



Around Tulare County

Delivering Information about Tulare County - April 2010

Supervisor's Message: Anti-Gang Efforts Make Strides



More than 900 Tulare County students representing 36 high schools attended the March 11 Step Up Youth Summit at the McDermont Field House in the City of Lindsay.

The summit's goal was to educate and inform students about opportunities available to them and provide information on positive decision-making through a series of high-powered workshops.

As the Step Up Youth Summit Planning Committee Chairman, I am proud to report the efforts of this youth-focused event will last far beyond one day.

A follow up committee has

been formed to visit with student attendees during the next few months.

Currently, summit attendees are participating in an online survey regarding the event. The follow up committee will visit these students face-to-face to measure success and determine the pros and cons of the event.

While the Step Up Youth Summit targets high school-aged students, members of the Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force - the group responsible for planning Step Up events - thought it would be a great idea to target youth in elementary and middle schools. The Board of Supervisors agree whole heartedly and will continue to support those efforts.

Members of the Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force are working to create and begin to implement a campaign that

reaches our younger students. Initial ideas revolve around more youth-focused events and on-going programs such as the Step Up Service Learning Grant Program.

Please visit www.stepuptc.com for upcoming information regarding the efforts to reach elementary and middle school students.

We believe the future of Tulare County rests on our youth. The Board of Supervisors is committed to providing positive experiences to our County's youth and will continue to partner with all agencies, businesses, and organizations who want to be part of the solution.

Allen Ishida, District One
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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Calendar Art Contest Winners Announced

Fourteen Tulare County students held their heads high at the March 16 Board of Supervisors meeting for being selected out of more than 1,400 K-12 students who submitted entries for the Tulare County Farm Bureau's annual Calendar Art Contest.

The winning entries were picked based on the agricultural content, originality, neatness and reproducibility of their

artwork.

The goal of the contest, sponsored by the Farm Bureau and the Tulare County Office of Education, is to promote awareness about agriculture and the importance of an abundant, reliable and healthy food supply.

The winners were recognized at the Board of Supervisors' meeting - a tradition for the wrap-up for the contest.

Student Winners:

- Irving Palafox, Woodlake
- Maria Guadalupe Diaz, Orosi
- Yesenia Barrera, Orosi
- Susie Moreno, Strathmore
- Faith Woodard, Visalia
- Aylin Espino, Porterville
- Kaysi Grimes, Exeter
- Megan Dula, Visalia
- Maria Orozco, Tulare
- Tiffany Quintero, Farmersville
- Oscar Ceja, Dinuba
- Dustin Kong, Exeter
- Clarissa Guzman, Tulare



Overall Winner Orosi High School Junior Yesenia Alcala submitted the above design. It is featured on the calendar's cover.

Two Tulare Gang Awareness Forums Slated for April

Tulare Gang Awareness Forums - How to Attend

Who: Residents of Tulare County

What: Tulare Gang Awareness Forums

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Dates: April 15 & 22

Where: April 15: Mulcahy Middle School. 1001 W. Sonora Ave., Tulare, CA

April 22: Mission Oak High School. 3442 E. Bardsley Ave., Tulare, CA

City of Tulare, Tulare County, Tulare Police Department, and Tulare school officials will partner to host two gang awareness forums in April.

The purpose of the Tulare Gang Awareness Forums, scheduled for April 15 and 22, is to educate the public on gang prevention and suppression strategies, community safety, and how residents can get involved in combating gang activity, said District Two Supervisor Pete Vander Poel, who represents Tulare.

"The problems caused by gangs and gang activities are difficult to address with only one agency," Supervisor Vander Poel said. "That's why it's important to take a multi-faceted approach to gang prevention. It's great to work with such a diverse group of partners to help increase gang awareness in the city of Tulare."

The first forum is scheduled from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 15 at Mulcahy Middle School in Tulare. The second forum is scheduled from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 22 at Mission Oak High School in Tulare.

Both forums will feature a one-hour resource fair, a guest presentation, and a panel of guest speakers to address gang issues and answer questions from the public. The panel includes: Supervisor Pete Vander Poel; Tulare Mayor Craig Vejvoda;

Sheriff Bill Wittman; Tulare Police Chief Jerry Breckinridge; District Attorney Phil Cline; and Probation Chief Janet Honadle. Tulare Police Chief Breckinridge said the partnership between the city, county, law enforcement, and schools is a promising sign of cooperation among agencies to combat gangs and their influences.

