

www.visaliachamber.org Business Update

AWARD-WINNING MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Vol. 43, No. 8 | August 2023

INSIDE

Health organizations combat blood shortage

Central Valley health organizations were on the search for blood donors as they worked through a blood supply shortage being felt across the nation. **3**

California Service Dog Academy announces S.A.F.E. initiative for local businesses

Initiative is aimed at providing business owners and their employees with education and resources on service dogs. **4**

EVENTS

AUGUST 24

Ambassador Breakfast

Time: 8 a.m.
 Location: Visalia First

AUGUST 24

State of Local Government Luncheon

Time: 11:30 a.m.
 Location: Bello Vita Venue

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR DATES

Coffee & Conversation with Your Chamber CEO-Facebook Live

Time: 8 a.m.

TRAVEL WITH US

SEPTEMBER 20-OCTOBER 1, 2023

Essence of France: Paris, Provence & French Riviera

OCTOBER 4-12, 2023

Highlights of England, Scotland & Wales

OCTOBER 23-28, 2023

Cuba Discovery

NOVEMBER 1-10, 2023

Rome and the Country Roads of Tuscany

DECEMBER 4-9, 2023

Washington D.C. Holiday

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 6, 2024

Best of Australia and New Zealand

MARCH 12-26, 2024

Jordan and Israel: Cultural Crossroads

MARCH 17-23, 2024

New Orleans and Cajun Country

APRIL 24-MAY 1, 2024

Nashville, Smoky Mountains and Bluegrass

MAY 24-JUNE 2, 2024

Memorials of World War II

JUNE 20-27, 2024

Alaska: Call of the Wild

JULY 17-25, 2024

Great Canadian Cities

SEPTEMBER 20-26, 2024

New York City and the Hudson River Valley

OCTOBER 1-9, 2024

A Culinary Journey Through Tuscany

OCTOBER 21-29, 2024

Highlights of the Douro with Spain



Travel provided by:

Collette Vacations
 CST #2006766-20

Chamber Explorations
 CST #2048841-40

For more information, go to
www.visaliachamber.org/travel



PHOTO BY RIGOBERTO MORAN / THE SUN-GAZETTE

CVCB merges Visalia branches



John Lindt
 Publisher
 Sierra2theSea.net

Central Valley Community Bank is consolidating its two remaining Visalia branches into a larger location to improve the customer experience, bank officials say.

“We are excited about our investment in Visalia with a new innovative banking center design that will allow Central Valley Community Bank to better serve our growing South Valley business and personal relationships,” Kim said.

The new building is 5,720 square feet, slightly larger than the Mission Oak Branch but smaller than the Floral Street Branch which also included underground parking. CVCB President and CEO James

Hillsdale Avenue. Both branches will be relocated to a single site at 126 W. Center Ave. in downtown Visalia.

J. Kim said the move is to create a new style of banking center, designed to “elevate the client banking experience in a warm, comfortable setting, ideal for private communication.” The new Visalia location is one of three new contemporary-designed banking centers being introduced by the bank this year, with others in Sacramento and Modesto.

The bank’s current downtown location was founded as Visalia Community Bank. It has underground parking and a second-story lobby. CVCB acquired Visalia

“Ready to help plan Visalia’s future? For those looking to get more involved in our community and specifically, local government, serving on a City of Visalia Committee or Commission is one way residents can be a part of making Visalia a great place to live, work and play.

City Committees and Commissions serve in an advisory capacity for the City Council. Each is different, but they all receive public concerns, review policies and regulations, provide valuable insight and are instrumental to the public process. By serving on a City advisory Committee or Commission, you can help plan Visalia’s future, as these committees and commissions are making recommendations that affect life in Visalia. Currently, there are vacancies on the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Historic Preservation Committee, however, vacancies evolve and an updated list is available at www.visalia.city/maddylist under “Current Vacancies.”

Our City Clerk’s office is continually accepting applications, which are kept on file for a period up to two-years. As vacancies occur, applications are submitted to the respective Committees for interviews. Final selections are then presented to the Visalia City Council for approval. Those appointed can serve up to three two-year terms for Committees or four two-year terms for Commissions.

