



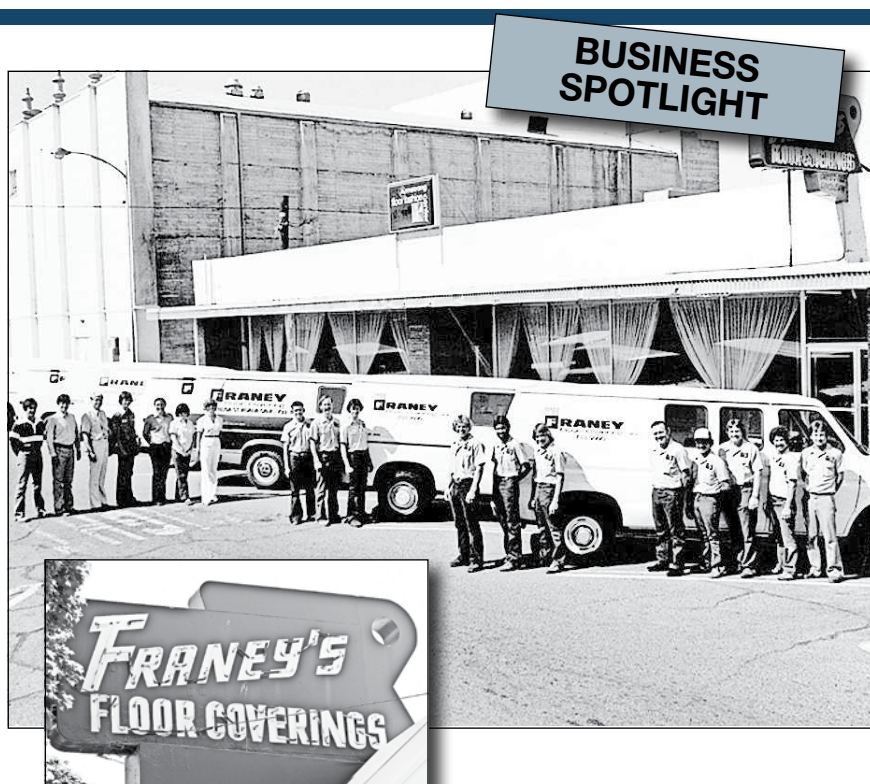
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# Business Update

AWARD-WINNING MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- SEPTEMBER 3, 2015**  
**Cal Water Business Seminar**  
 Café 210, 210 W. Center Ave., 10 am
- SEPTEMBER 9, 2015**  
**Young Entrepreneurs Academy Info Session**  
 Chamber Office, 222 N. Garden #300  
 6 pm
- SEPTEMBER 9, 2015**  
**Business Academy Seminar**  
**Let's Talk Social**  
 Presented by True Legacy Consulting  
 Brandman University, Visalia Campus  
 9-10 am  
 Register: [www.visaliachamber.org/events/calendar/](http://www.visaliachamber.org/events/calendar/)
- SEPTEMBER 16, 2015**  
**Business Academy Seminar**  
**Legally Collecting Within the Law**  
 Presented by Financial Credit Network  
 Brandman University, Visalia Campus  
 9-10 am  
 Register: [www.visaliachamber.org/events/calendar/](http://www.visaliachamber.org/events/calendar/)
- SEPTEMBER 16, 2015**  
**Young Professionals Network Workshop**  
**Civic & Chamber Engagement**  
 Fresno Pacific University  
 Visalia Campus  
 5:30-6:30 pm  
 RSVP: [vyppn@visaliachamber.org](mailto:vyppn@visaliachamber.org)
- SEPTEMBER 22, 2015**  
**Business After Hours Mixer**  
 Hosted by COS, Access & Ability Dept.  
 915 S. Mooney Blvd.  
 5:30-7:30 pm
- SEPTEMBER 23, 2015**  
**Young Professionals Network Workshop**  
**Non-Profit & Service Club Engagement**  
 Fresno Pacific University  
 Visalia Campus  
 5:30-6:30 pm  
 RSVP: [vyppn@visaliachamber.org](mailto:vyppn@visaliachamber.org)
- SEPTEMBER 30, 2015**  
**Slideshow Presentation**  
**"Champagne, Burgundy & Paris"**  
 Chamber Office, 222 N. Garden #300  
 12 noon  
 Presented by Jet Vacations



## Franey's Carpet One and Design Center 60 years of quality products and outstanding services

By Nicola Wissler

Roger Franey had a big dream ... to open a flooring business with a strong commitment to quality and service, and to build the absolute best reputation in the industry. Today, Franey's Carpet One and Design Center has gained recognition as one of the top, locally-owned businesses in the South Valley for floor, wall, and window coverings.

In 1955, Roger realized his dream when he opened Franey's Floor Covering with just five employees and a mere 2,000 sq. ft. showroom. In January 1956, he nearly lost that dream when severe flooding took out much of downtown Visalia. As Roger's son Mark recalled, "After realizing that trying to place more sandbags around the store was not going to keep the water out, he gave up." He then went out to get a cup of coffee and ran into his insurance agent who reminded him about his flood insurance. Roger was

surprised and delighted he would be able to rebuild his business. Thanks to that rebuild and constant community support, Franey's is proudly celebrating its 60-year anniversary this fall.

Roger's son, David, joined the business in 1975, followed by his brother, Mark, who joined later in 1980. After Roger retired in 1994, David and Mark have continued to expand the business along with their father's dream. Working so closely with family might prove challenging for some, but both David and Mark report they enjoy working together. It helps that each brother has his own defined responsibilities within the business, which keeps the day-to-day operations running smoothly.

For the Franeys, taking care of employees is their number one priority, and it shows. Brothers David and Mark believe that every employee is a member of the Franey's family. That family atmosphere is apparent from the moment you walk in the door. Come in and you might meet James (Jimmy) Rodrigues, who has been

See Franey's / 2



GROUND BREAKING  
•  
GRAND OPENING  
•  
RIBBON CUTTING  
•  
CEREMONIES



### CTIC

608 E. Center St. • Visalia • 559.471.6803  
[www.ctic-global.com](http://www.ctic-global.com)



### Pacific Stihl

9810 W. Ferguson, Ste. C • Visalia • 559.624.4350  
[www.stihl.us](http://www.stihl.us)



### Foothills Sun-Gazette

120 N. 'E' Street • Exeter • 559.592.4308  
[www.fsgnews.com](http://www.fsgnews.com)



### Boretti Inc.

1817 S. Woodland • Visalia • 559.372.7545  
[www.borettiinc.com](http://www.borettiinc.com)



### Lifestyle Center

5105 W. Cypress Ave. • Visalia • 559.624.3409  
[www.lifestylecenter.org](http://www.lifestylecenter.org)

## We Invite you to Explore in 2016!

- Natural Wonders of Costa Rica**  
 February 17 - 25, 2016
- Champagne Burgundy & Paris**  
 March 14 - 21, 2016
- Romance of the Rhine & Mosel River Cruise**  
 March 31 - April 15, 2016
- South Dakota: The Black Hills & Badlands**  
 June 21 - 27, 2016
- Spectacular South Africa**  
 September 22 - October 5, 2016
- Colors of New England**  
 October 11-18, 2016