"We have done well working with our youth, trying to prevent them from being influenced by gangs," Chief Breckinridge said. "Through community involvement and the efforts of the police department, we reach a large number of children on a daily basis. We now need to address a very vital component of intervention and prevention – the parents. Unfortunately, a lot of parents do not know what to look for when it comes to their children being involved with gangs... until it is too late. This forum truly represents the collaborative effort each agency is putting forth to address the quality of life in our community."

Tulare County Sheriff Bill Wittman said collaboration among agencies improves intervention and prevention steps towards the suppression of gang violence. A multifaceted and coordinated approach combines suppression, prevention, and intervention, which are necessary components in developing long-term and short term strategies and

programs to address gang violence. Law enforcement agencies combined with faith and community-based organizations, education, government, and private businesses all play critical roles in gang reduction and intervention efforts.

"Agencies and communities working together to address gang issues is a must for a safer community," Sheriff Wittman said.

Supervisor Vander Poel said the gang awareness forums are part of a series of anti-gang events he will continue to bring to the residents of District Two, which includes Allensworth, Alpaugh, Earlimart, Pixley, Teviston, Tipton, Richgrove, Woodville and Waukena.

The Tulare Gang Awareness Forum is a partnership between the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, City of Tulare, Tulare Police Department, Tulare County Sheriff's Department, Tulare County District Attorney's Office, Tulare County Probation Department, Tulare City Elementary School District, and the Tulare Joint Union High School District.

For more information, please contact Jed Chernabaeff at 559/636-5000 or email stepuptc@co.tulare.ca.us.

"AGENCIES AND COMMUNITIES WORKING TOGETHER TO ADDRESS GANG ISSUES IS A MUST FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY," TULARE COUNTY SHERIFF BILL WITTMAN



Employee Spotlight: Christine Phillips



Name: Christine Phillips

Title: Supervising Account Clerk

Years of Service: 11

Duties: Supervise account clerks, senior account clerks and office assistants in the fiscal department, posting clinical charges and payments.

What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee? I started my career with Tulare County working in the Medical Clinics as a Supervising Office Assistant. I came to Tulare County after working 20 years in a private medical setting. My most rewarding experience as a County employee was being a part of an organization that genuinely cared about the health of its patients. The programs available through

Tulare County provided services to patients who otherwise would not be able to obtain the medical care they needed for themselves and their families.

Family: My husband, Roger, has just retired from Tulare County after 14 years of service, and he is now managing our hay retrieving business. My daughter has been accepted to Western University of Health Sciences Pomona's medical program. She hopes to work in family practice. My son works full time and attends COS where he is pursuing a career as a Vet Tech. Also, an integral part of the family is our 3 horses, 1 miniature horse, 3 dogs and 2 cats.

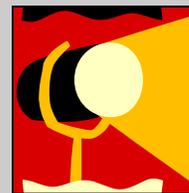
Hobbies: Riding horses, motor home camping (no tents), entering rib cook-offs, and helping with the clubs we are involved in.

Clubs/Organizations: I have been an active member of Tulare County Sheriff's Posse for 7 years. (See Did You Know?) This year I am the President. This is a non-profit

organization. We support the Sheriff's Department, and volunteer many hours in Search and Rescue, parades, and community events. We help raise money to provide scholarships to students who are seeking a career in Law enforcement. I am the wife of a Goshen Mounted Police member. This organization spends many weekends cooking at county events to raise money to help the handicapped kids in Tulare County. I also belong to the Visalia Elks, the Vagabond Elks, and the Sportsman's Club.

Please tell us something other employees might not know about you? I rode in the 2006 and 2007 Rose parade with the Tulare County Sheriff's Posse.

Where is your favorite place to visit in Tulare County? The museum at Mooney Grove Park. As I grow older, it has become more interesting to read the history of our County, and mountains that surround us.



There are many County employees who are doing outstanding things for their community outside of their job.

Do you know a County employee who should be in the spotlight? Let us know at:

newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us

Did You Know?

The Tulare County Sheriff's Posse formed in 1940. In the vast agricultural area, many of the local farmers and ranchers were routinely called to assist the Sheriff's Department, and that tradition continues with local volunteers. Currently, the Posse has a large mounted unit, founded in 1995, that responds to search and rescue call-outs with horses.

