the long run, we are going to end up with a better solution. These individuals have helped transform Kaweah Delta into a more transparent, interactive and open organization. We thank our volunteers, who are now in their second year. For more information, please visit www.kawahdelta.org/cac.

We also recently joined forces with Cleveland Clinic's Heart & Vascular Institute, the No. 1 ranked heart program by U.S. News & World Report for 24 years in a row. This affiliation will further elevate services for people seeking cardiovascular care in the Central Valley as well as differentiate ourselves in an increasingly-competitive

This is an exciting time for us as we seek ways to partner



Gary Herbst
CEO
Kaweah Delta Health
Care District

market. As an affiliate, both organizations remain independent and physicians and staff of Kaweah Delta's heart program remain the same. We are only the second Cleveland Clinic affiliate in all of California. While our reputation of being an independent cardiovascular program for 34 years-- the last two years as one of the nation's top 50 cardiac surgery programs-- certainly helps support a successful program, we have to stand apart. By affiliating with the Cleveland Clinic heart program, we avail ourselves of their education, their training, their experiences, and their best practices. They come on site to provide us consultation to improve our operations to become more efficient and they give us access to the finest cardiovascular supplies and products -- the very highest in quality, at the very lowest price because of their reputation and their purchasing power. All of these new resources benefit our community by helping further elevate the care that patients receive here locally, as well as continuing our pursuit to drive down costs.

We have also finalized a partnership with Sierra View Medical Center that in 2019 will help lower the cost of health care for both hospitals and help us better care for the region. Under a Joint Powers Agreement and Joint Powers Authority (JPA), we will look for things we both currently offer independently and come together to provide the same service at a lower cost to each hospital. For example, we could jointly establish a clinic, recruit physicians/staff, or align pharmaceutical/supply purchases. If our hospitals make joint purchases, both would realize the savings from buying in larger quantities. Both hospitals will be able to achieve the benefits of consolidation, while remaining independent. An added benefit is we could ask others to join us.

We have had an exciting start to 2019 at Kaweah Delta; we hope it has been the same for you.

CITY UPDATE

Senior Games Encourages Community Participation

By City Staff

Winning never gets old for Visalia Senior Games participants. The 4th Annual Visalia Senior Games takes place this spring, spanning the last two weekends of March (March 23rd-24th & March 30th- 31st).

Our Visalia Senior Games promote a healthy, active lifestyle for adults ages 50 and better. The Games draw attendees from all over California and the Western United States, contributing to our local economy while showing the best Visalia has to offer.

This year's Games will feature events ranging from Archery to Swimming to Track and Field and newly added events such as Basketball and a 5k/10k Cycling time trial. Participants do not need prior athletic or competition experience, just a love of sports, fitness or active living.

In addition to athletic events, the two socials are open to everyone 50 plus. The I Love the 80's Game Night will be on March 23rd.

This free social brings the fun of a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament and a variety of games for just \$5. Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each event. The Party in the Park Social on March 30th at Plaza Park will include food, live music, dancing and drinks as well as a cornhole tournament. Tickets are \$10 per person for dinner, \$5 extra per tournament entry.

Not ready to compete but still want to participate? Attend a social or sign up to become a volunteer where you can assist at events, a social or helping to build packets for the athletes.

The Visalia Senior Games 2019 is just around the corner, join us and support our senior athletes as they strive to stay fit, strong and healthy. For more information on the 2019 Games, visit www.visaliaseniorgames.com or call Visalia Parks & Recreation at 713-4365.

THE LAW AT WORK

Reimbursing Employee Expenses



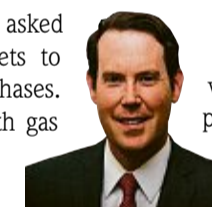
ATTORNEYS AT LAW - LLP

Employees are occasionally asked to dip into their own pockets to make legitimate business purchases. This may take form of filling up the employee's car with gas or buying office supplies online. Surely many reading this article have asked an employee to pick up a birthday cake or flowers for another employee? So, when employees use their own funds for business needs, what is the obligation of the employer?

Labor Code section 2802 is clear: "An employer shall indemnify his or her employee for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer ..." This usually takes the form of mileage, travel, and dining expenses.

How do I reimburse for mileage?

As the last decade has shown, gas prices can fluctuate dramatically. While fuel prices are relatively low now, we all remember when gas was approaching \$5 a gallon. Fortunately, employers have a guide when reimbursing employees for their mileage. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issues a standard mileage rate that fluctuates based on gas and other travel prices. The current IRS standard mileage rate is 58 cents per mile for business miles driven (up from 54.5 cents in 2018), 20 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes (up from 18 cents in 2018), and 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations (this amount is fixed by Congress). The rate usually adjusts each January.