Collette Vacations CST#2006766-20  
Chamber Explorations CST#2048841-40  
Grand Circle Travel CST#2041626-40  
Jet Vacations

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

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

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## VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MISSION ICONS



Business-Government



Business Relations



Promoting Community



Strong Local Economy



**September 2015**

**WED., SEPT. 9, 2015**

**Let's Talk Social**

9-10 am  
Brandman University  
649 S. County Center Drive

*Presented by: Marie Labbee, True Legacy Consulting*

With all the changes happening on social media platforms it is difficult to figure out what is actually working! Learn what changes have been made and ways to be successful despite them!

**Reservations are requested.**

Call the Chamber today to reserve your spot, 559.734.5876, or go online to <http://www.visaliachamber.org/events/calendar/2015-09-01>

**WED., SEPT. 16, 2015**

**Legally Collecting Within the Law**

9-10 am  
Brandman University  
649 S. County Center Drive

*Presented by: Susan Morado, Financial Credit Network*

Learn about the legal issues that surround collections and how your company can protect itself from big losses and make collections less of a worry.

**Reservations are requested.**

Call the Chamber today to reserve your spot, 559.734.5876, or go online to <http://www.visaliachamber.org/events/calendar/2015-09-01>

**CASA Las Vegas Night set for first week of October**

CASA of Tulare County's Las Vegas Night will be held October 3 at the Visalia Country Club. With Blackjack, Roulette, Craps, Texas Hold'em and dancing to classic rock music by "Borrowed Time," there'll be something for everyone. There will also be raffles, a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres and those who enjoy a little golf can test their skills in the hold-in-one contest, with a \$10,000 prize. Tickets are \$50 and sponsorships are available. Call JoAnn Bol at CASA, 559.625.4007 for more information on this fun event.

**Arnold attends national financial conference**

Trish Arnold from LPL Financial recently attended LPL Financial's Focus 2015, one of the financial industry's premier events and the largest annual conference hosted by LPL, the national's largest independent broker-dealer.\*



Arnold

Hosted in Boston from July 26 to 29, nearly 4,000 industry professionals from around the country gathered at Focus to learn new strategies and skills, expand knowledge in numerous product areas, network with peers and industry experts and discuss the most relevant opportunities and challenges facing the financial services industry.

Attendees also heard from influential and motivational speakers who addressed current events, financial industry trends and leadership topics. Keynote speakers included Sir Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Atlantic Airways, founder of Virgin Records and head of Virgin Group, Ltd, a conglomerate encompassing more than 360 companies; Ben Bernanke, former chairman of the board of governors of the Federal Reserve System; and Ronan Ryan, member of the Irish Tenors and Paralympic gold medal winner who holds nine world records.

"Attending LPL's annual Focus conference provided a great opportunity to engage. See Arnold / 3

**About this publication ...**

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**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

**Succession planning is important**



**Gail Zurek**  
President & CEO  
Visalia Chamber of Commerce

When you walk through the door for a job interview, you have probably spent some time thinking about the questions that will be asked. One of the questions that most people hate to answer is "Where do you see yourself in 5, 10 and 20 years?" The question assumes that you've planned your life, or at least know the direction that you are headed. As much as this question makes any job applicant squirm, can you imagine asking a small or medium sized business owner where he sees his business in 5, 10 or 20 years?

Future casting isn't easy. On the never ending to-do list of a business owner, planning for the future often gets pushed to the bottom of the list. It isn't that they don't think that the future is important, they do. The reality is that running a business takes a lot of detailed attention every day. Because of this, it is hard to think beyond today. The challenge for business owners is that the future is looming and will be here before they know it.

A key component to the Visalia Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Awards, is succession planning – a plan for your business beyond your involvement. Remember that awkward question we talked about with job applicants. The Annual Awards Committee must ask each award nominee to describe the plan that they have in place for their business when they are no longer running the business. It is a squirm inducing moment. The best case scenario is that the owner plans to be

retired and enjoying life on their terms. They will have thought through who will manage their business and is taking steps throughout the years to train the next owner or making sure that when they are ready to retire, the business can be sold.

Unfortunately not every business leader has this foresight. Business has a profound impact on our community. They employ our family members. Our neighbors rave about our business' goods and services. The taxes that businesses pay pave our roads and keep our communities safe. They invest in our schools and educational systems.

When a business closes its doors and stops doing all of those things, it's a big deal. When they close their doors because the owner didn't have a succession plan, it is tragic.

*Business has a profound impact on our community.*

Maybe succession planning hasn't made it to the top of your to do list. Maybe thinking about your business without you in the picture is a foreign concept. I urge you to consider what your customers and employees would do if your business ceased to exist or you were not able to be the owner any longer.

If you need help getting started, give the Chamber a call. We have a number of Chamber Members who can walk you through the process. Life beyond 'you' is a squirm inducing question but your business is depending on your ability to answer that question.

**COMMUNITY LOYAL MEMBERS**

*A thriving community starts*



**Renewing**

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

- A - C Electric Company
- Acclaim Credit Technologies
- Ahart Insurance Services\*
- American Ambulance of Visalia/Valley Response Magazine
- AR Group
- Assisted Senior Transitions
- Bank of Commerce Mortgage
- Bourdette & Partners\*
- Care at the Courtyard
- Central Valley Christian School
- Central Valley Recovery Services\*
- CIGNA\*
- Citizens Business Bank\*
- Clark Pest Control\*
- County of Tulare\*
- Court Appointed Special Advocates of Tulare County\*
- Derrel's Mini Storage
- Elaine Rider/State Farm Insurance Agency
- Farm Credit West
- Financial Credit Network, Inc.
- Forcum/Mackey Construction\*
- Fred Ruiz
- J.C. Lansdowne, Inc.\*
- JD's Auto Outlet
- Jostens Printing and Publishing\*
- Kaweah Manor Convalescent Hospital
- Kitchell-CEM\*
- KRC Safety Co., Inc.\*
- Lotus Fresno Corp. KSEQ Q97 Radio\*
- McCormick, Kabot, Jenner & Lew