Appointees should be 18 years of age or older, and live or work within the urban area of Visalia as defined by Visalia Unified School District’s boundary map. First consideration will be given to residents of the City of Visalia.

City committees and commissions will reflect, to the extent possible, our community and are comprised of individuals who have come together to help make a difference and keep Visalia thriving. If that interests you, learn more about the process at www.visalia.city or contact the Clerk’s office directly at cityclerk@visalia.city or (559) 713-4512.

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

See CVCB on page 3

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Apply now for Leadership Visalia



Gail Zurek
 President and CEO
 Visalia Chamber

Unleash your leadership potential

Are you ready to take your leadership skills to new heights and make a lasting impact in the Visalia community? Look no further than Leadership Visalia, a prestigious program proudly presented by The Visalia Chamber of Commerce. With over 30 years of empowering leaders, Leadership Visalia has transformed individuals into business and community leaders, elected officials, and successful

business owners.

Empowering leaders, enriching Visalia

Leadership Visalia is not just any leadership program; it’s a transformative journey designed to help you reach your full potential as a leader. Our mission is simple yet powerful: to empower leaders within their companies and the Visalia community to drive positive change. Over the course of 9 months, participants engage in professional development, community engagement, mentorship, and a class-based community project. This immersive experience will give you valuable tools, knowledge, and connections to enhance your leadership skills and deepen your understanding of local issues.

Our accomplished alumni

When you become a part of Leadership Visalia, you join a prestigious group of accomplished individuals who have left a lasting impact on the community. Our alumni are a testament to the program’s effectiveness, with many of them holding positions as business and community leaders, elected officials, and successful business owners. The Leadership Visalia network is an invaluable resource that extends well beyond the program, offering a supportive community of professionals from various industries and sectors.

What to expect

The Leadership Visalia program is designed to provide participants with a well-rounded set of skills and experiences that will benefit them both personally and professionally:

- Enhanced Leadership Skills:** Throughout the program, you will undergo dynamic professional development sessions focused on communication strategies, team dynamics, managing with purpose, and time management. These sessions will equip you with practical tools and strategies to tackle leadership challenges effectively.
- In-depth Understanding of Community Issues:** Community Leadership Day Sessions will immerse you in the heart of Visalia’s challenges and opportunities. You will understand the community’s needs comprehensively and learn how to become an active part of positive solutions that drive Visalia forward.
- Meaningful Connections:** One of the most valuable aspects of Leadership Visalia is the opportunity to forge powerful connections with mentors, speakers, and fellow participants. The mentorship program offers guidance and support, enabling you to navigate your growth effectively.
- Collaborative Project Experience:** Engaging in a class-based community project will allow you to apply your leadership skills and work collaboratively with other leaders. You will gain valuable experience in team development, communication, and time management, witnessing the transformative impact you can collectively achieve.
- Personal and Professional Growth:** Throughout the program, you will receive valuable evaluation feedback from employers, men-

tors, and program facilitators. This comprehensive assessment will serve as a catalyst for continuous growth and improvement, both personally and professionally.

Application deadline extended: Act now!

Are you ready to embark on this life-changing journey? Don’t miss this exceptional opportunity to join Leadership Visalia. The application deadline has been extended to August 7th, so there’s still time to apply and take the first step toward unlocking your leadership potential.

How to apply

Applying for Leadership Visalia is simple. Visit Visaliachamber.org/leadership and fill out the online application form. This quick and easy step is the first step towards reaching your full potential as a leader in your company and this community.

Encourage someone you know

Do you know someone who possesses strong leadership qualities or has the potential to make a positive impact in Visalia? Encourage them to apply for Leadership Visalia! Share this newsletter with them and help them take advantage of this exceptional opportunity to grow as leaders and contribute to the betterment of our community.