Brett T. Abbott
Gubler & Abbott LLP

When do I have to reimburse my employees?

Expense reimbursements are not considered wages. As such, wage laws, such as those regulating the time and place of payment, do not apply to expense reimbursements. Therefore, employers are free to make expense reimbursements on any reasonable schedule. Many employers choose to reimburse employees once a month.

Are expenses due immediately on termination?

When an employee is terminated, all wages (including vacation) are due immediately. However, with expenses, it's not so simple. Employees often leave the job without submitting all final expense reports, making it impossible to calculate outstanding reimbursement in a final paycheck. Thus, employers should ask employees to turn in expense reimbursement requests as soon as possible and process them on a customary schedule. Remember that an employee's failure to promptly turn in expense reimbursement requests does not excuse an employer from responsibility to pay. A recent California court decision indicates that employees have three years to submit expenses for reimbursement.

In conclusion, while the rules regarding employee expenses are fairly straightforward, employers can save themselves problems down the road by making sure expenses are handled properly.

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).

ANNUAL AWARDS

Submit Your Nominations Today!

The Visalia Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for the
66th Annual Awards Celebration

Categories:

- Large, Medium, Small Business of the Year
- Non-Profit of the Year

- Woman of the Year
- Man of the Year
- Young Professional of the Year

To nominate an individual or business go to
www.visaliachamber.org/awards
The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2019

LEADERSHIP VISALIA

Impact Leadership Conference Announces Second Round of Breakout Session Topics and Speakers

The Visalia Chamber of Commerce announces the second 5 breakout session topics and speakers for the 2019 Impact Leadership Conference. In addition to the two keynote speakers, the Impact Leadership Conference will include a full day of breakout sessions that will cover topics from Employee Engagement to Managing Personalities. Each of the breakout sessions will be presented by local industry experts.



Employee Engagement: This interactive breakout will help team leaders understand the difference between engaged and disengaged employees, the effect on their team and the entire organization. Participants will learn to recognize warning signs, strategies to move employees into being more engaged and how best to show employees they are valued.

This session will be led by Jorge Zegarra, Director of the Training Resource Center at College of the Sequoias.

Workplace Violence: Run-Hide-Fight: Do you have a plan if confronted with violence in the workplace, at your place of worship or out at community events? The key to safety is developing a frame of mind and then a plan before violence ensues. This workshop helps participants identify threat indicators, their natural reaction to stressful situations and how to use both to be safe. This training is critical in a leader's toolbox. Brian Hampel of Hampel Security Consulting, INC is proud to bring this important training to Impact Leadership Conference.

Profiting with Nonprofits: Do you have a strategy to engage with community organizations? Have you considered the benefits of partnering with local nonprofits to advance marketing and sales goals? Do you know what to ask charities when they come asking for a donation? Brian Poth and Nick Vargas of The Source LGBT+ Center

bring their industry business knowledge and nonprofit success to this eye-opening workshop. Come and rethink how our local nonprofits might drive new successes for your business.

Nonprofit Board Do's and Don'ts: You've been asked to join a nonprofit board. Do you know what you need to ask before joining? Do you know as a board member what you're on the hook for? Have you thought through the real benefits this leadership position can give you? Learn all about how to join a board, your responsibilities and how this leadership position can provide important things to you, the nonprofit and our community. Rosemary Caso, Executive Director of United Way of Tulare County will lead this breakout session.

Managing Personalities: Understanding personalities is the key to learning how to interact with everyone on your team. This interactive workshop will help you gain an appreciation for the gifts of each employee and provide a strategy to maximize talent, while increasing productivity and lessening conflict. This session will be led by Lori Quinzon of the College of the Sequoias' Training Resource Center.

The Impact Leadership Conference was created with the goal of helping businesses increase the leadership potential within their employees. Leadership is important at all levels of a company and this conference, through keynote speakers and breakout sessions, will have information for employees that apply to every level of company leadership. This conference will provide insight, inspiration, industry trends and opportunities for networking for leaders, creators, startups, philanthropists, career advancers and recruiters alike. For more information on the Impact Leadership Conference go to www.visaliachamber.org/impact.

Healthy Living Expo at the Visalia Convention Center



Get fit for life! Join us for the 2nd Annual Healthy Living Expo at the Visalia Convention Center on Sunday, February 24th from 1pm-4pm. The Visalia Healthy Living Expo will feature health and fitness vendors displaying and selling health and fitness related products and services. Meet instructors and experts, ask questions and learn about adding more activity and wellness into your daily life. Also take advantage of screenings, healthy lifestyle cooking demonstrations, workout demonstrations and presentations.

The Visalia Healthy Living Expo was created to be all about YOU and your family, all ages welcome. The expo will provide information about all of the programs, services and opportunities that are available right here in our community with eating well, exercising and living healthier in mind.

