



# Around Tulare County

Delivering Information about Tulare County - February 2010

## Chairman's 2010 State of the County



**Note: Excerpt from January 26, 2010 State of the County Address**

As I begin my third term as board chair I want to publicly thank my fellow board members, the other elected county officials, our CAO and his staff and the many fine employees of Tulare County for their collective contributions to this enterprise called Tulare County Government.

Many of our county employees and county volunteers make extraordinary efforts to serve the public. They do this because they truly believe in public service to others. It is a calling, not a workplace duty. For example, the Board recognizes the contributions of one such dedicated volunteer - Gwen McLaughlin - who we honor today for 25,000 volunteer hours, equivalent to nearly 12 years of service.

This morning I can confidently report to you that the County's fiscal and physical health is strong. This is not to say that we are without challenges as suffered by other businesses and governmental entities during these difficult economic times. Reductions from the State of California to our Health and Human Services Agency have resulted in layoffs and reduced services to residents of our county. Declining

construction and development within the county has led to layoffs in Planning and Development with the Resource Management Agency.

When we look around us, however, we count our blessings that the sufferings seem slight in comparison with many other governmental entities. As an example, state employees have been required to take 3 furlough days per month amounting to a 14% pay cut. Some neighboring counties have had to cut 20% or more of their budgets and likely will need to make further reductions. In contrast, our county departments were reduced 7% and nearly all employees, including the Board of Supervisors, have been subject to a one time 5 day furlough in this annual budget cycle.

What makes Tulare County different? For one, we are not a wealthy community, and living within our means is in our DNA. As others saw remarkable fiscal growth from unsustainable increases in real property values and surging sales tax, they made long term commitments such as increased retroactive retirement benefits and salaries that now leave them trapped. Tulare County steadily moved forward always with an eye toward sustainability. We have historically made some equity adjustments and given reasonable wage and benefit increases to our employees, keeping in mind that moving forward is preferable to backpedaling.

There are also substantive policy actions taken by this board and earlier boards which have assisted us: when California Department of Forestry costs escalated beyond the county's ability to pay, we created our own fire department which has allowed us to restore much of our depleted service levels and improve our equipment and fire stations. We became self insured for our worker's compensation insurance coverage. We replaced our contracted Information Technology services with our own IT employees and our 70 odd telephone systems are being replaced with a voice over internet protocol system eliminating hundreds of telephone connections. We utilized the Millennium Fund to leverage monies from the state and our local partners to rehabilitate or construct the Visalia and Lindsay branches of the county library and construct a new sheriff substation in Cutler without going into debt. Most recently we entered into a joint powers agreement with Fresno County becoming self insured for our employee's health insurance resulting in no increase of premiums to our employees in 2010. These are but a few of the many cost saving and efficiency plans which have been put into place and we anticipate more in the coming year.

Steve Worthley, Chairman  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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Read the full text of Chairman Worthley's 2010 State of the County Address by visiting [www.co.tulare.ca.us](http://www.co.tulare.ca.us) and clicking on "State of Tulare County 2010" under the "In the News" feature.

## Around Tulare County

# City of Lindsay Celebrates 100 years!



Lindsay will hit the milestone of 100 years of Incorporation on February 28, 2010!

Lindsay officials will host a Centennial celebration from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the McDermont Field House on Saturday, February 27, 2010 for the entire community.

Everybody is invited to participate in this one-of-a-kind event. Admission will be \$1. Food will be available for \$1. Music, entertainment and old-fashioned games will be provided and there will be historical displays illustrating Lindsay's rich history.

### Commemoration

A formal commemoration will take place in front of City Hall at 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 28. Dignitaries are being invited, community groups are expected to perform, and the old time capsule, placed at City Hall when it was opened in 1936, will be opened. Lindsay City Councilmember Pam Kimball said a new time capsule will be buried in the old capsule's place some time in the future.

### All-year Celebration

Colorful Centennial banners will grace Hermosa Street and the Lindsay downtown area all year. Centennial t-shirts and other memorabilia will be available. The Lindsay Cultural Arts Council is expected to open a new museum dedicated to Lindsay's history by late fall in the old Lindsay Library building, located at 165 N. Gale Hill in Lindsay, and a

new book commemorating Lindsay History should be published and available at the museum dedication in Fall 2010.