CITY UPDATE



Citizen involvement and the city

Ready to help plan Visalia’s future? For those looking to get more involved in our community and specifically, local government, serving on a City of Visalia Committee or Commission is one way residents can be a part of making Visalia a great place to live, work and play.

City Committees and Commissions serve in an advisory capacity for the City Council. Each is different, but they all receive public concerns, review policies and regulations, provide valuable insight and are instrumental to the public process. By serving on a City advisory Committee or Commission, you can help plan Visalia’s future, as these committees and commissions are making recommendations that affect life in Visalia. Currently, there are vacancies on the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Historic Preservation Committee, however, vacancies evolve and an updated list is available at www.visalia.city/maddylist under “Current Vacancies.”

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

Adventure awaits. but it won't wait forever.

TRAVEL WITH US
 VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Trips presented by Collette Vacations (CST#: 2006766-20) and Chamber Explorations (CST#: 2048841.40)

Visit Our Website For More
visaliachamber.org/travel

BOARD SPOTLIGHT



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Name: Tony Evangelo
Company: World Wide Sires, Ltd.
Title: Vice President of Visalia Operations

Why do you serve on the Chamber Board of Directors?
 I believe the Visalia Chamber provides a tremendous value to the business community in Visalia. I admire the Chamber's vision to be the leading business support organization in Visalia. Serving on the board will give me the chance to be a part of Visalia's business growth and encourage others to invest in Visalia.

What has the chamber done in the last 12 months that has helped your business?

The Chamber has been a long time partner for WWS to help us with our export documentation. The staff at the Chamber is always quite friendly and supportive of WWS' needs. Because of their efforts, WWS is able to export our products around the globe. We've also received great opportunities for visibility and promotion of WWS to the Visalia community.

What motivates you to work hard?

I learned my work ethic from my parents. They operated a dairy farm in Hanford, and their efforts taught me the importance of careful planning, organization and making the most of each day. That has helped me keep a focus in my daily work at WWS, where my motivation is to help our team improve and grow to serve our global customers.

What is your favorite game or sport to watch and play? Or who is your favorite team?

It's rare a day doesn't go by during the baseball season that I'm not following the score of the Los Angeles Dodgers game. But recently, my wife Carolina and I have taken up golf. It's amazing what a few lessons can do to help your game quickly! We still have a long way to go for any low scores, but we have come to enjoy a day on the course together.

Is your glass half full or half empty?

I aim to be a glass half full person. I believe an optimistic outlook helps us set lofty goals and plan for success. Rather than focusing on the negative, I ask what success looks like in various situations, and what steps does a team need to take to achieve the success. International business has many potential pitfalls and obstacles - keeping a positive outlook has helped me see opportunity where others may see risk.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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Editor Gail Zurek
Layout The Sun-Gazette

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 Call 734-5876. Mail to: Visalia Chamber of Commerce 222 N. Garden St. #300 Visalia, CA 93291
 Visit www.visaliachamber.org

Community Loyal Members | *A thriving community starts here!*

NEW

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

Community Investor Members:
 ■ Holvik Family Health Center

Business Connector Members:
 ■ Closets by Design
 ■ LOM Productions Weddings & Events
 ■ Miss California
 ■ ValleyHomes & Associates
 ■ Walnut Park

Business Connector Nonprofit Members:
 ■ Central Valley Teen Challenge
 ■ The Brave Project Visalia

Small Business Members:
 ■ 7 Points
 ■ Culture Cannabis Club
 ■ Edward Jones/Mike Young
 ■ House of JuJu Visalia
 ■ Mearles Mooney Drive In
 ■ Ochs Chiropractic, Inc.
 ■ The Creative Promo

RENEWING

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

Visionary Members:
 ■ SinglePoint Outsourcing, Inc.*

Keystone Members:
 ■ Valley Strong Credit Union North Visalia Branch
 ■ Visalia Medical Clinic*

Community Investor Members:
 ■ Employer Driven Insurance Services (E.D.I.S.)
 ■ KRC Safety Co., Inc.*
 ■ McDonald's | RLMK INC
 ■ Vintage Press Restaurante