Program Spotlight: Annie R. Mitchell History Room

The Annie R. Mitchell History Room contains a wide variety of local history materials relating to Tulare County and the San Joaquin Valley. These materials are a non-circulating research collection.

Books, periodicals, maps, indexes, photographs and other materials must be used in this room under the supervision of staff.

The history room is located at

the Tulare County Library, 200 W. Oak Ave., Visalia, CA 93291.

Hours:

Tuesday: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Annie R. Mitchell is a local historian who has been described as "Tulare County's top historian, whose contributions are priceless."

Miss Mitchell has brought Tulare County's heritage to a wide audience and, in doing so, has interviewed countless early settlers, preserving their experiences and recollections.

Read more about Annie R. Mitchell at:

<http://www.tularecountylibrary.org/Pages/anniemitchell.html>



Annie R. Mitchell

Want your program to be in the spotlight? Please send suggestions to:

newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us



“FOCUSING ON EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, AND ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES GIVES ALL ATTENDEES A CHANCE TO FIND THE BEST CAREER FIT. “

Tulare County Career Fair to Be Held in April in Visalia

Tulare County's Career Fair, scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, April 21 at the Visalia Convention Center, will showcase businesses who are ready to hire, train and provide opportunities to an able and ready workforce.

There is no charge for job-seekers to attend the Career Fair, and attendees are encouraged to dress professionally and bring copies of their resume to give to potential employers.

By delivering value to both employers and career seekers, we are ensuring qualified candidates find the perfect career fit.

This year's Career Fair will feature:

- **Opportunity:** More than 75 employers, from education to businesses, will attend this year's event. Some of the businesses include: Serpa

Packaging, KSEQ Radio, Porterville College, Ruiz Foods, Land 'O' Lakes, Kaweah Delta Health Care District, Eagle Mountain Casino, Tulare Adult School, Employment Connection, and more.

- **Staying Connected:** We are "going social". A Facebook "Tulare County Career Fair" fan page has been created and will provide periodic updates on participating employers and career seeker tips.

- **Interview Assistance:** Back by popular demand! The Society of Human Resource Managers' (SHRM) award winning "Speed Interview" will take place to help career seekers. In a manner of moments individuals will get a critique of their resume, a mock interview, and receive advice

on how to prepare for an interview from the experts.

- **New Name:** We are becoming "Career Oriented". Changing our name from Job Fair to Career Fair is reflecting our commitment to mirror the current business climate. Focusing on educational options, vocational training, and entrepreneurial opportunities gives all attendees a chance to find the best career fit.

Businesses interested in participating in this year's Career Fair can log on to www.employmentconnect.org to register.

For registration or more information regarding this year's Career Fair, please call Peg Bailey at 559/713-5254.

AROUND TULARE COUNTY

Around Tulare County is published once a month as a service to the public. Unless otherwise noted, articles are written by County staff. For additional information, contact Jed Chernabaeff or Jeff Forbes.

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APRIL COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

Meeting: (Date/Time)

More Information:

Board of Supervisors' Meeting: Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27. 9 a.m.	559/636-5000
Secured Property Tax 2nd Installment Delinquency Date. Apr. 10	559/636-5200
L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: Apr. 7. 2 p.m.	559/624-7000
Step Up Youth Summit Debrief Meeting: Apr. 9, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.	559/636-5000
Tulare County Youth Commission: Apr. 12. 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.	559/636-5000
Tulare County Planning Commission: Apr. 14, 28. 9 a.m.	559/624-7000
Tulare Gang Awareness Forums: Apr. 15, 22. 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.	559/636-5000
T.C.A.G. Meeting: Apr. 19. 1 p.m.	559/624-7000
Tulare County Career Fair: Apr. 21. 9 a.m. - noon.	559/713-5254
Tulare County Water Commission: Apr. 26. 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.	559/636-5000

For more information, visit: www.co.tulare.ca.us and click on "County Calendar"



Places to Go Play: The Exeter Historical Museum, located at 125 South "B" Street, was constructed in 1913. The museum focuses on the history of Exeter, including Mineral King and Conifer in Sequoia National Park, Yokohl Valley, Rocky Hill and other surrounding landmarks. The Courthouse Gallery of the Arts is also located next door to the museum. Learn more about Exeter and other places to "Go Play" at www.tularecountymap.com.