



Around Tulare County

Delivering Information about Tulare County - August 2010

Supervisor's Message: Step Up Event in District Five



The Board of Supervisors has played a critical role in helping the Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force (TCGPTF) to facilitate 14 Step Up anti-gang events throughout Tulare County – with the exception of the area I represent, District Five.

There are many concerns Fifth District residents have, with gang involvement among youth ranking high. That is why it's imperative that a Step Up event be held in southeast Tulare County to address issues regarding gangs.

Previous Step Up events have proven to be beneficial to the area in which they are held. For example:

- A Step Up event in 2008 led a youth attendee to have a gang-affiliated tattoo removed.
- An event held in Pixley led a youth, who was selling drugs on the streets, to the Tulare Athletic Boxing Club.
- A survey was conducted during Step Up events, with more than 80 percent of attendees saying they would be interested in attending a future gang meeting and nearly 40 percent saying they would like to be contacted regarding a current/potential gang problem.

These types of examples show that the Step Up effort is effective.

In the next few months, I plan to work with the TCGPTF and interested members of the Fifth District to facilitate a Step Up event in the Terra Bella-Ducor area. This event will cater to the needs of that area.

The TCGPTF – a countywide coalition comprised of the public, media, local businesses, school districts, the Tulare County Office of Education, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, cities, local government and law enforcement agencies – will prove to be an excellent resource as a Step Up event is brought to the Fifth District.

I invite residents or County employees concerned with gangs in the southeast portion of Tulare County to join me in an effort to facilitate a Step Up event in the Fifth District.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff at 559/636-5000 or by email at mennis@co.tulare.ca.us or stepuptc@co.tulare.ca.us.

Mike Ennis, District Five
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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Step Up Website Provides New Look

The website for the Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force, www.stepuptc.com, has a new look. The website's new look is more user friendly, particularly for youth.

The stepuptc.com website aims to highlight all Step Up activities and documents sponsored and developed by the Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force (TCGPTF) - a regional coalition made up of the

general public, media, local businesses, faith-based organizations, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, school districts, local government and law enforcement agencies formed in Spring 2007. The task force uses the "Step Up" logo to help promote its anti-gang activities.

In addition, the updated website features a brief history of the TCGPTF, video

and photo galleries, applications for Step Up grants and the LOOP Bus Program, and documents created by the task force that address gang prevention.

A "frequently asked questions" feature will also allow the public to submit questions and have the answer posted for the public to view.



Breastfeeding Awareness Walk Scheduled for Aug. 4



“The Tulare County event is simultaneous with statewide events to celebrate August as Breastfeeding Promotion Month...”

The Tulare County Breastfeeding Coalition joins statewide ceremonies in recognition of World Breastfeeding Week, August 1-7, 2010, as they are sponsoring a Breastfeeding Awareness Walk on August 4, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Riverway Sports Park at 3611 N. Dinuba Blvd in Visalia.

Breastfeeding mothers, babies, children, families, friends and breastfeeding supporters are invited to come out for an early morning walk. The Tulare County Breastfeeding Coalition will provide healthy snacks, beverages and door prizes. The park also includes a water feature and “Tiny Tot Lot” for small children, creating a perfect summer morning.

“In 2002, the California Lactation Accommodation Law requiring employers to provide unpaid break time and use of a private space, for mothers to express milk during work hours, was passed,” said Linda Sward, RD, and Coalition Member. “Many businesses and agencies have gone above and beyond, and we look forward to honoring those sites locally, and bringing additional awareness to all that breastfeeding can provide a mother and child.”

The Tulare County event is simultaneous with statewide events to celebrate August as Breastfeeding Promotion Month and to highlight the need for more California hospitals to implement the Baby-Friendly Ten Steps. In addition, Tulare County

Mother-Baby Friendly Workplaces will be recognized at the Breastfeeding Awareness Walk. Nominations for workplace awards are due by July 23, 2010.

To learn more about the Breastfeeding Awareness Walk and/or the workplace awards, contact the Tulare Breastfeeding Coalition through Linda Sward, RD, by email at lsward@tularehhsa.org, or by phone at 559-591-5826.

For information on the California Lactation Accommodation Law: www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/WIC/breastfeeding/BFResources.html. For information on the Baby-Friendly Ten Steps, visit www.californiabreastfeeding.org.

WIB Utilizes ARRA Funds to Train Residents



The Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County (WIB), in close partnership with Reedley College and the Dinuba Employment Connection, conducted a graduation ceremony on July 13 for students who completed medical interpreter training funded by the WIB from American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds. The ceremony was held at the Dinuba Vocational Center.

“The workforce development community has again taken advantage of this crucial

funding to come together and implement one of several industry-driven training programs,” said Adam Peck, Executive Director of the Workforce Investment Board.

Known as Groupsize Training, the ARRA program allowed the WIB to fund training of groups of students, in essence “buying a classroom,” Peck said.

The collaboration utilized the strengths of each of its partners. The funding came from the WIB using ARRA resources, while Reedley College collaborated with the curriculum. Students were

referred from the Employment Connection, and the classes were held at the vocational center.

About 15 students completed the entire program, with the training consisting of three college-level courses that totaled 15 total units. Additional training sessions are planned for other growth-oriented business sectors, as well.