- Milan Institute
- Miss Tulare County Scholarship program
- Mission Linen Supply\*
- National University
- Paladin Investment Group
- Peggy Furnas
- Pena's Disposal
- Peninsula Messenger Service\*
- Personnel Solutions Unlimited, INC.
- Port of Subs Store #65-BASRA INVESTMENTS
- Resources for Independence Central Valley
- San Joaquin Valley College, Inc.
- Santa Fe Aggregates\*
- Sequoia Beverage Company
- ServiceMaster by Hellstern
- Spirit 88.9 (formerly KDUV)\*
- Stephen J. McAuliff, D.D.S., Inc.
- Stor It\*
- Suncrest Bank\*
- Tahoe Joe's
- The Creative Center\*
- Tulare County Association of Realtors, Inc
- Tulare County Office of Education Child Care
- United Wholesale Lumber Company
- Vintage Press Restaurante
- Visalia Auto Body\*
- Visalia Ceramic Tile, Inc.\*
- Visalia Emergency Aid Council
- Visalia Fire Assoc. Local 3719
- Visalia Mall\*
- Visalia Plumbing
- Visalia Times-Delta\*
- Visalia Unified School District Administration Department
- Wathen Castanos Homes\*

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

**New**

The Visalia Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome our newest members. We encourage individuals and businesses to support Chamber Member businesses.

- **ADVERTISING SERVICES, GRAPHIC DESIGN, NEWSPAPERS**  
**The Foothills Sun-Gazette**  
559.592.3171
- **AUTOMOBILE DEALERS**  
**JD's Auto Outlet**  
559.636.2887
- **CIVIC MINDED INDIVIDUALS**  
**Committee to Elect Phil Cox**
- **EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**  
**3P Partners**  
559.734.4131
- **HEALTH & NUTRITION**  
**American HealthCare**  
916.773.7227
- **INSURANCE**  
**Nate Wingert State Farm Inc.**  
559.625.5555
- **NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**  
**Act for Women & Girls**  
559.738.8037  
**Arts Visalia**  
559.730.0905
- **ROOFING**  
**Hayco Construction, Inc.**  
559.686.9344

**Not Your Typical Banquet: TKRL to host celebrity mystery speaker**

On Thursday, Sept. 3, at 7 p.m., at the Visalia Convention Center, Tulare-Kings Right to Life will host their 20th Anniversary Making a Difference for Life Fundraising Banquet — their most memorable banquet to date!

In addition to being TKRL's most popular event of the year and one of the largest non-profit banquets in the area, this evening will also celebrate the culmination of 25 years of leadership from Executive Director, April Kesterson, and introduce attendees to the incoming Executive Director.

The audience will enjoy an internationally acclaimed Celebrity Mystery Speaker who has performed before audiences around the globe, appeared on national television and radio and toured the country with an inspiring message about hope and determination. This distinguished guest will bring an exciting entrance, exhilarat-

ing wit and encouraging testimony. Attendees will be surprised and delighted when our renowned Keynote Speaker takes the stage, offering entertainment unlike any other. It will be an event not to be missed!

"Since it's my retirement party, in a sense, I wanted to do something totally outlandish and entertaining," Kesterson said. "The element of surprise is a big part of that fun. Guests will laugh and chuckle while being challenged and inspired. This will not be your typical banquet."

In keeping with the 20th Anniversary celebratory theme, prices have been reduced this year: Sponsorships for a Table of 8 are \$495; individual tickets may be purchased for \$65 each. For more information or to reserve your table, please call 732-5000, email [april@tkrl.org](mailto:april@tkrl.org), or visit [www.tkrl.org](http://www.tkrl.org).

**Franey's**

(continued from page 1)

with Franey's for 46 years. He started in the installation department and now works with customers inside the store. Jimmy serves as a testament to the Franey's culture, proving that employee longevity has brought much success to their team.

Today, many flooring companies only sell products while contracting out the installation portion of the projects. Franey's takes a more comprehensive approach with customers. "We take care of our customers from the moment they walk into our showroom, until our installation craftsmen complete the project," said David. "Franey's customers will often request a specific installer by name, because they have seen or heard about the quality of work that individual does." Each flooring apprentice is provided with approximately five years of on-the-job training before they become installation craftsmen. This training helps to ensure that the Franey's quality of workmanship happens on every single project.

What began 60 years ago as a flooring store is now a complete design center. "We are not just a product retail location," Mark said. "We also provide customers with window treatments, wallpaper, upholstery, and we have someone on staff to help our customers with any design need they may have."

From a single room to an entire home design or commercial prop-

erty project, each is given full attention by Franey's employees who work with individual budgets and timelines. Attention to detail has helped Franey's build long-lasting relationships with customers, and after 60 years in business, they are proud to be serving third and fourth generation customers.

Like any business, Franey's has not been sheltered from facing challenges. Some challenges are industry-wide, like keeping up with the newest trends in décor; others come from competition in the marketplace. When asked how Franey's handles these challenges, both brothers noted that the key to staying relevant is having the ability to evolve. "You cannot be afraid to change; those businesses that think they have it all figured out and don't want to make changes don't last," said David.

For Franey's, there's nothing better than giving back to a community that has done so much for them over the last 60 years. In honor of their 60th anniversary, Franey's has selected to help local, non-profit organization Habitat for Humanity. Franey's will donate the flooring and installation for their next family home project in Visalia.

The Visalia Chamber is excited to support Franey's Carpet One and Design Center in celebrating its 60th anniversary. Franey's is the epitome of what a great local, family-owned business can, and should be. Franey's provides quality products and fantastic service, just like Roger dreamed in 1955; his sons and their employees can be proud knowing they have carried on his legacy.

We'd like to thank our travelers for taking the time to vote in Travel + Leisure magazine's 2015 World's Best Awards survey. We're thrilled to share that **Grand Circle Cruise Line** has been named among the top 5 "World's Best River Cruise Lines"—the 4th year in a row that we've made the top 5 ranking. Your vote has helped us to once again be named among Travel + Leisure's prestigious list for 2015!

**VEAC** staff are overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support for our mission to feed the families in our community. Thank you to every individual, group and business who responded to our plea for help. Our freezer and fridge are being replaced for another 25 years of service.

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) recently announced that **Family HealthCare Network (FHCN)** was reaffirmed as a level 3 Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH). The maximum level granted by the NCQA, FHCN's 13 health centers were recognized for using evidence-based, patient-centered processes that focus on highly coordinated care and long-term, participative relationships. In July 2012, FHCN became the first community health center in California to receive recognition by the NCQA as a level 3 PCMH.

**Hands in the Community:** We want to welcome David Miller as our newest Community Advisor. He is the Manager and President of **Pacific Employers Advisors to Management**. In addition, David is Past President of the Executive Association of Tulare County (EATC), currently a member chief photographer of the Rotary Club of Visalia, Past President of the Downtown Visalians and Alliance.