■ Wyndham Visalia
Business Builder Members:
 ■ City of Visalia
 ■ Financial Credit Network, Inc.*
 ■ National University*
 ■ Pacific Southwest Container*
 ■ Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers*
 ■ The Darling Hotel*
 ■ Tri Counties Bank*

Business Connector Members:
 ■ Caliber Home Loans
 ■ Central Valley Business Forms, Inc.*
 ■ Chukchansi Gold Resort and Casino
 ■ Cool Hand Luke's*
 ■ Educational Employees Credit Union
 ■ Franey's Carpet One Floor & Home Design Center
 ■ Infinite Heart Hospice, LLC*
 ■ Marriott Hotel
 ■ Mitchell Insurance Services
 ■ Paradise Pools Inc.
 ■ Park Visalia*
 ■ Pena's Disposal*
 ■ QK aka: Quad Knopf, Inc.
 ■ R-N Market
 ■ RE/Max Visalia*
 ■ Round Table Pizza*
 ■ Ruddell Bixler Mauritson Evans Fox & Buss, LLP
 ■ Ryan Purkiss - Thiesen-Dueker Financial Consulting Group
 ■ ServiceMaster by Benevento
 ■ The Sorensen Agency - American National Insurance Company*
 ■ Tulare Outlets*
 ■ Unified Screening & Crushing - California
 ■ United Wholesale Lumber Company
 ■ Visalia Ceramic Tile, Inc.*
 ■ Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County

Small Business Members:
 ■ Ainley Alipaz Webb
 ■ American Ambulance of Visalia*

■ Anderson Real Estate Group*
 ■ Armstrong Property Management
 ■ California Service Dog Academy*
 ■ Care at the Courtyard
 ■ Central Valley Recovery Services*
 ■ Component Coffee*
 ■ Creative Flowers
 ■ CRS Farming, LLC*
 ■ Dennis R. Keller Consulting Civil Engineer, Inc.
 ■ Derrel's Mini Storage
 ■ Burgundy House Apartments*
 ■ Empire Supply Co., Inc.*
 ■ Grapevine MSP LLC*
 ■ Hocking, Denton, Palmquist & Company
 ■ Housing Authority of Tulare County*
 ■ Jim's Formal Wear*
 ■ Kens Stakes & Supplies, Inc.*
 ■ KFSN - TV Channel 30
 ■ Lane Engineers, Inc.*
 ■ Newmark Grubb Pearson Commercial
 ■ NSE Insurance Agencies, Inc.
 ■ Redi-Rooter Plumbing*
 ■ Residence Inn by Marriott Visalia
 ■ Ryland Dogs LLC, JoJo's Grill-A-Dog*
 ■ Sciacca & Company, C.P.A.'s
 ■ Scott, Mainord, Langley & Simmons, Inc.*
 ■ Screw Conveyor Corporation
 ■ ServiceMaster by Hellstern
 ■ Sign Time
 ■ Smokin Barrel Firearms*
 ■ Sno Shack Central Valley
 ■ Sun Fresh International, LLC
 ■ Super 8 Motel
 ■ The Perez Law Firm*
 ■ Trilotech
 ■ Tulare County Association of Realtors, Inc.*
 ■ Valley Industrial & Family Medical Group
 ■ Vintage Visalia
 ■ Visalia Auto Body*
 ■ Visalia Citrus Packing Group, Inc.*



VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

■ Visalia Cyclery
 ■ Visalia Eye Center
Community Investor Nonprofit Members:
 ■ CSET-Community Services Employment Training*
 ■ Spirit 88.9

Business Builder Nonprofit Members:
 ■ Crescent Valley Public Charter*
 ■ Visalia Emergency Aid Council (VEAC)*

Business Connector Nonprofit Members:
 ■ Assistance League of Visalia*
 ■ Saint Anthony's Retreat and Conference Center*
 ■ Tulare-Kings Dental Society
 ■ United Way of Tulare County*
 ■ Visalia Public Cemetery District
 ■ Visalia Rescue Mission*

