



Business Update

AWARD-WINNING MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **JULY 9:**
Government Affairs Committee Meeting
Time: 7:00 a.m.
Location: Buckman-Mitchell Office
- **JULY 11:**
YPN Meet Up
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Barrelhouse Brewing
- **JULY 23:**
Business After Hours Mixer
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: ServiceMaster by Benevento
- **JULY 24:**
2019 Harassment Seminar
Time: 7:30 a.m.
Location: Lamp Liter Inn
- **JULY 25:**
Ambassador Breakfast
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: Visalia First Assembly



- **Greece-In the Footsteps of Paul the Apostle:** Oct. 2-12, 2019
- **Tropical Costa Rica:** Nov. 9-17, 2019
- **Southern Charm Holiday:** Dec. 8-13, 2019
- **Treasures of Egypt:** Feb. 18-March 2, 2020
- **Taste of Vietnam:** March 6-19, 2020
- **Discover Croatia, Slovenia and the Adriatic Coast:** April 23-May 4, 2020
- **Oberammergau, Germany & Austria:** June 9-18, 2020
- **The Azores-Jewels of Portugal:** Aug. 21-30, 2020
- **Splendor of the Seine River Cruise:** Sept. 2-12, 2020
- **Bluegrass Country & the Smoky Mountains:** Sept. 17-25, 2020
- **Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta:** Oct. 9-14, 2020
- **Israel-A Journey of Faith:** Nov. 2-10, 2020

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

Visalia Chamber of Commerce Honors Winners

Each year the Visalia Chamber of Commerce honors those businesses and individuals who consistently go above and beyond to support our community. This year is no exception - dozens of businesses were nominated for these prestigious awards which date back to 1952 when C.T. Buckman received the first Man of the Year Award. This year's esteemed winners include:



Man of the Year – William Martin:

William Martin loves Visalia and Tulare County, has a passion for investing in this community, preserving its resources, and has served many organizations in doing so. William was born in Visalia but his roots date back to his great, great grandmother whose maiden name was Murray, from which Murray Street is named. Through his service to the Downtown Property Owners Association, County Center Rotary, Mineral King Preservation Society, the Visalia Chamber, and various community organizations, William has worked to ensure our downtown corridor, businesses and local nonprofits keep Visalia a wonderful place to live and work. William is the Managing Member of Martin and Martin Properties, LLC that owns more than 100,000 square feet in downtown Visalia and has properties in five states. Described as a quintessential community leader, William has always been ready to get involved and take on projects as a means to find positive solutions to complex problems. His positive solutions have left a lasting impact on our community.

Woman of the Year – Susan Mathews:

Susan Mathews, through her work as an actress, educator, and supporter of the arts has worked tirelessly to make Visalia the vibrant arts town we all love. With more than 20 years as a Visalia Unified School District Teacher, Susan is responsible for Green Acres Middle School becoming AVID (Achievement Via Individual Determination) certified by the State of California. She also founded the 501(c)(3) Green Acres Little Theater Foundation, which exposes disadvantaged youth to the arts and has raised more than \$250,000 to support local art education. Susan is a doer and makes things happen. She was instrumental in the remodel of the Sierra Vista Auditorium, now known as the Rotary Theater, Visalia Education Foundation's successful Betsy Wolfe Fundraiser, and through her acting, has raised thousands for local theater groups. Susan is known for connecting with community members of all ages, backgrounds, religions, and political persuasions. As Susan has said, "Life is a play" and we are all richer too for the scenes we share with her.



Young Professionals of the Year – Shelley Ellis and Zach Green:

First exposed to the issues of human trafficking during a Leadership Visalia day session, Shelley Ellis and Zach Green knew they weren't the only ones in our community that didn't understand the real danger that exists right under our noses. Wanting to educate the community, they developed a documentary on human trafficking in Tulare County. Partnering with the Tulare County District Attorney, Tulare County Sheriff's Office, and Family Services of Tulare County, Shelley and Zach created a documentary, titled "Preying on Innocents," that is used to educate youth, parents, and community leaders about human trafficking. Winning the Big Tell Film Contest, Shelley and Zach have begun a conversation in our community that will prevent future tragedies.



Small Business of the Year – Momentum Broadcasting:

Momentum Broadcasting is best known to its listeners as KJUG, Hitz 104.9, 99.7 Classic Rock, and My 97.5 FM. Providing localized on-air entertainment, they also help Tulare County businesses connect with a local market. To the broader Visalia community, Momentum Broadcasting is known for its generous spirit and their willingness to utilize their platforms to elevate those in need in our community. Employees serve on numerous boards and participate in community projects including, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, 9/11 Tulare County Blood Drive, Food Link of Tulare County, and Lost Girls Cancer just to name a few. Last year they raised more than \$183,000 for St. Jude, nearly \$15,000 for FoodLink and nearly \$7,000 for The Source LGBT+ Center's Over the Edge event. Recently, they launched the Kids to College program, raising funds to send VUSD students to tour top regional colleges.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER Celebrating Visalia's Best

On Thursday, June 13th, the Visalia Chamber of Commerce held the 66th Annual Awards Celebration at the Visalia Convention Center. This long-standing event is an opportunity for us to join together as a community and celebrate the best of Visalia. For many, this event is about seeing the good, celebrating the best, and remembering that together we have and will accomplish great things. Our community is full of talented and dedicated individuals and successful businesses, so to be nominated for an award and celebrated that night is a true honor. I personally want to congratulate all the nominees as well as the winners.