The law firm of **Gubler & Abbott LLP** is pleased to announce that Brett Abbott, current Board member of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce, has been selected to the 2015 Northern California Super Lawyers Rising Stars list. Mr. Abbott, who has practiced in Visalia since 2007, was nominated in the area of employment and labor law. This honor, which recognizes attorneys in practice for 10 years or less, is limited to only 2.5% of attorneys in the state, with Mr. Abbott being amongst a select few from Tulare County.

**Gerald Schneider DDS:** Today we are celebrating Margie and Elisa's twenty-seventh anniversary of being a part of The Schneider Team. We are all thankful for you and your hard work! Happy anniversary Margie and Elisa.



We here at **SRT** are excited to announce that we've received a grant from **Bank of the Sierra** for our outdoor education program. We love working with local businesses to make Tulare County a great place to live, work and play!

Michelle Manning is **CVBF's** employee of the quarter!!!! She is one of our **AWESOME** customer service girls who is always so willing to help everyone. Such a beautiful person inside and out. Great job Michelle!!!!



Michelle Manning  
CVBF

**V Town Derby Dames:** Our last home double header was pretty fantastic - Star Wars characters, huge crowd, great games, and awesome raffle prizes. You know what the best part was? Our amazing fans! They helped us donate \$1,000 to California Law Enforcement's **Wish Upon a Star**.

Congratulations to our newest graduating class!! It is with great pride that **CASA of Tulare County** announce our new Court Appointed Special Advocates that were sworn in as officers of the court on Wednesday, August 12, 2015. From left to right: Judge Juliet Boccone, Magali Garcia, Carrie Bragg, Amberly Cancino, Paulo Aguila, Bonnie Casale, Tom Casale, Rosa Ibarra, Richard Chavez, Linda Fernandez and Anthony Guerra (not pictured) Lesa Mann and Aurora Pimentel. CASA is thankful for each CASA volunteer who will make a difference for our CASA children. Welcome to our CASA family!!



CASA of Tulare County

**Franey's** is celebrating their 60th anniversary this year. Stop by to say hello and congratulations!

**Seals/Biehle, Inc.** completed work at the new Patino School of Entrepreneurship in time to welcome students to the 2015-2016 school year. Best of luck to the students as they embark on an exciting and challenging academic year!

It's time to plan a celebration! **Saint Paul's School** was founded in 1966 and the 50th anniversary is just around the corner. To commemorate this milestone, we are calling out to alumni and current families. Please plan on attending a meeting on Thursday, Sept. 10 at 5:30 p.m. in our library. Or contact Cathy Guadagni by email at [cguadagni@spsvisalia.com](mailto:cguadagni@spsvisalia.com) or by phone at 559.739.1619.

For the third year, **The Foothills Sun-Gazette** is publishing the 2015 Tulare County Football Preview magazine with a team-by-team and position-by-position look at all 18 varsity high school football teams in Tulare County. Contact the Foothills Sun-Gazette to get your copy today!

**BOARD SPOTLIGHT**

**Norris McElroy**

Norris McElroy is the General Manager for Kawneer Co., Inc here in Visalia. Norris has been a Chamber Board Member for five years.

**Why is it important to be a Chamber member?** Community involvement is a core value within Alcoa and it is important to me to be connected to other business leaders within the community. The Chamber is the organization that connects businesses and supports our needs.

**What brought you to Visalia?** In 1999 the President of Kawneer asked me if I wanted to run our West Coast operations based in Visalia, CA. Having visited here on several prior occasions my answer was YES!

**What do you like to do when you are not working?** Get together with friends, play golf, go somewhere fun on vacation, have a glass of wine, and relax – forgetting about the pressure and stress of the day.

**What is your favorite place to go in Visalia when you are not working?** Besides home – either Visalia Country Club to play golf with friends or Sequoia Cigar Co. to relax with friends and discuss the issues of the day.

**What is your best advice for young professionals?** Tomorrow's results are directly linked to the effort you put in today.

**What is your favorite quote?** Einstein – Insanity: Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

**AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT**

**Kathy Fraga**

Kathy Fraga is the On-Site Sales Manager for the Visalia Convention Center. She has worked at the Convention Center for the last 15 years.

The Visalia Convention Center offers more than 114,000 square feet of beautiful convention space. From conventions and conferences to dinner dances to special meetings and retreats, the Visalia Convention Center is ready to meet your event needs. We have a 32,000 square foot Exhibit Hall with newly installed arena seating for up to 3,000. Our two luxury ballrooms are perfect for a wedding or company banquet or fundraisers. We also have two fully appointed Board rooms, and 18 meeting rooms. We provide in-house trade show decorating and audio visual as well as wireless internet. We're adjacent to the full service Marriott Hotel and the Comfort Suites is directly across the street from us. The Visalia Convention Center offers the best of all worlds for event planners, convenient location with diverse activities, affordable rates and extraordinary personal service. Make sure and check out our website at [www.visalia.org](http://www.visalia.org).

**What has Chamber Membership meant for your company?** Membership has been a way to get to know other people in the community. It's fun going to the ribbon cuttings and getting first-hand information about the new companies coming into Visalia. Going to the Mixers are another way to network and get to know other people in the community. We plan to host a Ribbon Cutting/Mixer here at the Convention Center once our renovations are done. I've also enjoyed learning more about various interesting topics at the Business Academy.

**The best part of Visalia is ... ?** I love living and working in Visalia as it has a small town feel, but with large city amenities. I especially enjoy living near and working in Downtown Visalia. With all the activities going on in Visalia, there's always something to do or to be involved in.

**What is your favorite local charity/non-profit?** Soroptimist International of Visalia, of course! I'm President of the club this year and I am so impressed with the club and their mission. Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

**Wine and Wags Gala & Auction to benefit new Valley Oak SPCA Adoption and Education Center**

Valley Oak SPCA is excited to host our 6th Annual Wine & Wags Gala and Auction Saturday, Sept. 26. Join Valley Oak SPCA for a beautiful evening under the stars enjoying fine wines, craft beers, delectable hors d'oeuvres from local restaurants, live and silent auction. Proceeds from this event support our efforts for a new Adoption and Education Center.

This event is hosted at a private residence adjacent to the beautiful Visalia Country Club and Golf Course. This outdoor venue provides the backdrop for a magical night filled with food, wine & friends.

of tasting fine wines, sampling delicious hors d'oeuvres from local restaurants and participated in our live and silent auctions where they received trips, spa packages, wine baskets, art, jewelry and more. Our live auction featured items including wine tasting packages and lodging with dinner or tours, exclusive spa treatments, jewelry, Florida and Mexico resort vacations.

All proceeds from this event support Valley Oak SPCA's goal for our new Adoption and Education Center for homeless animals. Valley Oak SPCA is seeking event sponsors, vendors and donations of auction items. Event tickets are \$50 per person. Call 559.651.1111 ext. 6 for event information and tickets.