Small Business Nonprofit Members:
 ■ American Red Cross of Central California
 ■ Arts Visalia
 ■ Family Services of Tulare County*
 ■ Happy Trails Riding Academy
 ■ Soroptimist International Of Visalia
 ■ Tulare-Kings Right To Life
 ■ Turning Point of Central California, Inc.
 ■ Veterans Memorial District*
 ■ Visalia Breakfast Lions*
 ■ Visalia County Center Rotary Club
 ■ Visalia Fire Assoc. Local 3719*

* Indicates membership in the Visalia Chamber 110% Club.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Renee Cardoza
Company: California Service Dog Academy
Title: Executive Director

California Service Dog Academy was founded in 2017 by Matthew and Rebecca Corso. What started as a goal to help just one Veteran quickly turned into helping over 10 Veterans every year. Our mission is to raise and train service dogs at no/low cost for veterans, and the underprivileged, while educating the public on the importance of service dogs.

Over the last few years, CSDA has expanded by adding two new programs, CARE Dogs and Canines for Community Outreach. Our CARE Dogs Program focuses on nonveterans in need of a service dog, our hope is to grow this program more and more every year.

We also have our Canines for Community Outreach Program, which mainly focuses on educating the public about Service Dogs, as well as providing animal assisted therapy by taking our dogs in training to local businesses or events. With all of our growth and hard work, CSDA officially became accredited in 2022 with Assistance Dogs International (ADI), something we have been working towards for about 3 years.

California is one of the few ADI accredited organizations that allow clients to enter the program with their own dog, given they pass our evaluation, rather than receiving a dog from us. This is a valuable option for our clients, as they already

have a bond with their dog, and oftentimes their dog is already picking up on certain things pertaining to their disability. If a client does need a dog from CSDA we can provide one as well. California Service Dog Academy aims to educate the public on service dogs, their need, and the laws regarding service dogs. We do this by giving presentations to local groups or clubs, attending local events, and supporting our community by giving animal assisted therapy through our Canines for Community Outreach program. For our staff, the best part of working for our company is seeing our clients get their independence back, seeing their confidence increase, and overall well being increase. By having the clients go through the training process they get to feel the accomplishment of their own efforts when they complete our graduation requirements with their dogs. We also love get-

ting to see our dogs gain a life-long companion and teammate with one of our clients. The Visalia Chamber has helped us through promotion through ads, and adding us in the monthly newsletter. Being able to be involved in the Chamber events has also been a huge help in raising awareness for our cause, and raising money for our organization. We appreciate all of their support! We are in need of local fosters for our dogs in training. Local fosters have the option to drop the dog off for training at our facility during the day as well! Also, the average cost of a service dog is \$35,000. CSDA prides itself on providing service dogs at no/low cost, however in order to do that our programs need funding. Any donation we receive is extremely important to us, even just \$5 can help us continue to improve the lives of our clients and our dogs.



Empowering Excellence: Visalia Unified School District's 2023-2024 Priorities



By Kirk Shrum
 Superintendent
 Visalia Unified School District

Toward the end of the last school year I met with our staff and student advisors to talk about their school year experience. These conversations led our team to identify four key areas that both our staff and students wanted to see improved for the next school year. Our team found these key areas correlated with our district's Core Beliefs & Commitments developed by our Board of Education; and decided to develop our yearly campaign around these four priorities. We will focus on a different priority every two to three months to help students, staff, and the community deeply understand what it truly means and how it is lived out each day in our district. Our goal for each of our students is to empower them to achieve at high levels.

- The I am VUSD campaign includes the following priorities:
- I am prepared to learn, be present, and be safe.
 - I am connected in class, school, and in my community.
 - I am kind to myself and others.
 - I will achieve in my academics and in my social skills.
- Throughout the year, our teams will continuously work on clear communication to help achieve all four priorities. We know that the school year starts with being prepared, and we want both our staff and students to be ready to learn, be present, and be safe. Below are some key things parents can do to help students prepare for school:
- Know your child's class start times and/or bus routes, and arrive on time so your child is present.
 - Have your child arrive at school for a no-cost breakfast or eat at home before school starts so that children are ready to learn.
 - Be mindful when nearing school and bus zones to help students arrive safely to school.
- We are prepared for our students and teachers to be back in school, and look forward to the best first day of school.