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

More than 600 people attended the event to find out who the winners were. During the evening, guests were able to mingle and network while enjoying all of the beautifully decorated tables. Each table was decorated by one of 60+ local businesses, showing once again how diverse and supportive the business community of Visalia is when it comes to honoring their peers. This year two businesses won table-decorating awards: The Best Business Theme table was decorated



Gail Zurek
Visalia Chamber
President & CEO

by Buffalo Wild Wings; Best Overall Theme went to DMI Agency. In addition to the community and business awards, the Annual Awards Celebration is the time when the Chamber's leadership team transitions. Karen Gross, Owner, State Farm Insurance completed her term as chair of the Chamber's Board of Directors and introduced the new chair for 2019-2020, Rick Fedder, General Manager, Visalia Mall. Mrs. Gross introduced the incoming Board Members including: Andrea Castro (KRC Safety), Sam Ingram (TechCare 360), and Nick Pritchett (Williams, Brodersen, Pritchett, and Burke).

The Chamber also took time to thank the outgoing Board Members for their time, and support of the Chamber and our mission. Thank you to Stacy Morris (E.D.I.S.), BJ Perch (BJ Perch Construction), and Mary Alice Escarsega-Fechner (CSET).

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

The Chamber would like to thank everyone involved in putting this event together including: the Business Selection Committee, Event Committee, Man & Woman Selection Committee, MSI, Sue Sa Catering, Zach Green Films and El Diamanté High School Film Production, and the Visalia Convention Center. The Chamber is proud to be able to put this event together, and plans to continue to create events and opportunities for business leaders and community leaders to build strong relationships.



VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MISSION ICONS



Catalyst for Change



Community Convener



Champion for Business



Medium Business of the Year – 4Creeks, Inc.



Large Business of the Year – Wyndham, Visalia



Non-Profit of the Year – Community Services Employment Training (CSET)

Medium Business of the Year – 4Creeks, Inc.:

4Creeks, Inc. has been in business for 11 years, but their Visalia roots go much deeper. Many members of the board, executives, and employees grew up and went to school here in Visalia. Deeply committed to the advancement of our community, they attract top talent that shares that vision. As such, their employees are active members of many organizations, churches, and non-profits; serving on the Visalia Chamber of Commerce Board, in the Rotary Clubs and coaches Cal Ripken Baseball, South Valley United and AYSO. Additionally, they are very active with current students, as they serve on the VUSD Engineering Board, act as Marketing Planning Coach at Central Valley High School and the Tim Ainley Project with the Friends of Gold-

en West. They also pour back, investing in their employees. They have designed a work environment that stimulates collaboration and fun. 4Creeks has flexible schedules to make sure employees can maintain a strong work home life balance.

Large Business of the Year – Wyndham, Visalia:

The Wyndham has been welcoming travelers for more than 45 years. While serving the guests staying in their hotel, Wyndham Visalia also serves Visalia. Recently completing a major renovation, their new updated facility has allowed them to partner even more with our community. Key staff generously serve on boards and volunteer for many organizations including the United Way of Tulare County, Soroptimist of Tulare, County Center Rotary, Helping One

Woman, and through various committees and programs at VUSD. Beyond time, Wyndham, Visalia provided the Annual Awards committee a list of more than 50 examples of donated items charities use to raise funds and gifted space to non-profits looking to hold fundraising events.

Non-Profit of the Year – Community Services Employment Training (CSET):

For the past 43 years, Community Services Employment Training (CSET) has inspired youth, families, and communities to achieve self-reliance through innovative pathways and collaboration. CSET's four cornerstone departments provide wraparound services to serve the whole family. Community Initiatives offer a variety of family and community strengthening services through Senior Services, Housing Services, and the

Family Resource Center. Sequoia Community Corps develops the capacity of young men and women to thrive through job training education, environmental awareness, leadership development, and conservation work. Workforce Development provides innovative employment and training services to Tulare County. Energy Services offer utility payment assistance and weatherization services for low-income households to reduce energy costs.

Winners were chosen by a committee of past winners. The committee reviewed applications and interviewed each finalist then scoring on a point system. Winners were announced at the Visalia Chamber of Commerce's 66th Annual Awards Celebration held on June 13, 2019, at the Visalia Convention Center.



Buffalo Wild Wings Best Business Theme



DMI Best Overall Theme

Family HealthCare Network Highlighted as FOHC Best Practice



Over the last 43 years, Family HealthCare Network (FHCN) has garnered a reputation of excellence among federally qualified health centers (FOHCs) across the nation, as well as other providers. As an FOHC we have consistently worked to be a leader among other health center programs. As part of our efforts the organization has voluntarily participated in accreditation programs that measure our quality, safety, and patient centered care. For instance, FHCN is accredited by The Joint Commission

and holds a level III Patient Centered Health Home designation from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). Participation in and successful review by such organizations helps to assure alignment between our goals and actual performance.

