



# Around Tulare County

Delivering Information about Tulare County - May 2010

## Supervisor's Message: Taste Tulare County Takes Off



The Board of Supervisors launched a collaborative effort called Taste Tulare County at the World Ag Expo in February 2010. Taste Tulare County seeks to educate the public about the rich variety of agricultural products grown and produced here in our county and has a very simple mission statement: "Eat Healthy-Buy Local."

This project is a working collaboration between the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, the Tulare County Office of Education, the Tulare County Farm Bureau and other local partners within our County's agricultural community.

Tulare County is the top-rated largest dairy production region in the world, and is currently the second most productive farming region on the planet. Ironically, while childhood obesity is a serious problem nationwide, we have an extraordinarily large percentage of youth that are overweight, right here where our farmers grow some of the most nutritious produce to be found anywhere worldwide.

This is unfortunate. As community leaders, we want people living and working in Tulare County to be the healthiest people in America. This is why we have formed Taste Tulare County. Our goal is simple: Eat healthy! Back away from that burger! Grab a piece of fresh fruit instead, we grow lots of it right here! Eat yogurt and cheese: these are great sources of calcium and protein.

The Taste Tulare County collaborative group has a second message for people who decide to adopt a healthier diet: Buy local! Our farmers grow the best food in the world, and with more than 125 crops grown in our County we have something nutritious right here, year round.

Your decision to buy local helps support our local farmers and helps strengthen our local economy. Farming is a \$5 billion industry in Tulare County. That's a lot of money that flows off the farm and into our local communities.

Pete Vander Poel, District Two  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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### The Tulare County Board of Supervisors is helping support several Taste Tulare County events this month:

**May 14:** Kings/Tulare Area Agency on Aging Senior Day in Mooney Grove Park.

**May 15-16:** The Board of Supervisors is sponsoring the Sequoia Foodie Fest in Exeter. For more information see: [www.SequoiaFoodieFest.com](http://www.SequoiaFoodieFest.com)

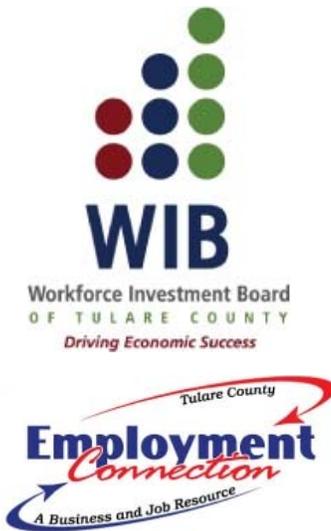
**May 19:** County officials will support the Veggie Fest at Save Mart in Exeter.

**May 20:** Taste Tulare County will pass out oranges at the AMGEN race start in Visalia and at Rocky Hill Elementary as AMGEN riders pass through Exeter.

**For more information:** [www.tastetularecounty.org](http://www.tastetularecounty.org) or Eric Coyne at 559/636-5000.



## Free Microsoft Training Offered Through WIB



The Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County (WIB) announced the availability of free technology training for all interested businesses in Tulare County. Partnering with Microsoft's "Elevate America" program, more than 4,000 vouchers are now available for training on a variety of Microsoft programs like Word and Excel, and businesses are welcome to activate the vouchers for their employees.

"With the generous assistance made available by the

Microsoft Corporation, the WIB and Employment Connection can provide this important tool to businesses in Tulare County," said Bill DeLain, Chair of the WIB.

The vouchers are available to all employers in the county, including businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies. The online training ranges from basic computer skills, such as internet navigation, to using various Microsoft Office programs, to specialized training for IT professionals.

The vouchers must be activated by June 8, 2010, and the learning materials will be available online free for one year. Certification exams are also available at no cost, if taken before the June deadline. After that, the exams will be available for a small cost.

Any business owner or manager interested in taking advantage of this training can call the Employment Connection at 800-367-8742 to sign up.

## 2nd Annual Step Up Goshen & Unite Summit Held in May

### Step Up Goshen & Unite: How to Attend

**Who:** Residents of Tulare County

**What:** Gang Awareness Event

**Time:** 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Date:** Thursday, May 13

**Place:** Goshen Elementary School, 6505 Ave. 308, Visalia, CA 93291

The Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force will assist local churches and community leaders to host the second annual Step Up Goshen & Unite Summit on May 13.

Lori Goebel of Christ Lutheran Church, summit chairman, said the goal of the event was to inspire Goshen families to live violence- and drug-free lifestyles, pursue educational achievement and connect to

their community in a positive manner.

"We want to join forces with Step Up and its partners because educating the public on gangs and gang influences is of the upmost importance," said Goebel, who is also a teacher at Goshen Elementary School.

More than 600 people attended the event last year, which sought to empower parents and youth with

motivational speakers who hosted separate workshops focused around messages targeting youth and adults. Organizers arranged a resource fair staffed by more than 45 community organizations, local government agencies and faith-based groups who provided information to attendees.

Information: 559/636-5000.

## Dinuba Soccer Honored at BOS Meeting



Chairman Steve Worthley recognizes the Dinuba High School Soccer Team for its achievements both on and off the field.

The Tulare County Board of Supervisor paid tribute to the Dinuba High School Emperor Soccer Team at its April 20 meeting.

The Dinuba High School Soccer Team won its first Central Section Division III Valley Championship in February, then went on to play in the State semifinals before losing to Santa Barbara.

The soccer team was honored before a standing room only crowd. Players received certificates of recognition and the coach was presented a proclamation by Chairman Steve Worthley, who represents Dinuba and northern Tulare County on the Board of Supervisors.

### Web Extra

To watch a portion of the presentation, please copy and paste the link below into your web browser.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_wivXTPgEFY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_wivXTPgEFY)

In future editions, Around Tulare County will post more videos of interest.