**FOOD TASTING  
LOCAL VENDORS**

★ **LIVE MUSIC** ★

RICHFIELD  
DAS POLKA DOTS  
THE PATRICK CONTRERAS BAND  
RYAN DEAN & THE BRICKTOPS

PUMPKIN PATCH  
BEER & WINE

presented by  
**VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**GENERAL ADMISSION**

21 AND OVER

**\$35**  
IN ADVANCE

**\$40**  
DAY OF

*At the Vossler Farms Pumpkin Patch.*

26773 S. Mooney Blvd. | Visalia, CA | 93277

**THURSDAY    OCTOBER 1, 2015    5:30-9:30PM**

ONLINE TICKETS: [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/OKTOBERFEST2015](http://tinyurl.com/oktoberfest2015)

**Arnold**  
(continued from page 2)

age with industry leaders and peers and to stay well-informed of financial trends and industry best practices," said Arnold. "The discussions and learning are valuable take-aways so that I can continue to provide the best service and support to my clients as we work together toward their financial goals."

\*Based on total revenues, Financial Planning magazine, June 1996-2015



### Tulare County Fair asks students to 'Read to Ride'

The "Read to Ride" program introduced last year continues this year, with the Tulare County Fair rewarding children with carnival ride tickets for every two books they read.

The Read to Ride contest is open to children kindergarten through eighth grade. Children will receive two ride tickets for every two books they read, and they will need to write a brief summary or draw a picture that describes the book. The program ends on Wednesday, Sept. 16; ride tickets are valid on Thursday, Sept. 17. Offer valid while supplies last.

All public libraries in Tulare County are participating in the contest.

"The Tulare County Fair offers many opportunities for kids to learn and this program is all about encouraging them to read," said Fair CEO Pamela Fyock. "Whether it's competing in the livestock arena, learning about exotic animals or having fun while being reminded to wash your hands - kids will learn during the Fair."

The fair's carnival will offer about 40 rides, including some new surprises, and will ensure carnival fun for people of all ages. Pre-sale wristbands are available for \$20 prior to Sept. 15, allowing unlimited one-day carnival rides. Wristbands will be available during the fair for \$30 each. New this year is a one-day fast-pass for \$50, allowing a set number of riders to go to the front of the line at each ride. Sept. 18 is Friday Family Value Day, with admission just \$4 per person before 4 p.m.

Throughout fair week, local entertainers will perform on community stages, and fairgoers can enjoy an exotic animal exhibit, magic shows, puppet shows, Chinese acrobats and more. Fairgoers will also enjoy ZZ Top and Creedence Clearwater Revival tribute bands.

The Fair will feature a series of motor-sports events: a tractor pull on Thursday, Sept. 17 (free with fair admission); a monster truck show on Friday, Sept. 18 (ticketed event); and the Demolition Derby on Saturday, Sept. 19 (ticketed event). For tickets and information, visit [www.tcfair.org](http://www.tcfair.org) or call 559.686.4707.

### Happy Trails Riding Academy hosts annual Round Up fundraiser

Happy Trails Riding Academy is hosting its 5th Annual Round Up fundraiser

Friday, Oct. 2 at the Happy Trails Riding Academy facility, 2773 E. Oakdale Ave., Tulare at 6 p.m. A ticket will include a Cowboy BBQ, live music, a wine buy and rider demonstrations. All proceeds from the event will directly benefit the Happy Trails Riding Academy program.

Tickets are \$30 per person and tables of eight can be reserved for \$240. Happy Trails also has sponsorship opportunities available for this event. To reserve your tickets or inquire about sponsorships, please contact the office at 559.688.8685.

Happy Trails Riding Academy is a non-profit program that enriches the lives of children and adults with physical, mental and emotional disabilities through therapeutic horsemanship, providing a unique opportunity for self-improvement and independence while offering a challenging alternative to traditional therapy.

If you would like more information, contact Leslie Gardner at 559.688.8685 or [Leslie@WeAreHappyTrails.com](mailto:Leslie@WeAreHappyTrails.com).

### KDHCD welcomes new chief medical and quality officer

Kaweah Delta Health Care District has named Edward Hirsch, M.D., as Kaweah Delta's Vice President, Chief Medical and Quality Officer.

Dr. Hirsch comes to Kaweah Delta from Peoria, Illinois, where he served as Director of Medical Affairs of OSF Saint Francis Medical Center.

As Kaweah Delta's Chief Medical and Quality Officer, Dr. Hirsch will lead the district's efforts to improve patient care and safety. He will also lead the district's efforts to improve operational efficiency and reduce costs. Dr. Hirsch has a wealth of experience in medical and quality management, having worked for several major hospitals and health systems. He holds a Master's degree in Health Administration from the University of Illinois at Peoria. Dr. Hirsch is a member of the American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians, and the American Society of Quality Management. He is also a past president of the American Society of Quality Management. Dr. Hirsch is a highly motivated and results-oriented leader who is committed to providing the highest quality of care to our patients. He is a strong believer in the power of teamwork and is committed to creating a culture of excellence. He is a highly skilled and experienced leader who is committed to providing the highest quality of care to our patients. He is a strong believer in the power of teamwork and is committed to creating a culture of excellence.

## HEALTHCARE NOTE Family HealthCare Network's patient-centered care receives national recognition

Beginning as a pilot project during the 1960's, Community Health Centers like Family HealthCare Network (FHCN) have evolved over the last 50 years to become the largest and most successful primary care system in the country. Much of this growth can be attributed to Community Health Center's unique approach to health care in providing accessible, affordable, and comprehensive services from a team of caring professionals.

Last month, FHCN's coordinated care model received national recognition as our organization was reaffirmed as a level 3 Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH). The highest level granted by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), the level 3 PCMH designation recognizes FHCN's use of evidence-based, patient-centered processes that focus on highly coordinated care and long-term, participative relationships with our patients.

In July 2012, FHCN became the first Community Health Center in California to receive the level 3 recognition from the NCQA. To maintain this recognition, which is valid for three years, FHCN demonstrated the ability to meet the program's key elements, embodying characteristics of the medical home.

As a medical home, FHCN fosters ongoing partnerships be-



**Kerry L. Hydash, MPA**  
President & CEO  
Family HealthCare Network

tween our patients and our clinicians, instead of approaching care as the sum of episodic office visits. Through FHCN's PCMH model, patients have access to a wide range of services, including primary care, obstetrics, pediatrics, pharmacy, dentistry, and more. From one specialty to another, clinician-led care teams coordinate treatment across the health care system and oversee each patient's individual care plan.

Research shows that medical homes like FHCN can lead to higher quality and lower costs, and can improve patient and provider reported experiences of care. The effectiveness of the PCMH model has proven effective and valuable for our local community as 1 in 3 patients in Tulare and Kings County call FHCN their health home.