In May, our efforts to assure that we are meeting our mission and clearly meeting expectations as a federally qualified health center (FOHC) was again affirmed by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA.) All FOHCs participate in an Operational Site Visit (OSV) every three years, with the purpose of reviewing compliance with 93 program requirements, each of which



Kerry Hydash, MPA
President & Chief Executive Officer

contain numerous sub-requirements. The level of review is detailed and rigorous; spanning multiple areas from a health center's assessment of community needs, hours of operation, scope of services, clinical staffing, quality and risk management, sliding fee policies, fiscal procedures, billing and collections, after hours care and continuity of care, contracts, credentialing, collaboration/partnerships, data reporting, board authority and responsibility, conflict of interest, and performance analysis. FHCN's OSV was conducted in May and proved to be an in-depth review of our programs.

After the review, OSV surveyors found FHCN to be compliant with all 93 measures.

The federal representative and surveyors called FHCN a best practice, and shared how impressed they were with FHCN's breadth of scope and services. Surveyors also commended FHCN for its culture of excellence that was apparent at the various health centers visited and among the staff who were engaged and willing to share the work that they do.

Family HealthCare Network is proud of our 1,400 team member's network-wide for this accomplishment. Their continued commitment to provide exceptional health care to the communities that we serve drives our success. Receiving a perfect score on an OSV is rare and is a testament of the commitment to excellence at every level of the organization – thank you to everyone on the team!

LEADERSHIP VISALIA

Thankful for 15 Years of Service



The Visalia Chamber of Commerce would like to thank Matt Seals for 15 years of service as the Chair of the Leadership Visalia Steering Committee. The CEO of Seals Construction, Matt Seals graduated from Leadership Visalia in 2005 and since that time has served on the program's Steering Committee, most of that time as the committee's Chair. With his leadership, the program has been able to grow, evolve, and

expand and just graduated its 32nd class of community leaders.

Matt has been a constant in the program, through changing CEO's and program facilitators. He has provided invaluable insights into the program's history and had the vision and execution to make continual improvements to ensure in the program's future success. He made a personal investment into the program by sending and sponsoring several of his employees through the 9-month class. He has served as a mentor to participants, is one of the first

businesses to support the Chamber's leadership development ventures, and was and is a spokesperson for Leadership Visalia, educating the community on its importance and impact.

Matt will be stepping down from his role as Steering Committee Chair, as he has a host of other volunteer responsibilities to focus on, including: Visalia Partners in Education, Visalia Unified School District Facility Advisory Committee, Catholic Professionals Business Club, Visalia Economic Development Corporation (VEDC), and the Visalia Unified Linked

Learning Advisory Board. He will continue to support and assist the Chamber's leadership development efforts by serving on the programming committee for the Impact Leadership Conference, a full-day leadership event.

The Board and staff of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce would like to thank Matt Seals for his continued support and dedication to the Chamber and to the Leadership Visalia program. Matt, your leadership, servant's heart, and contributions are what make this community a great place to do work and to call home.

Congratulations to **San Joaquin Valley Homes**, they were ranked among top 200 home builders across the U.S. by *Builder Magazine*.

Happy Trails Riding Academy was awarded a Sierra Grant that will go towards scholarships for children to attend Camp Happy Trails this Summer. They were also honored as Senate District 16's Nonprofit of the Year by Senator Shannon Grove's office.



On June 8th, **Family Services of Tulare County** hosted their 11th Annual Guest Chef Series. The event benefits the organization's mission to help children, adults, and families heal from violence and thrive in healthy relationships.

Suncrest Bank was named as one of the top 200 healthiest banks for 2019 by DepositAccounts.com. It is the second year in a row that Suncrest received an A+ rating as one of the healthiest banks in the U.S.

Kaweah Delta

Health Care District held their Starlight Awards, which highlights their best employees. Congratulations to their employee of the year, Emma Camarena, RN, DNP and to all other award recipients!



County of Tulare announced a new large-scale solar energy project at several County facilities. The new energy program is part of the County's Strategic Business Plan to promote environmental and fiscal responsibility.

Momentum Broadcasting's Kids to College Project raised more than \$75,000 in June.

Eight players from the **Visalia Rawhide**, were selected for the 2019 California League All-Star Game.

Over the past 103 years, **Buckman-Mitchell, A Gallagher Company** has supported the youth of our community through various means, including scholarships for high-school graduates pursuing a degree in higher education. This year they sponsored 22 graduates through their 2019 Scholarship campaign, awarding a total of \$11,000 to deserving students in our Valley.

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

Tony Carrillo



Carrillo

■ **What does it mean to you to be awarded the Epic Ambassador of the Year award?**

Being named Ambassador of the Year for the Visalia Chamber is a great honor. I feel like through this, I am not highlighting my accomplishments, but I am getting the opportunity to highlight CSET's and the Employment Connection's missions. All of our staff works very hard and I am the guy who gets to showcase that.