### How to Participate

The Lindsay City Council has formed a committee of interested citizens to plan ways to commemorate this important event.

The goals of the committee are to:

- Involve all citizens in a community wide celebration.
- Educate the public, especially youth, on Lindsay's significant history.
- Produce a commemorative Lindsay history book and open a museum to preserve and showcase Lindsay history.
- Bring the community together in positive ways which will inspire pride, knowledge and participation.

There are many ways for community organizations to participate.

1. We invite you to incorporate the Centennial theme in all of your activities for 2010. For example, your business could decide to purchase and wear the Centennial t-shirt every Friday in 2010. Your church could hold an old-fashioned picnic and let old-timers share their stories. Your club could sponsor a service project to help with the Museum. We hope you will come up with creative ways to show your community spirit and pride in Lindsay.

2. We invite you to volunteer your help on Centennial Weekend, Feb. 27-28. There are many ways to help and participate. Please call 562-7114 if you would like to volunteer, or want more information. Don't be surprised if someone calls you!

3. List your Centennial events or activities on the official website, [www.lindsaycentennial.com](http://www.lindsaycentennial.com). Call 562-7114 with your information to be listed, and be sure to check out the website often.

4. Send photographs of centennial themed events or efforts by your business or organization to the Lindsay Cultural Arts Council for inclusion in the Commemorative Book. The book is being planned for late Fall 2010 so that it can include pictures and stories from our year of celebration and our current residents, as well as our history. That address is P.O. Box 223, Lindsay, Ca 93247.

5. Offer your financial support by purchasing our t-shirts and other memorabilia, ordering your copy of the Book, and contributing to Museum fundraisers, as well as generously supporting Centennial events.

**Editor's Note: Story and pictures submitted by the City of Lindsay.**



Old Railroad



Old Harvester



Lindsay Orange Packing House



Lindsay High School

## Employee Spotlight: Robert Hurtado



**Name:** Robert Hurtado

**Title:** Staff Services Analyst II, HHSA

**Years of Service:** 19

**Duties:** Manage the problem resolution center for AskGE and help staff with application support and liaison with IT Department when technical support is needed.

**Family:** Married 17 years to wife Theresa. Three sons. Kirk, web designer in San Diego; Justin, parts distribution manager in Santa Ana; and Joshua, a Lindsay High School senior.

**Hobbies:** Golf, attending movies with family, and attending high school sporting events.

**Clubs/Organizations:** Member of Lindsay First

Baptist Church, Lindsay Future Farmers of America, Lindsay High School Athletic Boosters and volunteer when needed. Past president of the Sequoia League Youth Football and Lindsay Youth Football boards.

### What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee?

When I was on the CalWIN team, Tulare County had the highest success rate of the 18-county consortium with our Conversion rate from the Case Data System to the CalWIN system. This was a result of a great group of dedicated people working long and hard and really caring about the job they were doing.

### Please tell us something other employees might not know about you?

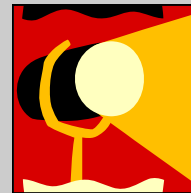
I have been a football coach in Lindsay for more than 20 years. I took over the varsity football program two years ago. At the time, the team had two consecutive 0-10 seasons. Last year's team won 3 games and qualified for

the playoffs. This year's team won 8 games and hosted our first playoff game ever in Lindsay.

In the off season our team has put on a football clinic for youth at the Lindsay First Baptist Church as part of its Wednesday night youth program. We also held an all day football clinic for the youth who attended the summer program at the Mc Dermont Field House and helped the local Kiwanis Club plant more than 100 trees in downtown Lindsay. My wife Theresa, a former County employee, cooks more than 100 meals every Thursday during the football season for the junior varsity and varsity teams.

### Where is your favorite place to visit in Tulare County?

The Three Rivers area because it is quiet and relaxing. Being in the mountain areas is not only beautiful but it's great to slow down and enjoy the atmosphere.



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](mailto:newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us)

## Program Spotlight: Bad Check Restitution

Millions of dollars are lost every year by merchants as a result of residents who write bad checks. Bad checks affect everyone in terms of higher consumer costs that must be passed on to offset losses, and increased taxes to cover the additional costs for law enforcement and prosecution.