Paws & Connect
 NETWORKING UNLEASHED
 VISALIACHAMBER.ORG/PAWS

Bank of the Sierra partnered with **Sequoia Parks Conservancy** and One Tree Planted to prepare 1,500 trees for planting this fall. The event reflects the Bank's promise to make every community it is a part of better, as well as its commitment to counter the devastation caused by wildfires that burn millions of acres in California each year.

Quail Park at Shannon Ranch, will host a James Garner's Tribute to Johnny Cash in October.

Family HealthCare Network (FHCN) welcomed Tianyu Wang, OD to their optometry team at the Visalia School health center. FHCN also sponsored **Visalia Emergency Aid Council's** Race Against Hunger event.



FAMILY HEALTHCARE NETWORK (FHCN)

Congratulations to **The Business Journal** who brought home it's largest haul of national journalism awards from the Alliance of Area Business Publications (AABP), including two gold and three silver.

Zeltmacher Structural Design Engineering, Inc. recognized the professional development and advancement of Nicolas Corrales, PE to Professional Engineer. He is a leader in

BIM initiatives.

Congratulations to **Prestige Assisted Living** who is celebrating their 24th Anniversary this month!



ABLE, INC.

The Darling announced the return of their fall event, **Mystery at The Darling Hotel**. This year's events will take place on October 20 and 21.

Self-Help Enterprises announced the promotion of Besty McGovern-Garcia to Vice President.

Able Inc. was awarded a \$1,000 grant by Walmart during the ribbon cutting at Walmart Neighborhood Market.



ZELTMACHER STRUCTURAL DESIGN ENGINEERING, INC.

Congratulations to **Kaweah Health's** employees and winners at the 2023 Starlight Awards, including Service Excellence Winners: Megan Goddard, Registered Nurse & Nurse Practitioner and Keith Weaver, Respiratory Therapist and Inspirational Leaders: Krista Brown, Specialty Practice Manager and Tiffany Bullock, Director of Home Health & Hospice.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Walmart Neighborhood Market located at 1320 N. Demaree St., hosted a ribbon cutting in celebration of their remodel.



Transit Media Inc. hosted a multi-chamber ribbon cutting event in June. Contact them at (559) 783-9445, for your advertising needs.



Mearle's Mooney Drive-In hosted a groundbreaking ceremony in July. The restaurant and drive-in will be located at the Northeast corner of Mooney Blvd. and 264 with an expected opening date in 2025.



In celebration of their Visalia grand opening, House of JuJu hosted a ribbon cutting. Visit them at 114 W. Main St.



D.R. Horton Central Valley hosted a ribbon cutting in celebration of the reopening of Diamond Oaks, an Express Series new homes series. The community is located at 1107 E Russell Ave.

Health organizations combat blood shortage

As a blood shortage persists nationwide, local hospitals and the Central California Blood Center make efforts to keep blood supply



Karis Caddell Reporter The Sun-Gazette

Central Valley health organizations were on the search for blood donors as they worked through a blood supply shortage being felt across the nation.

Despite this shortage, health facilities in the Central Valley are doing what they can to make sure patients in the Valley have an adequate supply of blood for medical use. Kaweah Health, Adventist Health and the Central California Blood Center have provided opportunities for residents to donate, and have also given some insight into how they have managed the blood shortage.

"Summer months are typically really difficult months to collect blood; and that's not just here, that's nationwide," marketing communications manager at the Central California Blood Center, Gordon Halstead said. "There are lots of other blood centers across the nation that are going through

the same kinds of shortages."

"Your RED is worth its weight in GOLD," Kaweah Health stated on its emergency blood drive poster.

Additionally, Garcia noted that Adventist Health has partnered with the Central California Blood Center since May to allow their mobile blood drives to operate outside their facilities.