When people have consistent access to care, they use it and stay healthier. Measured against the national average, FHCN patients continue to exceed standards for clinical outcome measures including child and adult weight screening and counseling, tobacco assessment and cessation intervention, and the reduction of low and very low birth weights.

Our patients not only get the care they need under one roof, but they are treated as partners in their care, with dignity and respect.

*Our patients not only get the care they need under one roof, but they are treated as partners in their care.*

## Career Technical Education: 'Growing and expanding in Visalia Unified'

As a new school year begins, it is important to stop and take inventory of what we are doing in Education. There have been a lot of changes in Career Technical Education over the last two years. VUSD has opened six, Linked Learning academies, expanded CTE offerings at Sequoia and the district is leading a regional grant to rejuvenate the pathways between secondary and post-secondary education. It is truly an exciting time for CTE in Visalia Unified.

This fall, VUSD opened six Linked Learning academies at five high schools in the district.

Golden West High School is hosting the academy of Engineering & Ag manufacturing. Redwood High School is hosting the academy of Architecture & Engineering. Mt Whitney High School is hosting two academies; the academy of Health Sciences and the academy of Computer Science. El Diamante High School is hosting the academy of Media Arts. VTEC is hosting the academy of Agricultural Bioscience & Technology. An open choice academy means that any 8th grader can attend any academy in the district, no matter where they live or what middle school they attended. This is a new concept for VUSD and one the board and district administration are embracing.

Visalia Unified, traditionally, has had strong and effective CTE programs. Currently there are over 3700 students enrolled in CTE courses. We offer CTE Pathways (a sequence of 2 or more classes) in over 10 different industry sectors. We have pathways in Agriculture, Health Sciences, Arts and Media, Business and Finance, Building and



**William Davis**  
Director of CTE

Construction, Transportation, Sports Medicine, Culinary Arts, Computer Programming, Entrepreneurship and Manufacturing. Most recently, Sequoia High School expanded their CTE offerings with the addition of a Forestry and Natural Resources, Public Safety and Hospitality pathways. Sequoia has been partnering with the United States Forest Service creating unique work-based learning experiences for students in Visalia. Today's CTE programs continue to train students for entry-level careers in the identified industries as well as preparing them for post-secondary educational options.

Last spring, VUSD was awarded the California Career Pathways Trust Grant to develop 9-14 career pathways that support students all along the way. The industry sectors identified in the grant are Agriculture, Health, Engineering, Manufacturing, Public Safety, Hospitality & Tourism, Manufacturing, Education and Construction & Building Trades. The projects is a partnership between 6 high school districts, College of the Sequoias, West Hills College and Reedley College. The Pathways to College success project builds on existing partnerships and strives to ensure that students are graduating college and career ready.

The new California State Standards focus on preparing students to be college and career ready. The CTE programs in VUSD are doing their part to ensure students in academies and pathways are receiving a solid relevant education, which includes technical training, leadership development and real-life experiences that will make VUSD graduates ready for their future.

*The Pathways to College success project builds on existing partnerships and strives to ensure that students are graduating college and career ready.*

## Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group ranked seventh in nation as 2015 'Best Civil Engineering Firm to Work for'

Civil Engineering News (CE News) recently ranked Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group seventh among the "Best Civil Engineering Firms to Work For" nationwide in 2015. Provost & Pritchard has been selected for the "Best Firms" list each of the 13 years they have participated in the award competition.

According to CE News, the "Best Firms to Work For" award recognizes the top firms leading the way in creating a work place that inspires, motivates, and rewards employees. Firms who applied for this prestigious ranking were evaluated comprehensively on workplace practices, employee benefits, employee retention rates, professional development, and more - both from the management and staff's perspectives.

"Our company is built on the principle that people who enjoy their work are happier, more productive and more satisfied employees. We strive to stay true to that principle so that we can continue to recruit and retain the best professionals, who will in turn provide the highest level of service to our valued clients. Be-

ing recognized by CE News as a 'Best Place to Work' is an honor," shared Ronald Samuelian, Provost & Pritchard's president.

Provost & Pritchard's final ranking was determined largely by the results of a confidential Employee Satisfaction Survey of full-time staff. Questions were based on a variety of topics including culture, management style, benefits, staff recognition, compensation, professional development, recruiting, and retention.

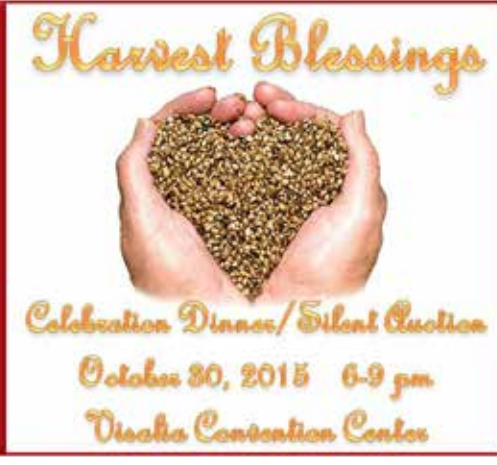
Established in 1968, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group has a strong tradition of engineering and consulting excellence throughout California. With office locations in Fresno, Clovis, Visalia, Bakersfield, Modesto, Los Banos and Chico, the firm features a mix of seasoned professionals, complemented by younger staff with fresh ideas. Provost & Pritchard specializes in civil and agricultural engineering, environmental and land use planning, hydrogeology and geology, surveying, and construction management services in the areas of water resources, municipal infrastructure, agriculture, site development, and environmental compliance. For more information, visit [www.ppeng.com](http://www.ppeng.com) or email [info@ppeng.com](mailto:info@ppeng.com).

## Hands in the Community's Harvest Blessings 2015: Dinner and silent auction raise funds

Hands in the Community, a Central Valley non-profit organization, announced it will host its fourth Celebration Dinner/Silent Auction event from 6 to 9:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 4 at the Visalia Convention Center. There will be a preview of silent auction items, along with wine and hors d'oeuvres from 6 to 7 p.m. The event will include a formal, plated dinner and feature a unique collection of valuable silent auction items from local merchants, crafters, supporters and residents. Items will also include one-week get-away packages, spa packages, restaurant certificates, crafts, wine, beautiful gift baskets, antiques and much more.

The Celebration 2015 event tickets are \$70 per person or \$500 for table sponsors for table of eight. All are cordially invited to attend. All proceeds from the event will go to Hands in the Community. Please RSVP by noon on October 16 to [hncvisalia@gmail.com](mailto:hncvisalia@gmail.com) or call Lester Moon at 559.625.3822 extension 3.