■ **How have you benefited from being an Ambassador?**

I have been an Ambassador for the Visalia Chamber of Commerce for more than 10 years. I believe that it has strengthened my networking opportunities and has given me many business contacts. Through these contacts, I have been able to help my customers become successfully employed and productive members of Visalia.

■ **What is the best part about being an Ambassador?**

I see being an Ambassador as a communication tool. I get to network with businesses in person, and get to inform that we are here to help them grow and help them with their hiring needs. I can show them the success we have had in developing other businesses all while helping our participants become successfully employed. I believe that becoming an Ambassador has opened many doors of success for me.

■ **What advice would you give to others considering becoming an Ambassador?**

I would tell potential Ambassadors that becoming one is a GREAT networking opportunity and a great way to get involved in our community.

■ **Tell us about what you do for CSET?**

I have worked with CSET for 14 years. I am currently working as a Program Coordinator at the Employment Connection. No matter how big or small the business is, I can customize recruitments, job postings, pre-screening, hiring incentives, and training reimbursements at no cost to the business!

■ **What's the best part of working for CSET?**

I love CSET's mission; to strengthen youth, families, and communities through education and employment training and other strategies that support self-reliant families and caring communities. I also love that we are helping businesses grow and stay strong in Tulare County.

■ **What's your favorite thing to do in Visalia?**

I love to play golf and help out at our community events.

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

VUSD: Building, Upgrading and Polishing

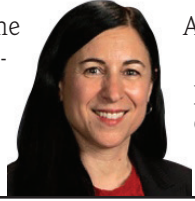


Summer is VUSD's time to do some heavy lifting on our school campuses, ensuring that we properly repair and maintain publicly owned spaces and meet the needs of our growing community.

Every summer, our custodial crews deep clean every square foot of our over 2.4 million square feet of space under the District's roofs. This includes carpet cleaning, polishing floors, and cleaning windows and wall spaces that can't be deep cleaned during the school year.

We use this time to replace carpets and flooring (at Mineral King Elementary and Redwood High School this summer), and roofing (at Elbow Creek, Hurley and Mineral King Elementary Schools, La Joya Middle School, and Mt. Whitney and Redwood High Schools this summer). We will resurface asphalt this summer at Elbow Creek, Golden Oak, Houston, Mineral King, Pinkham, and Veva Blunt Elementary Schools, Green Acres and Valley Oak Middle Schools, and El Diamante and Redwood High Schools.

Facilities staff will also replace heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) units at Goshen, Ivanhoe and Mineral King Elementary Schools, Green



Tamara Ravalin, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent,
Visalia Unified School District

Acres Middle School and Golden West High School.

Work on Measure E projects, our general obligation bond passed in 2012, is under way. The largest is a \$27 million project at Golden West High School, which will take almost two years to complete. This investment will deliver new technology, furniture, floor and wall treatments and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility and will replace Golden West's boiler/chiller unit with package units to ensure climate control in classrooms. Measure E modernizations at Ivanhoe Elementary School and Redwood High School will be completed before students return in August.

Construction of the new Sequoia High School campus is moving along swiftly. The District's newest school, Denton Elementary, will be ready for students in August. Hurley Elementary School's boiler/chiller unit will be replaced with individual heating and cooling units. Mt. Whitney's auto shop and new ADA access for the band room will also be ready for the new school year.

VUSD is grateful to the community for supporting our kids and campuses and we thank our hard-working staff for helping us provide the best educational spaces for students. Our goal is always limitless opportunities for their futures.



Construction continues on VUSD's Sequoia High School.

As Threat of Wildfires Grows, Safety of Local Drinking Water Could Suffer

By: **Tammy Kelly**
Visalia District Manager, California Water Service



California's wildfire seasons grow longer and more deadly every year. In just the last four years, California has experienced 10 of its most destructive wildfires, and the deadliest and most destructive wildfires in the state's history took place in 2018.

In the middle of the growing threat of wildfires lies an arcane legal concept that potentially can allow community water systems to be sued for the damage caused by fires they do not start. They potentially can even be sued when the water system's facilities are damaged by those very same fires. These types of lawsuits potentially could put the safety of our community's drinking water and reliability of its water system at risk.

For example, the Yorba Linda Water District was slapped with a lawsuit and ultimately had to pay a \$69 million judgment in the aftermath of the Freeway Complex Fire. But the Water District did not start the fire. It was a fire victim.

Let's consider that once more: Yorba Linda Water District did not cause the fire. Yorba Linda Water District's facilities were damaged by the fire. Despite being a victim of the fire, the Water District had to pay \$69 million in fire-related damages – money that could have been spent making improvements to their water system.

And more cases against other community water systems are pending across California.

But this is not a problem without a solution.

California Water Service, other community water systems, firefighters, and labor unions throughout the state have called upon the State Legislature and Governor Newsom to implement common-sense reforms that will help protect communities from future wildfires and ensure the safety of California's drinking water systems – the lifeblood of every community and an essential first line of defense for firefighters.

The state's Commission on Catastrophic Wildfire Cost and Recovery agreed with us earlier this month when it suggested that the state adopt a fault-based standard to hold responsible parties accountable for wildfires while protecting the safe drinking water our communities need and the fire protection we count on. The Legislature has continued to hold informational hearings on the issue and we hope to see action from them soon.