Screenings, demonstrations and presentations to look forward to: Full court pickle ball demonstration; you will also have the opportunity to give it a try yourself, Zumba, Tai Chi, PiYo and boxing. Screenings that will be available include blood pressure, glucose and bmi screening. Local orthopedic doctors will also be present to meet and discuss orthopedic services and concerns with attendees.

Admission is FREE! Thank you Anthem Blue Cross for their generous sponsorship.

Be sure to check for the latest news and updates on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/visaliachamberconventioncenter/>

Thank you to our event sponsors: Kaweah Delta Health Care District, Anthem Blue Cross and Radio Campesina.

Assistance League of Visalia Hosts Successful Fundraiser with Community Leader Support

Thanks to the Visalia Chamber and its wonderful Ambassadors, the Assistance League enjoyed a very exciting ribbon cutting on January 31st. In addition to the Ambassadors, we were pleased to have representatives from Assemblyman Devon J. Mathis and Senator Shannon Grove in attendance and to have received Certificates of Recognition from their offices. Members of the JCPenney team, Visalia Unified School District, and the County Office of Education also took part in the event.

Following the festivities, the League conducted its Annual Rummage Sale Fundraising Event - conducted each year to benefit hundreds of Tulare County children. In spite of rain, the three-day event achieved large crowds and raised enough funds to aid us in continuing our philanthropy programs, including clothing over 700 local Tulare County children each year.

Other fundraising endeavors are scheduled in the future, including the sales of Disneyland raffle tickets (two winners will receive 10 Park Hoppers - total value \$1860) and our Annual Derby Event on May 3rd. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call (559) 737-1907 or email assistanceleaguevisalia@alvisalia.org.

Visalia Chamber Seeks Board Member Nominations

The Visalia Chamber Board Nominating Committee is asking the membership to submit names of individuals that should be considered by the committee to join the Board of Directors, July 1, 2019. All recommended individuals must be part of a Chamber Member business in good standing. Recommendations will be accepted through Thursday, March 7th. Please send all recommendations to Sue Summers at sue@visaliachamber.org with the subject heading "Board of Director Recommendation".

Protecting Your Business Equipment



You've worked hard to establish your business. You've made tough decisions and dodged countless

pitfalls. Nevertheless, don't let the excitement of moving forward distract you from the present: What are you doing to protect what you've already built?

Beyond the physical damage that burglaries, robberies, floods, and fires can cause, the interruption to your normal business operations is devastating. Luckily, many of these unexpected setbacks are preventable.

Follow these guidelines to not only help you prevent loss, but to help your business get up-and-running again as quickly as possible.

Security
Keeping your place of business secure often comes down to taking the right preventative measures.

Below are some helpful tips. Read more information about preventing workplace burglary and surge protection devices.

- Make sure any surge protectors you purchase are listed as UL Standard 1449. This is a national benchmark and means the product has been thoroughly tested.

- Point-of-use devices can protect particular appliances in your home, but a more comprehensive approach to surge protection is to combine point-of-use devices with another device, like a service entrance surge protector or an electrical panel surge protector.

- Direct lightning strikes are powerful enough to overwhelm even the best surge protection; that said, the ultimate surge

protection is to unplug equipment from the wall if you suspect a surge might be coming.

Water damage protection
Water damage in the workplace can be a major problem: not only can it cost you quite a bit to clean up, but it can also slow—or even shut down—your business operations.

Have adequate coverage
Although you can do much to prepare, you can't prevent every calamity. That's why the proper insurance is crucial, as it will help to repair or replace your damaged or destroyed equipment after a covered loss.

You'll be able to expedite the claims process if you've kept an up-to-date inventory of your business equipment. Remember to include leased equipment that is not specifically insured by the leasing company.

The information in this article was obtained from various sources not associated with State Farm®. While we believe it to be reliable and accurate, we do not warrant the accuracy or reliability of the information. These suggestions are not a complete list of every loss control measure. The information is not intended to replace manuals or instructions provided by the manufacturer or the advice of a qualified professional. Nor is it intended to effect coverage under our policy. State Farm makes no guarantees of results from use of this information.

Karen Gross is a local State Farm Agent; License #0C36140, NMLS #139716. For more information she can be reached at: 1325 W. Main St. Visalia CA 93291, (559) 625-8700, karen@myagentgross.com. Neither State Farm nor its agents provide tax or legal advice. Please consult your own adviser regarding your particular circumstances.

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ARE YOU EXPORT READY?

MARCH 20TH | 12:00 – 1:00 PM (BROWN BAG LUNCH)

TULARE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Are you looking to make your first export sale or expand into new foreign markets? Each year, thousands of U.S. companies boost their bottom line and competitiveness by meeting world demand for innovative, quality, made-in-USA products and services. You can too, with a good export plan.