The American Red Cross declared its first-ever national crisis from a severe blood shortage in January 2022, which according to the Red Cross, resulted from complications of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is because, during that time, hospitals and physicians were forced to make hard calls on how to best utilize the limited supply of donated blood that was available.

On July 10, the Red Cross made an announcement on their website that patients in need of blood transfusions are coming in faster than donations. The Red Cross has "collected about 50,000 fewer blood donations than needed over the last two months" and are also hosting their own blood drive events to combat the shortage.

In an emailed statement, Adventist Health confirmed the hospital has not had to divert any patients from its hospitals due to the national blood shortage. According to the statement, this is because the medical provider has "mitigation steps to obtain blood from a secondary blood supplier when our primary supplier cannot meet our demand."

Kaweah Health confirmed that its facility has also not had to divert any patients from its medical care due to the shortage.

"However, the current need for blood is critical," Kaweah Health's communications team said via an emailed statement. "Our hospital needs an adequate supply of blood to provide the best care possible for our patients."

According to Kaweah Health, the blood shortage has intermittently impacted the medical center's operations because blood products are utilized by many different types of patients. In its emergency department, it was noted that critical patients such as car accident victims, may need multiple transfusions to save their lives. Additionally, oncology and dialysis patients routinely need blood transfusions.

"If the blood inventory remains low, some surgical procedures may have to be rescheduled," Kaweah Health stated.

It was noted by the medical facility that when the blood supply is precarious, critically ill and emergency room patients are prioritized. Kaweah Health stated that its goal is to be able to fulfill all of its patient's needs for blood, but when blood donations are low, it impacts the facility's inventory and, therefore, its ability to react to emergencies.

"There are times, particularly lately, where the demand for blood has outweighed the supply. It is important to remind the general public to donate blood when possible for the safety of our community," Kaweah Health stated.

The facility's communications team added that the potential effect of the blood shortage can dignify a delay in treatment, and that some patients may have to wait for treatment while the medical center sources supplies.

According to Halstead, from the Central California Blood Center, summer months are more difficult to get blood donations in general, because people typically have more going on in the summer. Many

See BLOOD on page 4

CVCB

Continued from page 1

Community Bank in 2013. Under the terms of the agreement, Visalia Community Bank, with four branches in Visalia and one branch in Exeter, was merged with Central Valley Community Bank under its parent company Central Valley Community Bancorp. CVCB previously closed two branches in Visalia but has retained its Exeter branch.

The bank's new location is just a few blocks east of the Floral Office and has had several tenants in the past, including Financial Title Co. Kim said the move to the new location will take place in the coming months, pending construction schedules.

"Our team will ensure a smooth and seamless transition for our valued clients," Kim said.

tion for our valued clients," Kim said.

Central Valley Community Bancorp trades on the NASDAQ stock exchange under the symbol CVCY. Central Valley Community Bank, headquartered in Fresno, California, was founded in 1979 and opened to the public in January 1980, and is the sole subsidiary of Central Valley Community Bancorp. CVCB operates full-service Banking Centers throughout California's San Joaquin Valley and Greater Sacramento region, in addition to maintaining Commercial, Real Estate and Agribusiness Lending, as well as Private Business Banking and Cash Management Departments.

More information about Central Valley Community Bancorp and Central Valley Community Bank can be found at www.cvcb.com. Also, visit CVCB on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

Ask Jena

I would like to partner with the Chamber to host a workshop for members. How do I do that?

We love to partner with members on workshops! Does your business provide a specialty service, expertise or knowledge that you think would benefit members? Contact me directly!

I have a question for the City, how can I get it addressed?

Have a question for the City or County? Join us on Aug. 24 at our State of Local Government Luncheon! This is a great opportunity to connect with our local representatives. Can't make it? You can submit your question at visaliachamber.org/state-of-local-govt.