On behalf of the 143,000 customers we serve in and around Visalia, please join us in calling on the Governor and Legislature to implement common-sense reforms making it clear that community water systems should not be held responsible for the damage from fires they and their facilities do not start.

To learn more about protecting the safety and reliability of the drinking water we all rely on please visit, www.firesafecalifornia.org.



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Ribbon Cutting

Component Coffee Lab

513 E. Center Ave | 624-1334

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 Members:

- ERA VALLEY PRO REALTY
- PACIFIC TREASURES & GOURMET

Small Business Members:

- GLOBAL AG ALLIANCE INC
- SMS PROPERTY

Renewing

The Visalia Chamber of Commerce thanks the flooring companies for reviewing their commitment to the community of Visalia.

Community Investor Members:

- Eagle Mountain Casino*
- Graphic Packaging
- Gropetti Automotive Family*
- Joann Stores LLC*
- Sequoia Gateway, LLC*
- The Vintage Press Restaurante*
- Wyndam Visalia
- Business Builder Members
- Buckman-Mitchell, A Gallagher Company*
- City of Visalia
- National University System*

- Voltage Multipliers, Inc*
- Wonder Valley Ranch*

Business Connector Members:

- Caliber Home Loans, Inc
- California Wire Cloth
- Central Valley Business Forms*
- Central Valley Christian School*
- Chicago Title Company*
- Chukchansi GoldResort & Casino
- County of Tulare
- Franey's Floor Covering, Inc
- Giant Automotive*
- Lawrence Tractor Company
- Prestige Senior Living
- Quad Knopf
- RE/MAX All Estates Realtors
- ServiceMaster by Benevento
- United Way of Tulare County
- Untied Wholesale Lumber Company
- Visalia Ceramic Tile*

Small Business Members:

- Armstrong Property Management*
- BJ Perch Construction
- Bryan Company Demolition, Inc.
- Burgundy House Apts
- Care at the Court Yard
- CASA of Tulare County
- Chukchansi Gold Resort & Cansino

- Clark Pest Control*
- Comfort Inn & Suites*
- CRS Farming*
- Darrel's Mini Storage
- Del Taco*
- Educational Employees Credit Union
- Evans Property Management
- Eye Surgical & Medical Associates
- Family Services of Tulare County*
- Foodlink for Tulare County
- Frank's Appliance Inc.*
- Gilman Harris Travioli Slover*
- Hampton Inn*
- Happy Trails Riding Academy
- Hocking Denton Palmquist
- Housing Authority of the County of Tulare
- JC Lansdowne Inc*
- Jim's Formal Wear
- Klink Citrus Association*
- Lucky Day Laundry*
- Mangini Associates, Inc.*
- Martinizing Dry Cleaning
- National General Management Corp*
- Pacific Gold Agriculture, LLC*
- Pine Pedroncelli & Aguilar, Inc.
- Robert Half International
- Screw Conveyor Pacific Corp.
- Self-Help Enterprises

- Sequoia Foot Care Group
- ServiceMaster by Hellstern
- Sign Time
- Sons of Italy*
- Soroptimist International of Visalia, CA
- Students International*
- SunMed Health and Weight Management*
- The Barn*
- The Lockwood Agency*
- Tulare County Association of Governments*
- Tulare Kings Right to Life
- Visalia Adventure Park*
- Visalia Eye Center, inc
- Visalia Industrial & Family Medical Group
- Visalia Plumbing
- Vollmer, Daniel, Gaebe & Grove*

Business Connector Nonprofit Members:

- Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center*
- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Sequoia Parks Conservancy*
- Visalia Public Cemetery District
- Visalia Rescue Mission

Small Business Nonprofit Members:

- Proteus Inc*
- Central California Blood Center*
- The Creative Center
- V Town Derby Dames*

*Indicates membership in the Visalia Chamber 110% Club.

CITY UPDATE

Finding Long-term Solutions for Visalia's Homeless Population

The City of Visalia and partners continue to work toward a comprehensive but balanced approach to addressing homelessness in Visalia.

Despite legislative and court efforts to shift laws toward the protection of individuals experiencing homelessness, we strive to find a balance between offering assistance to those who will accept it and enforcement efforts to minimize the negative behaviors of those who will not.

"We continue to develop and refine tools to maintain local control over the negative impacts of homelessness while simultaneously supporting efforts to provide transitional or supportive housing and other outreach activities," said Randy Groom, Visalia City Manager. "We strongly support increased efforts by the County

and others to provide mental health services and drug and alcohol abuse support –particularly in the field – which are beyond the scope and authority of city governments to provide."

Many times, the first step in helping someone make a change is making the connection with those that are experiencing homelessness. Founded in 2017, Homeless Outreach & Proactive Enforcement (HOPE) Team officers handle calls for service that stem from individuals experiencing homelessness.

"HOPE officers work with community stakeholders to help identify long-term solutions to chronic issues," said Jason Salazar, Visalia Chief of Police. "Additionally,



Bob Link
Mayor, City of Visalia

"We continue to develop and refine tools to maintain local control over the negative impacts of homelessness while simultaneously supporting efforts to provide transitional or supportive housing and other outreach activities."