Hands in the Community is a non-profit organization established to provide crisis and short-term referral services and resources between those who need them and those who can provide them. Hands in the Community, [www.hnconline.org](http://www.hnconline.org) or Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/events/1516894401934960/> currently has more than 1,100 volunteers, along with local organizations who do individual



and group projects, such as Tulare County Board of Supervisors, Tulare County Mental Health, TulareWORKs Division of HHSA, First 5 Tulare County, and the numerous organizations that we provide referrals too. United Way is so thankful that these agencies have made a commitment to our community and because of them we have been able to provide clients with vital services that saves lives.

# YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS Academy FOR KIDS WHO MEAN BUSINESS



## Start as a Student Graduate as a CEO

By Nicola Wissler  
YEA! Program Manager

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy has had profound positive effects on students, businesses, and communities all across the country. Since the program's inception, more than 3,000 businesses have been launched. Today, the program impacts hundreds of communities across the country, bringing educational and business communities together to foster the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation among today's youth.

**YEA! Fast Fact Snapshot:**

- 100% of Academy Graduates Graduate High School on Time
- 99% of Academy Graduates Enroll in College
- 19% of YEA! Students Start Second Businesses
- 50% of YEA! Students Continue their Business for More Than 1 Year
- 49% of YEA! Students are Female
- 56% of YEA! Students are Under-represented Minorities
- YEA! Students have been awarded millions of dollars in scholarships as a result of their involvement in YEA!
- 4,338 students have graduated from YEA! and have launched over 3,000 businesses
- 13,627 business and community leaders have participated in this program

YEA! strengthens the community and the community strengthens YEA!. Students are able to network with and develop relationships with local business leaders, create jobs, and launch businesses in their own backyard. Students see that they can make a difference within the communities in which they live. The enthusiasm and success of the students are empowering for the entire community!

The Visalia Chamber of Commerce is proud to co-host the 2015-2016 Young Entrepreneurs Academy. This year will be the third year that the YEA! program will be in Visalia.

**Visalia/Tulare YEA! Fast Fact snapshot:**

- 13 businesses launched
- 20 students graduated
- 8 local high schools represented
- More than 80 local business professionals have participated in



this program

- More than \$11,000 in start-up funding has been awarded to local students

The Visalia Chamber of Commerce will host a Young Entrepreneurs Academy Information Session on September 9, 2015. Attendees will learn about the structure, curriculum, and student application process for the program, as well as how business leaders can get involved as mentors, guest speakers, field trip hosts, or panelists.

The information session will be held on Wednesday, September 9th 6:00 - 7:00 pm at the Visalia Chamber of Commerce office; 222 N. Garden Street Suite 300.

To RSVP, please call 559-734-5876 or e-mail [nicola@visaliachamber.org](mailto:nicola@visaliachamber.org).

For more information on the YEA! program please go to [www.visaliachamber.org/YEA](http://www.visaliachamber.org/YEA)

## Tucoemas Federal Credit Union announces new CFO

Tucoemas Federal Credit Union recently added a new chief financial officer to their family. Sherry Belcher joins the team, bringing with her 20 years of management and financial experience. Sherry worked at banks and credit unions in Tennessee and Georgia prior to joining the Tucoemas team. She brings the members of Tucoemas experienced professional level assistance in all auditing and accounting operations. Sherry will be responsible for budget management and financial compliance.



Belcher

team. He was previously with Tucoemas for 3 1/2 years as the marketing manager. Saeed will take on a new role as the social media administrator, where he will be responsible for the website and all social media platforms. With the ever-evolving social media landscape, Tucoemas has targeted growth for this area to better serve its members.



Goraya

Julie Wheeler has also joined the Tucoemas management team as the Porterville branch manager. Julie has 11 years of experience as branch manager for credit unions in Florida, Indiana and Georgia. Julie is a veteran in consumer lending and building member relationships. Along with managing the branch in Porterville, Julie will also assist Tucoemas members with all their lending and savings needs.



Wheeler

Sonia Smalley, loan manager at the Tucoemas Whitendale branch in Visalia, recently graduated from Western CUNA Management School. The three-year course, with a total of six weeks spent on campus at Pomona College in Claremont, included completion of two complex projects. Sonia has worked for Tucoemas FCU for 28 years. She manages the loan department and assists members with all their lending needs – VISA, personal loans and all types of new and used vehicle loans.



Smalley

In addition, Julie is a California Notary Public. Saeed Goraya returns to Tucoemas, joining the administration

and home mortgages, call 559.732.8892 or visit [www.tucoemas.org](http://www.tucoemas.org).

### THE LAW AT WORK

## Keeping 'at-will' employment intact

In California, "employment, having no specified term, may be terminated at the will of either party on notice to the other." Dore v Arnold Worldwide, Inc. (2006) 39 C4th 384, 391, 46 CR3d 668. Thus, California is an at-will state – employees may quit without notice and, absent a specific employment contract, be terminated without notice. It is in every employer's best interest to keep the at-will relationship intact. If the at-will relationship is modified, then situations can arise where the employment relationship can only be terminated upon a showing of good cause. There are several ways in which the at-will status of an employee can be modified.

Certain employer actions can give rise to an enforceable expectation by the employee that he or she may only be terminated for good cause. Some examples include assurances of job security, regular promotions, salary increases, and bonuses. Some creative attorneys will even use birthday cards with canned statements from supervisors – "What would we do without you?" – as evidence that an employee expected that termination could only be for good cause.

However, verbal assurances, or regular promotions and salary increases, do not automatically establish an implied contract, i.e. where termination can only be for good cause. Several courts have concluded that without more, "promotions and salary increases are natural occurrences of an employee who remains with an employer

for a substantial length of time ... and should not change the status of an 'at-will' employee to one dischargeable only for just cause." Miller v Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. (1989) 210 CA3d 1554, 1559.

Courts will usually evaluate other documents prepared by the employer to determine the existence of an implied contract to terminate only for cause. Such writings may include employment applications, letters, stock option agreements, bylaws, and other writings relating to the employment relationship.

Yet the safest bet is to include express language in an employee handbook which makes the at-will relationship clear. The language should also state that the at-will relationship can only be modified in writing by the president/owner of the company. It's also crucial to have the employee sign-off on his or her copy of the employee handbook, showing that he or she understands and agrees to be bound by the at-will relationship.