## Employee Spotlight: Mary Raborn



**Name:** Mary Raborn

**Title:** Probation Division Manager

**Years of Service:**30

**Duties:** Currently responsible for the oversight of the Juvenile Detention Facility

**Family?** Son, Grant age 22, recent graduate of UC Berkley.

**Hobbies?** Skiing, traveling, needlepoint, gardening

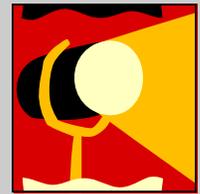
**Clubs/Organizations?** NABO (North American Basque Organization)

**What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee?** Working with other county employees. I feel we have a very diverse workforce that offers a great deal of experience, creativity, and great problem solving ability. I learn something new everyday from someone I come into contact with and greatly appreciate the opportunity to work with Probation Department staff

as well as those from the other agencies I deal with on a daily basis.

**Please tell us something other employees might not know about you?** That I am not as disorganized as the state of my desk would lead you to believe.

**Where is your favorite place to visit in Tulare County?** My house!



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: Gang Hotline

It is the mission of the Tulare County Sheriff's Department to work in partnership with the community to improve the quality of life. The Sheriff's Department is committed to maximize the welfare and safety of our community and the integrity of the criminal justice system.

Gang prevention and awareness is a joint effort and we rely on you as our eyes and ears from within the

community. You know your neighborhood and the people who live, work, and play there. We need you to share this information with us. Please share with us any suspicious activity that happens in your neighborhood.

The Tulare County Sheriff's Department has developed a number of tools to help you take part in improving your community.

Gang Hotline: 1-888-END-GANG

Features:

- This phone number is toll free, even from a pay phone.
- It is an anonymous tipline should you not want to provide your identity.
- It allows you to speak to a live person to provide your information.



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

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

## Tulare County Library to Host Yard Sale

The Tulare County Library Literacy Center will have a Yard Sale fund raiser from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 1 at the Visalia Branch Library, 417 N. Locust Street, Visalia, CA. The sale will be held in the front yard of the library.

The sale will feature all types of items from jewelry to furniture. Proceeds will go to buy books and materials for

the READ TO SUCCEED Adult Literacy program, so buyers earn THANKS FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE with their support as well as some great purchases!

Read To Succeed is a free literacy service to adults as well as families. The Adult Literacy Services provide free one-on-one assistance to adults 18 years and older who wish to learn to read or

improve their reading skills. If you wish to pass the GED, get a Driver's License, study for and pass your Citizenship Test, improve your English reading and writing skills, or just learn to read better, call Alicia at 559/713-2745 to get an appointment for assessment and free one-on-one tutoring.



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**Board Chairman Appointed to Serve on Water Authority**



“THE AUTHORITY IS ONE OF THE BRIGHT SPOTS IN VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT. BY WORKING TOGETHER AS A REGION, THE MEMBER IRRIGATION DISTRICTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO MANY THINGS, FROM SUCCESSFULLY OBTAINING WATER PLANNING MONIES TO EXPANDING GROUND WATER RECHARGE PROJECTS,” CHAIRMAN STEVE WORTHLEY

Board Chairman Steve Worthley has been appointed by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors to represent the County on the Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority. The Board took the action to join the Water Management Authority as a full voting member at its April 6 meeting, and gave approval to pay \$7,000 in dues initially and to commit to annual dues of \$5,000 for six years.

Chairman Worthley said the purpose of the Integrated Regional Water Management Authority is to promote regional water management to insure sustainable water uses, reliable supply and quality, the protection of agriculture, efficient urban development and a strong economy.

“The Authority is one of the

bright spots in Valley water management,” Chairman Worthley said. “By working together as a region, the member irrigation districts have been able to do many things, from successfully obtaining water planning monies to expanding ground water recharge projects.

“For example this year, which we hope will be a wet year, the Alta Irrigation District has been able to send flood waters to the Consolidated Irrigation District’s recharge basins west of Highway 99,” Chairman Worthley said. “That’s water that would have flowed downstream unused by any farmer, that can now be recharged and kept here for future use in our region.”

The coalition of member organizations, originally called the Upper Kings Basin Water Forum, has brought in more than \$11 million in

funding to the region for planning and expanding local groundwater projects. In 2009, they formalized their relationship through the formation of the Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority.

Voting members of the Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Authority:

- City of Kingsburg
- City of Parlier
- City of Reedley
- City of Sanger
- City of Selma
- Consolidated Irrigation District
- Fresno Irrigation District
- Kings County Water District
- Kings River Conservation District
- Raisin City Water District

**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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**MAY COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS**

**Meeting: (Date/Time)**

**More Information:**

Board of Supervisors’ Meeting: May 4, 11, 18, 25. 9 a.m.	559/636-5000
L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: May 5. 2 p.m.	559/624-7000
Tulare County Planning Commission: May 12, 26. 9 a.m.	559/624-7000
2nd Annual Step Up Goshen & Unite Summit: May 13. 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	559/636-5000
Homeowner’s Property Tax Postponement: May 15.	559/636-5250
Homeowner’s/Renter’s Assistance: May 15	559/636-5250
Annual Deferred Comp. Investment Review Mtg. May 17. 9 a.m. to noon.	559/636-5225
Tulare County Youth Commission: May 17. 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.	559/636-5000
T.C.A.G. Meeting: May 17. 1 p.m.	559/624-7000
Tulare County Water Commission: May 24. 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.	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:** Col. Allensworth State Historic Park is located in southwest Tulare County. This park memorializes the first town that was founded, financed and governed by African Americans. The park is open Friday thru Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and for special events. Learn more about Col. Allensworth State Historic Park and other places to “Go Play” in Tulare County at [www.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).