Export 101: Get Ready to Export seminar, provides the first of a three-part series which provides an initial roadmap to exporting while introducing topics covered throughout the U.S. Commercial Service and U.S. Small Business Administration's seminars.

Presented by:



Continued from Page 1

- Taste of Vietnam:**
March 6 – 19, 2020
 - Discover Croatia, Solvenia and the Adriatic Coast:**
April 23 – May 4, 2020
 - Oberammergau, Germany & Austria**
June 9 – 17, 2020
 - Bluegrass Country & the Smoky Mountains:**
September 17 – 25, 2020
 - Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta:**
October 9 – 14, 2020
- Collette Vacations,
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- For more information, go to
www.visaliachamber.org/travel

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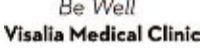
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- CIGNA, CSET, E.D.I.S., Lamp Liter Inn, M. Green and Company, Naked Nut Southern California Edison

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CLIP & SAVE

CALENDAR - MARCH 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 City Council Meeting City Hall, 7:00 pm	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 YPN Meet Up Barrelhouse Brewing, 5:30pm	15	16
17	18 City Council Meeting City Hall, 7:00 pm	19 Non-Profit Best Practices Workshop #3 Fresno Pacific University, 9:00 am	20 Exporting 101 Workshop Tulare Chamber of Commerce, 12:00 pm	21 Impact Leadership Conference Visalia Convention Center, 8:00 am	22	23
24	25	26 Business After Hours Mixer Sons of Italy Hall, 5:30 pm	27	28 Chamber Ambassador Breakfast Visalia First Assembly, 8:00 am	29	30
31						

Visalia Chamber of Commerce Seeks Nominations for 66th Annual Awards Celebration



Recognizing businesses that consistently impact and improve our community is a long standing tradition at The Visalia Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is seeking nominations from the community to honor the outstanding businesses and individuals that help our community thrive. Nominations can be made in seven different categories:

- Man of the Year
- Woman of the Year
- Young Professionals of the Year (under 40)
- Non-Profit of the Year
- Small Business of the Year
- Medium Business of the Year
- Large Business of the Year

This is an exciting opportunity to show gratitude and support for those businesses and individuals in Visalia that consistently go above and beyond to support the community they live and work in. The community is encouraged to nominate businesses or individuals who have exemplified outstanding service and commitment to Visalia.

Businesses who have not won a business of the year award in the last 10 years are eligible for this year's recognition. All business nominees must be members of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce in order to be considered. Winners will be announced at the 66th Annual Awards Celebration presented by the Visalia Chamber of

Commerce on June 13, 2019 at the Visalia Convention Center. Submit your nominations online at <http://www.visaliachamber.org/annual-awards/> or by calling (559) 734-5876 by March 1st.

Candidates for the Business of the Year Awards to date include:

- Philly's Cheesesteak
- Bubbleology Research
- Recovery Credit Repair
- Bourdette & Associates
- Momentum Broadcasting
- Tariq Javed MD, Inc.
- Oak Street Studio
- M. Green & Company
- Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
- Valley Oak Credit Union
- 4Creeks Inc.
- Quesadilla Gorilla
- Eagle Mountain Casino
- Wyndham Hotel
- Habitat For Humanity
- The Source LGBTQ+ Center
- CSET
- ImagineU Interactive Children's Museum
- ProYouth

Free Tax Preparation

VITA & CalEITC 2019



Tax season has arrived and Community Services Employment Training (CSET) will offer free tax preparation services to residents of Tulare County. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program prepares federal and state tax returns at no cost to households with less than \$54,000 in annual income. Eligible residents may qualify for the California's Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC), a cash back tax credit that puts money back into the pockets of California's working families and individuals. Simple tax returns, itemized deductions, and simple business returns with expenses under \$25,000 are prepared by IRS certified volunteer tax preparers on a first come, first served basis. Locations include CSET offices as well as mobile sites in Cutler-

Orosi, Earlimart, Lindsay, Woodlake, Farmersville, Goshen, and Exeter. Beginning February 2nd through April 15th, services will take place every Saturday from 9:00AM – 3:00PM at the following locations:

- VISALIA: CSET main office (312 NW 3rd Ave)
- TULARE: Family Resource Center (304 E. Tulare Ave)
- CUTLER/OROSI: CSET office (12691 Ave 408)
- PORTERVILLE: Employment Connection (1063 W. Henderson Ave)

More information on site locations and required documents can be found at www.cset.org/vita and by calling (559) 741-4640.

Community Services Employment Training (CSET) inspires youth, families and communities to achieve self-reliance through innovative pathways and collaboration. Since 1976, CSET has been the Community Action Agency for Tulare County. We are a nonprofit agency established to fight America's War on Poverty.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Albert at (559) 732-4194 or albert.cendejas@cset.org

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