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



**Brett T. Abbott**  
Gubler & Abbott LLP



GUBLER & ABBOTT  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW - LLP

### Save the Date

October 3, 2015  
(8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)  
**EVENT LOCATION**  
2300 W. Whitendale Ave.  
Visalia, CA 93277  
For more information call Sandy at (559) 737-5920

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# Visalia Smog

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(Next to BSE RENTS)  
**(559) 627-9200**  
(Ask for Jimmy)

**1950 W. Walnut Ave.**  
(Walnut & Mooney next to FLYERS GAS)  
(Star Station)  
**(559) 635-7300**  
(Ask for Jose)

Se Habla Español

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\*Restrictions Apply\*  
MOST COMPETITORS COUPONS ACCEPTED

### Community Engagement Workshops

**Civic and Business Engagement**  
**Wed., Sept. 16, 2015**  
5:30-6:30 pm  
Fresno Pacific University  
Visalia Campus

Panelists:

- **Pete Vander Poel**  
*Tulare County Board of Supervisor for District 2*
- **Brett Taylor**  
*Member, Visalia Planning Commission, Tulare County Youth Commissioner*
- **Gail Zurek**  
*President & CEO, Visalia Chamber of Commerce*
- **Marie Labbee**  
*True Legacy Consulting, Chair Visalia Chamber Ambassador Committee*
- **Jeff Gooding**  
*IDEA! Printing & Graphics Co-Chair Visalia Chamber Ambassador Committee*
- **Ben Filiponi**  
*Member of the Parks and Recreation Commission*

**Non-Profit and Service Club Engagement**  
**Wed., Sept. 23, 2015**  
5:30-6:30 pm  
Fresno Pacific University  
Visalia Campus

Panelists:

- **Marilyn Barr**  
*Executive Director CASA of Tulare County*
- **Lindsay Baldwin**  
*Visalia Rescue Mission*
- **Scott Smith**  
*President, West Visalia Kiwanis*
- **Wendy Anderson**  
*President, Visalia Sunset Rotary*

RSVP: [vypn@visaliachamber.org](mailto:vypn@visaliachamber.org) or <http://business.visaliachamber.org/events/calendar/>

### COS offers front line supervisory academy

Employer surveys being conducted by the Training & Education committee of the Visalia Economic Development Corporation (VEDC) validate nationwide reports indicating the availability of skilled labor as a critical factor in doing business. The feedback reveals not only the need for "technical skills", such as those necessary for a maintenance mechanic position, but also "soft skills", such as communication and leadership skills needed to effectively work in our culturally and generationally diverse workforce.

Starting in August, College of the Sequoias' Training Resource Center is offering a Front Line Supervisory Academy designed for anyone in a supervisory role or aspiring to be in one. The class will focus on soft skills training in areas such as communication, teamwork, cultural diversity, conflict resolution, problem solving and managing change. The class will be held on Wednesdays from August 19 – November 4, 2015 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Jo-Ann Distribution Center in the Visalia Industrial Park. The class is \$350 per person for 12 weeks of instruction. Some assistance may be available.

To find out more about the course or to register, call or email Laurel Garver, COS Training Resource Center Specialist at 559.688.3135 or [laurelg@cos.edu](mailto:laurelg@cos.edu). Also view the website at [www.cos.edu/trainingcenter](http://www.cos.edu/trainingcenter) for more information.

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## KDDH

(continued from page 4)

Quality Officer, Dr. Hirsch is a member of the executive team. He is responsible for medical staff affairs, graduate medical education, performance improvement and patient relations.

He completed his medical degree at Rush Medical College in Chicago, Illinois. Following his residency in family medicine at Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois, Dr. Hirsch practiced family medicine for 23 years as a founding partner with Kishwaukee Medical Associates, an active obstetrics and family medicine practice.

Following his clinical practice, Dr. Hirsch began his career as a clinical leader as the Vice President of Medical Management with John Deere Health followed by various medical leadership positions within OSF Saint Francis Medical Center.

Dr. Hirsch and his wife Beth, a family nurse practitioner, have established a residence in Visalia.

Established in 1963, Kaweah Delta Health Care District is a 581-bed hospital district with 3,900 employees. It is the only level III trauma center serving Tulare and Kings counties. For more information, visit [www.kaweahdelta.org](http://www.kaweahdelta.org) or follow Kaweah Delta on Twitter and Facebook.

## CLIP & SAVE

## CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	Visalia City Council Meeting 4 pm work session; 7 pm regular session Council Chambers	Government Affairs Meeting Visalia Chamber of Commerce 7:15 am	YEA! Info Session Chamber Office 6 pm	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	Visalia City Council Meeting 4 pm work session; 7 pm regular session Council Chambers	Business After Hours Mixer College of the Sequoias 5:30 - 7:30 pm	23	Ambassador Breakfast Visalia First Assembly Church 8 am	25	26
27	28	29	30			



## Natural Wonders of Costa Rica

The Visalia Chamber of Commerce would like to invite you to explore Costa Rica, South America's greatest hidden gem. The trip includes roundtrip airfare from Fresno Yosemite Airport, 18 meals, a professional naturalist tour manager, motor coach transportation, and comprehensive sightseeing.

From Fresno you will fly to San Jose, Costa Rica and meet your Naturalist Tour Director to begin your tour of Costa Rica, often referred to as Central America's greatest hidden gem. While in San Jose you will tour a coffee plantation and sample fresh coffee as well as visit Poas Volcano National Park to view the dramatic mile-wide crater from an overlook. You will stop at the Sarchi Artisan Village where you can shop for local crafts and souvenirs.

Next on the tour you will visit Arenal Volcano National Park and experience the Monteverde Cloud Forest one of the largest wildlife sanctuaries in the Americas. You will travel to Monteverde and enjoy time on Jaco Beach, one of the most visited coastal destinations in Costa Rica. During your stay in Monteverde you will have an optional excursion via tranopy or zip line and set participate in an exciting

### Highlights:

- Paos National Park
- Coffee Plantation Visit
- Jungle Crocodile Safari Cruise
- Arenal Volcano National Park
- Monteverde Cloud Forest
- Selvatura Park & Hanging Bridges
- Butterfly Garden
- Hummingbird Gallery
- Carara National Park
- Orchid Garden Tour
- Sarchi Artisan Village
- Farewell Dinner & Folklore Show
- Three Multi-Night Stays including 2-night Coastal Resort Stay

**February 17-25, 2015**  
\$2,995 per person (double occupancy)

Jungle Crocodile Safari Cruise. The tour will also include a butterfly garden, hummingbird gallery, hanging bridges, an orchid garden tour and a local folklore show.

## CHAMPAGNE, BURGUNDY, PARIS

Join the Chamber for a slideshow presentation September 30th at 12:00 p.m. at the Chamber office

**MARCH 14-21, 2016**

**HIGHLIGHTS:**  
Reims, G.H. Mumm Cellars, Epemay Champagne Houses, Troyes & Langres, The Medieval Cities & Beaune, Chateau Du Clos De Vougeot, Chateau De Fontainebleau, Paris & Lunch Cruise

**\$3,045 PER PERSON**  
(double occupancy)

Airfare from Fresno, professional tour guide, deluxe motor coach transportation, wine tastings



For pricing or registration details call the Visalia Chamber of Commerce at 559-734-5876 or visit [www.visaliachamber.org](http://www.visaliachamber.org)

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



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