Have a question about the Chamber? Send me a message: Jena@visaliachamber.org

VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON An EDISON INTERNATIONAL Company

PRESENTS THE STATE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

VISALIA County of Tulare CALIFORNIA

Bello Vita Venue 4211 W Goshen Ave August 24, 2023 11:30am-1:30pm

Supported by: Family HealthCare NETWORK

VISALIACHAMBER.ORG

Thank you

TO OUR PREMIER MEMBERS

CHAMPION:



VISIONARY:



REGIONAL LEADERS:



KEYSTONE:



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California Service Dog Academy announces S.A.F.E. initiative for local businesses

California Service Dog Academy (“CSDA”) is excited to announce the S.A.F.E. Initiative, a new service dog education program for businesses in and around Tulare County. The S.A.F.E. Initiative, which stands for Service Animal Facts and Education, is aimed at providing local business owners and their employees with education and resources on service dogs in public. Over the years, CSDA has received numerous reports from clients as well as businesses regarding fraudulent or poorly trained service dogs in places designated as non-pet friendly and this program was created in an effort to protect legitimate service dog teams as well as inform businesses of their rights when it comes to service dog access.

According to a survey published by Assistance Dogs International (“ADI”), 93% of respondents who have a legitimate service dog say they encountered poorly trained or uncontrolled service dogs in public. Of those respondents, 80% reported feeling that fraudulent service dogs have negatively impacted their independence and quality of life. Nearly 70% of respondents said that the fraudulent service dog they encountered snapped, bit, or barked at them. This represents one of the more significant issues that fraudulent service dogs produce as this is dangerous not just for service dogs who have spent years in training, but for children and members of the public as well. The S.A.F.E. Initiative, while promoting the reputation and image of legitimate service dog teams, aims to help prevent bites or attacks from poorly trained service dogs as well as make access for well-trained and well-behaved service dogs easier.

As a result of businesses having bad experiences with fraudulent service dogs, many legitimate service dog handlers have faced access issues including being denied service or being asked illegal or inappropriate questions. By educating businesses on their rights

when it comes to poorly trained service dogs, we hope to make access for legitimate service dog handlers more comfortable, especially for those with psychological disabilities that find being in public or being confronted difficult. As an ADI accredited organization, CSDA believes that educating people on the importance of service dogs as well as how a well-trained service dog behaves is vital to protecting legitimate service dog teams and members of the public.

California Service Dog Academy’s S.A.F.E. Initiative offers businesses the opportunity to receive educational brochures and flyers for employees and customers as well as window stickers identifying them as a “Service Dog Friendly Business”. The staff at CSDA are also able to provide employees of local businesses with a presentation on how to easily identify legitimate service dog teams, what to do if a fraudulent service dog is disrupting business, and resources for providing accommodations to service dog teams and customers. The presentation also highlights the behavior and handling guidelines for service dogs established by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); the difference between emotional support animals, therapy dogs, and service animals; and why it is important to protect the public and legitimate service dog teams from fraudulent service dogs.

If someone is interested in signing up to receive resources or a presentation through CSDA’s S.A.F.E. Initiative, we encourage them to contact our office by calling 866-382-9917 or sending an email to Info@CaliforniaServiceDogAcademy.org. More information about California Service Dog Academy and the services we provide is available on our website, www.CaliforniaServiceDogAcademy.org.



BLOOD
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people go on trips, are taking care of kids who are off of school and managing holiday plans. At the same time, he noted that the increased travel creates more accidents that require blood transfusions.

“Around national holidays, we always see a dip [in donations] before and after the Fourth of July for about a week,” Halstead said.

He noted that this increase is one of many factors that further the need for donations. On top of this, he noted that patients such as cancer patients, birthing mothers and premature babies always need blood donations, no matter what time of the year it is.

From his observations with the blood center, Halstead said this shortage has been going on for almost four years.

The Central California Blood Center has been doing what it can to combat the shortage. The Central California Blood Center has permanent locations and mobile blood drives in Tulare, Madera, Fresno, Kings and Mariposa counties.

All blood donations will help combat the blood shortage but there is a specific need for Type O blood.

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