Randy Groom, Visalia City Manager

our pilot program with Tulare County Mental Health brings services to those who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of being homeless."

Authorized by the City Council in 2017, the Environmental Cleanup Opportunities (ECO) is a collaborative effort between the city, Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County and ABLE Industries to provide work opportunities to those who are experiencing homelessness or are living in transitional housing.

"In many ways, it's putting the pieces of the puzzle together," added Groom. "In addition to the varied City programs and services, we're also a member of the Tulare County Task Force on Homelessness. Real change will come from all of us continuing to work together."

For more information on these programs and others, visit www.visalia.city.

For more information on the City of Visalia, visit www.visalia.city or visit them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @ CityofVisalia



SCE Active in Fight Against Wildfires



Wildfires are now a year-round reality, and Southern California Edison remains active in seeking comprehensive action to enhance safety. To that end, SCE is a member of the Action for Wildfire Resiliency (AWR) Coalition which supports a package of measures calling for improved prevention with clear accountability to reduce wildfire risk, increased investment in emergency

response and skilled workers, and swift and fair recovery for victims.

The AWR Coalition supports enhance prevention with clear accountability. California can't eliminate all risk and potential ignition sources, but we must commit to greater investment in wildfire mitigation and prevention – especially in high risk areas – to “harden” the electric utility infrastructure that reliably delivers power to tens of millions of customers in every corner of the state.

The AWR Coalition supports increased investment in emergency response. Equipment, technology, and personnel must better reflect the increased risk of wildfires. To ensure emergency responders are better

prepared to save lives and property and to prevent future devastation, additional resources are needed to update the state's 911 system, invest in the Mutual Aid System, strengthen fire prevention, fuel reduction, and vegetation management activities, and improve technology for more effective fire detection.

The AWR Coalition supports a fiscally responsible approach to recovery – establishment of Wildfire Recovery Fund. Given the increased intensity and frequency of wildfires, California should consider approaching recovery from wildfires linked to electrical infrastructure like states have done for natural disaster

relief for hurricane and flood victims: through a statewide catastrophic recovery fund. A Wildfire Fund would help ensure victims are fairly compensated for their losses and that rates for electricity customers remain stable.

Achieving clean energy goals depends on a fire-resilient electric grid. Without resilient energy infrastructure, supported by stable public- and investor-owned electric utilities, we jeopardize the state's ability to meet our clean energy goals. That is why policymakers, working with public- and investor-owned utilities, should require sufficient investment to ensure California maintains a climate-resilient infrastructure.

Q&A: Making Money from the Sun

Whether you reside in The Central Valley or anywhere in California, you have probably heard your co-workers, neighbors, or even close friends mention the term “solar” over the past decade. And, you presumably have created your own opinion about it.

The one thing you may have not gotten much insight on is the Federal Solar Tax Credit and why it is decreasing over the next three years until it is completely obsolete.

What is the Federal Solar Tax Credit?

The federal solar tax credit, also known as the investment tax credit (ITC), allows you to deduct 30% of the cost of installing a solar energy system from your federal taxes. The ITC applies to both residential and commercial systems and there is no cap on its value. The ITC was extended by the federal government in 2015 and will continue to allow the taxpayer to claim a credit of 30% until the end of 2019. Expenditures with reference to the equipment are treated as made when the installation is completed.

Are you wondering why it will be decreasing?

Well, the Federal ITC (Investment Tax Credit) was initially organized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and was scheduled to end December 2007.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct) was the first major energy law enacted in more than a decade and makes the most significant changes in Commission authority since the New Deal's Federal Power Act of 1935 and the Natural Gas Act of 1938. The EPAct states that it has significantly changed the Commission's role in electricity and natural gas markets and has added to the Commission's historical functions. Throughout it all, the Commission has been faithful to execute the law in the manner Congress intended and will continue to do so.

So why has it been extended, year after year, over the past 12 years?

Multiple extensions have led us here. Thus, bringing the solar industry to its full growth once we reach 2022. The next five years of growth are all due to the spending bill that Congress passed in December 2015. Allowing the full 30% tax credit to continue to be available to

homeowners through the end of 2020.

What if you don't owe as much in taxes at the end of the year as 30% of the value of my system?

The ITC is a credit, not a rebate. This means you must have enough tax liability to get full use of the credit. However, if the federal tax credit exceeds your tax liability in the year of installation, the excess amount may be carried forward to the next taxable year. Some people are concerned that if they have money taken out of their checks each pay period, that they may not qualify for the incentive at the end of the year. This is not the case, where you have paid tax in installments during the year then the value of the tax credit would be issued as a refund. After 2020, the ITC will drop from 30% TO 26% at the end of this year and continue to drop until it reaches 0% in 2022.

The time to act is now and if you are ready to talk about how big your tax credit could be after you go solar, start asking today to learn more!



Tulare County Fair Kicks Off 100th Anniversary Celebration



The Tulare County Fair will celebrate its 100th anniversary in September. Each day starting at noon the Fair will offer special discounts at

www.tcfair.org.