In an effort to combat this problem, District Attorney Phil Cline has instituted the Bad Check Restitution Program to provide cost-free assistance

to recipients of bad checks.

The primary goal of the program is to obtain restitution for the victim and secondly, to hold bad check writers more accountable for their actions without creating an added burden for the criminal justice system.

First time bad check offenders are given the opportunity to avoid criminal prosecution by attending a mandatory intervention class,

in addition to paying restitution. All of this is accomplished without any cost to taxpayers.

For additional information about the Bad Check Restitution Program, contact Danny Prokosch, Community Relations Representative at (877) 208-8491 or [dprokosch@checkprogram.com](mailto:dprokosch@checkprogram.com).



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

[newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us)



**“THIS WAS A VERY COMPETITIVE GRANT, AND OUR STAFF AS WELL AS OUR PARTNERS WORKED HARD TO BUILD A COMPLETE PROGRAM IN A VERY SHORT TIME,”**  
**ADAM PECK,**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WIB**

## County Receives Stimulus Funds for Health Care Job Training

The Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County (WIB) was awarded nearly \$1 million in federal stimulus funds to provide training for allied health care jobs in the county.

The grant, part of a \$10.7 million pool of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), was announced January 20 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's California Recovery Task Force (CRTF). Twelve other counties also received funding. Tulare County received 10 percent of the total funding allocation.

"Workers across the state will learn the skills that employers need in today's rapidly changing workforce," said Herb K. Schultz, Director of the CRTF.

The grant will go towards not only training participants, but also towards conducting

assessments to guide students into health care careers best suited for them. A partnership between the WIB, Porterville College, and the adult schools from Porterville, Tulare, Dinuba, and Visalia was organized to create a consolidated, efficient program.

"This was a very competitive grant, and our staff as well as our partners worked hard to build a complete program in a very short time," said Adam Peck, Executive Director of the WIB. "The program was designed to give participants flexibility to help pick the best job for them."

The program will provide training leading to certifications for a variety of health care careers, including Psychiatric Technician, Licensed Vocational Nurse, Medical Assistant, CNA, Home

Health Aide, Medical Billing/Coding, and Phlebotomy certification. A variety of follow-up services, including job placement, will be available to the participants after their training is completed.

Peck said the funds will help train more than 500 people in medical jobs.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Steve Worthley said Tulare County residents in the health care industry will benefit.

"It's an excellent opportunity for the underemployed or unemployed to improve their marketable skills in the health care field," Chairman Worthley said. "The health care field is one that has continued growth potential driven by the aging baby boomer population."

### 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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### FEBRUARY COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

#### Meeting: (Date/Time)

Secured Property Tax 2nd Installment Due Date: Feb. 1  
 Board of Supervisors' Meeting: Feb. 2, 9 a.m. Feb. 9, 1:30 p.m.  
 L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: Feb. 3, 2 p.m.  
 Tulare County Planning Commission: Feb. 10, 24. 9 a.m.  
 Last deadline for most property tax exemption claims: Feb. 15  
 Nomination Period for All Candidates/All Offices Open: Feb. 16  
 Tulare County Youth Commission: Feb. 16, 3 p.m.  
 T.C.A.G. Meeting: Feb. 18, 1:30 p.m.  
 Step Up Youth Summit Planning Committee Meeting: Feb. 12. 3:30 p.m.

#### More Information:

559/733-6526  
 559/636-5000  
 559/624-7000  
 559/624-7000  
 559/733-6361  
 559/624-7300  
 559/636-5000  
 559/624-7274  
 559/636-5000

For more information, visit: [www.co.tulare.ca.us](http://www.co.tulare.ca.us) and click on "County Calendar"



**Places to Go Play:** Woodlake is located among citrus and olive orchards at the base of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. The city is a short drive from Sequoia National Park. Close by, Woodlake enjoys the amenities of Lake Kaweah and the Kaweah and St. John's rivers. Bravo Lake, an irrigation facility located within city limits, provides bird watching and walking opportunities. Learn more about Woodlake and other places to "Go Play" at [www.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).