All sales are final and promotions are only available online.

The count down is under way for the

biggest celebration in the history of the Fair, said Pamela Fyock, CEO, Tulare County Fair.

“We are creating a series of fun and educational events to celebrate this landmark year,” Fyock noted. “With the help of the Tulare Historical Museum, attendees will learn about the Fair's rich history and its role in supporting agriculture.”

As reported in the Tulare Historical Museum website, the fair began as a

small “sales ring” in 1915. However, the first livestock fair in Tulare County was held in September 1919. A few years later, two parcels of land were obtained and then in the early 1930s a 35-acre parcel owned by the chamber became available. That land was acquired for \$1,700, bringing the total acreage to the current 50 acres.

Community performing groups are encouraged to complete the application on

the tcfair.org web site. The livestock show competitive handbook and indoor junior and adult exhibit competitive handbooks are also available online.

In addition, fairgoers can compete in a butter sculpture contest, a corn dog eating contest, and a pie eating contest and enjoy a historic lineup of grandstand and grounds entertainment.

For details, contact the Tulare County Fair at 686-4707.



Visalia Medical Clinic Nurse Practitioner Earns Doctoral Degree



Be Well

Visalia Medical Clinic

Visalia Medical Clinic adult gerontology nurse practitioner Andrea Van Beek has earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from Duke University.

Van Beek, who sees patients at VMC's anticoagulation clinic, described the new degree as focused on evidence-based practices, quality improvement and systems leadership. The program trains nurse leaders to implement research into a clinical practice.

“I wanted to further my education so that I can best help my patients receive the highest level of care, based upon evidence-based research,” Van Beek noted. “The result will be a continual improvement in the care we provide. The DNP degree is not

common in this area but it is going to prove to be very valuable to our patients.”

As part of her studies, Van Beek designed a quality improvement project looking at the result of implementing home testing for her patients who are on anticoagulation medications such as Coumadin and need to have frequent blood draws. Her project demonstrated that the home testing helped to reduce adverse events, improved patient satisfaction and kept the patients' key numbers in target range, more often than the national average.

Van Beek also holds a master's degree in nursing from Duke University, a bachelor's degree in nursing from California State University, Bakersfield, and is board-certified as an adult gerontology primary care nurse practitioner.

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.



CLIP & SAVE



CALENDAR - JULY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Visalia City Council Meeting City Hall, 7:00pm	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 YPN Meet Up Barrelhouse Brewing, 5:30 p.m.	12	13
14	15 Visalia City Council Meeting City Hall, 7:00pm	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Business After Hours Mixer ServiceMaster by Benevento, 5:30 p.m.	24 2019 Harassment Seminar Lamp Litter Inn, 7:30 a.m.	25 Chamber Ambassador Breakfast Visalia First Assembly, 8 a.m.	26	27
28	29	30	31			

THANK YOU TO OUR PREMIER MEMBERS:

CHAMPION:



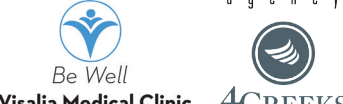
VISIONARY:



REGIONAL LEADERS:



KEYSTONE:



CORNERSTONE:

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

MEDIA PARTNERS:



Brand New Trip Announced for 2020

The Chamber has just secured one more trip for 2020 and we know you're not going to want to miss it. Collette just announced a brand-new trip – The Azores: Jewels of Portugal. Based on continual requests, we jumped on the opportunity to offer this trip to our Tulare County travelers.

Whether your family is from the Azores, or you've had it on your bucket list for some time, this beautiful group of islands will surely take your breath away.

This 10-day adventure departs on Aug. 21 and returns on Aug. 30, 2020. The trip begins in São Miguel, the largest of the nine volcanic islands. Imagine yourself sitting along the seaside promenade and breathing in the mild air of the Atlantic. You will get to know Ponta Delgada, the capital city of the Azores, on a brief walking tour of the area.

Then, you'll leave the main road behind and embrace an off-road adventure on the "Green Island." Traverse the dirt roads and pass by dairy farms before pausing at the highest point of the island, taking in the all-encompassing natural beauty at your feet. Venture to Sete Cidades, the striking blue and green mirror lakes, where you'll navigate the rim of the entire crater. Return to Ponta Delgada with free time to relax in a local café or meander through the streets. Or, continue your exploration with an optional tour... perhaps you'll choose to swim with a pod of dolphins or embark on an intimate whale watching excursion.

On your way to the dynamic volcano complex of Furnas, get a glimpse of Portugal's sweet side at a family run queijadas (pastry) bakery. Immerse yourself into a heated pool of rejuvenation in the natural thermal waters of the Furnas valley. Watch as your lunch is raised out of the heat of the volcanic earth and served as a traditional Cozido das Furnas meal. As you dig into your food, admire an exclusive viewpoint of Furnas Lake from the Terra Nostra Tea House. Continue on to the pastures of Porto Formosa, home to one of the only European tea plantations.

Wish São Miguel goodbye and say hello to the colorful island of Terceira. Stand along the edge of the crater at Serra do Cume viewpoint and take in the island's patchwork of infinite green. Continue your journey and swap the grassy fields for sandy shores at Praia Victoria, or "Beach of Victory." Get to know Angra do Heroismo as you walk the streets this afternoon with a guide. Recently restored in traditional style, admire the white facades and colorful trims of the iconic buildings in this UNESCO World Heritage site. Get a taste of Azorean culture during dinner at a local restaurant where you're invited to try alcatra, the savory meat stew Terceira is known for.

Enjoy a free morning to choose how you experience Terceira. Maybe you'll decide on an optional tour to a dairy farm, where you'll get to milk a cow and taste the dairy products. Or perhaps strapping on your hiking boots and embarking on an adventurous trek along two volcanoes at Misterios Negros Nature Reserve is more to your liking. Next, we gather and head underground to experience the ethereal Algar do Carvao, the "Cavern of Coal," with an expert guide. Then, it's your choice! Choose to swim in the natural volcanic pools of Biscoitos -OR- hike along



The Azores St. Michael

lava fields and vineyards. Enjoy leisure time in Angra afterwards or entice your taste buds on an optional Portuguese wine and tapas experience.

Say bom dia (good morning) to Faial, the "Blue Island" of the Azores. With hydrangeas as far as the eye can see and stunning coastlines, discover the remarkable beauty of this island. Peek into the daily life of dairy production when you drop by the family-owned Morro cheese factory, where you'll sample the fruits of their production. Encounter the volcanic vitality of Faial when you take in the collapsed Caldeira and the ash hills of the Capelinhos Volcano Interpretation Center. Your exploration continues as you embark on a ferry ride to Pico, the nearby island known for its lava fields and vineyards. Settle in amongst the lava stone houses of Aldeia da Fonte. Here, overlooking the sea, the sounds of rolling waves will serenade you to sleep for the next two nights. Enjoy dinner at this innovative cliff-side abode, stroll through the luxurious gardens, and let the incomparable view of the Atlantic wash over you.

Walk along the surreal landscape of

grapes that grow between plots of rocky stone walls as you explore Pico vineyards (UNESCO). In the center of the vineyard, climb the bright red windmill and take in a new perspective of the stretching fields, lava rocks, and vines. Next, taste these exclusive wines of limited production at a wine collaborative. Then, it's your choice! In Lajes, choose to visit the whaling museum highlighting the historical ties of the industry to the culture of the islands -OR- take advantage of free time in town to explore the area independently.

Depart Pico for São Miguel and enjoy some time at leisure. Whether you want to relax on the sandy shores, wander the streets of the capital city, or get one last taste of Portuguese pastries, spend the day however you please. Tonight, toast to the end of your Azorean adventure with a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Finnall, say adeus (goodbye) to the Azores as you depart this Atlantic archipelago.

The Chamber is proud to offer a Collette Explorations trip. Explorations are small group tours (12-24 passengers) that give travelers access to the world in a truly authentic way. On these active, immersive journeys, travelers connect with the cultures of the world on a deeper, more meaningful level in ways that are hard to replicate. The group size is kept small, allowing these journeys to be the most active, engaging, and rewarding experience possible.

For more information about traveling with the Chamber and upcoming tours go to www.visaliachamber.org/ travel call the Chamber at 559-734-5876.

**Labor Law Compliance Series
For Supervisor & Employees**

Visalia Chamber of Commerce & Pacific Employers

Want to help you Stop Harassment

Under California AB 1343, and most recently, **SB 1343**, employers with five or more employees are required to conduct sexual harassment training programs once every two years for supervisors and employees. By the end of 2019, SB 1343 requires employers in California provide two hours of sexual harassment training to supervisors and one hour of training to non-supervisor employees. The training must be provided within six months of hiring and repeated every two years. Supervisors covered under the law must be trained by January 1, 2020.

Lamp Litter Inn • 3300 W. Mineral King Ave. • Visalia

2019 Schedule
7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
July 24th Oct 23rd

Circle which date you will be attending
Registration 7:30 - 8:00 a.m., Seminar 8 - 10 a.m.
Employee Rate is \$25/Supervisor Rate is \$40

The Visalia Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with Pacific Employers, will present the state mandated Supervisors' and Employees' Sexual Harassment Prevention Training Seminar & Workshop. The training program's first hour will include the required employee training and extend to the two-hour required training for supervisors. It will contain information and practical guidance regarding federal and state sexual harassment laws, harassment prevention, bullying prevention and correction as well as remedies available to victims. The training is "interactive," and includes opportunities for discussion, role-playing and a question and answer session led by a qualified trainer as required by AB 1343 and SB 1343. While all employers with 5 or more employees (including temps and independent contractors) are mandated to provide supervisor and employee training, **All employers** need to consider this requirement as the new mandate for all supervisors, **no matter how many employees you have.**

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Online Reservation: <http://visaliachamber-dev.chambermaster.com/events/calendar/>
Fax registration to 559-734-7479.
Date of seminar _____
Name: _____
Business Name: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
Number of People Attending: _____
We will call you for your Credit Card upon receiving this fax.
Please include a list of names attending along with this form indicating Supervisor or Employer