For more information on the WIB and Employment Connection, log on to www.tularewib.org, or call 559/723-5200.

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Employee Spotlight: Sherry Franco



Name: Sherry Franco

Title: Legal Office Assistant IV, Child Support Services

Years of Service: 30 years

Duties: As an LOA IV, I am the primary trainer for all clerical staff. I process Civil Complaints, and Genetic testing, serve legal Orders; I am also one of primary Receptionist and Cashier. I also work with Program Managers on projects to streamline the processes and work to make them cost effective for the County and State.

Family: I was born in Tokyo, Japan to Kay and David Post; I'm the oldest daughter of three girls. I have been married for 23 years to Daniel Franco. I have 3 step sons with 3 beautiful grandkids, one daughter Monica (21 years old), who just recently got engaged to be married, and an 18-year-old son Devon who just graduated from Tulare Western High and is joining the Army.

Hobbies: My hobbies are sewing, quilting and refinishing furniture. My husband and I have a project we are currently working on, it started as a small project and snowballed into a major project of re-landscaping our yard. It looks impressive.

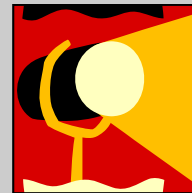
Clubs/Organizations: My faith is deep in the Lord. My family and I recently started going to a newly started

church called "Awaken" at the Whitendale Center.

What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee? When training a new employee or a staff member on clerical tasks and they get to the point where they see the big picture of how our office works and how they can make a difference, it is very rewarding-like I have passed the torch.

Please tell us something other employees might not know about you: I wanted to be a missionary in Africa and have a pet lion, but my husband tells me both are very dangerous.

Where is your favorite place to visit in Tulare County? Camping at Stoney Creek in the Sequoia National Park and being able to hike the 2 or 3 miles to the falls; it is awesome.



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

Program Spotlight: Get Back on the Road

The Tulare County Child Support Services Department is taking part in the Get Back on the Road Program.

This program is part of a statewide effort during August - Child Support Awareness Month - to get non-custodial parents who have lost their driver's license due to non-payment of child support back on the road and supporting their children.

Criteria includes: Make a child support payment equal to one month of your child support obligation plus \$25 and you may receive a release on your California issued driver license. Evaluations will be done on a

case-by-case basis. Future payment schedules will be evaluated based upon court order and ability to pay.

If you are eligible to meet the criteria, you will need to bring: a copy of your most recent paycheck stub or other income information; a valid picture ID; and your suspension notice if you have it.

If you or a friend would like more information about this program go to www.childsup.ca.gov, or call 866-901-3212.

The Tulare County Child Support Services Department is dedicated to the vision that

children can count on both parents for the financial, medical and emotional support they need to be healthy and successful.



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

newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us



“The Youth@Work Program has given me great work experience,” Shantrell Hunter of Visalia.

Youth@Work Summer Program Benefits Hundreds of Youth

The Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County (WIB) summer youth program, known as Youth@Work, has reached maximum capacity for 2010.

For the first round of participants in the Youth@Work program, employment workshops started in May, and job assignments started in June. There will be multiple waves of youth going through the program, which will last through August. Participants in the program range in age from 14-24.

About 600 Tulare County youth are expected to participate this year, and they will average roughly 150 hours of work experience. Prior to taking on their summer jobs, the participants attend 10 hours of work readiness training, including short classes in communication, time management, teamwork,

personal responsibility, workplace ethics, safety, and education planning.

Some of the jobs available include office assistant, instructional aides, stock clerks, data entry clerks, computer technician, construction assistant, library assistant, and similar entry-level positions.

Nearly 100 worksites are participating in the program, including: Tulare County departments, city offices, schools, non-profit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, hospitals, clinics, several Boys & Girls Club locations, and the Housing Authority.

In previous years, many used the opportunity to explore potential careers, but also as an entrance into the working world. Many of the youth said they gained confidence in their work skills and career

potential, and many were able to help with their family’s finances or pay college expenses through participation in the program.

Shantrell Hunter of Visalia spent four weeks in the County Administrative Office performing clerical duties and completing special projects. This is her third summer participating a summer work program.

“The Youth@Work Program has given me great work experience,” Hunter said. “When I go out to find a job I can put all of my work experience on the next job application.”

Hunter plans to attend COS in the fall and later become a pharmacy technician.

For more information on the Youth@Work program, visit www.tularewib.org, or call 713-5100.

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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AUGUST COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

Meeting: (Date/Time)

More Information:

L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: Aug. 4. 2 p.m.	559/624-7000
Board of Supervisors' Meeting: Aug. 10, 17, 31. 9 a.m.	559/636-5000
Tulare County Planning Commission: Aug. 11, 25. 9 a.m.	559/624-7000
T.C.A.G. Meeting: Aug. 16. 1 p.m.	559/624-7000
Tulare County Youth Commission: Aug. 16. 3 p.m.	559/636-5000
Tax Cancellation Committee Mtg.: Aug. 19. 9 a.m.	559/636-5280
Tulare County Water Commission: Aug. 23. 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.	559/636-5000
Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force: Aug. 26. 3 p.m.	559/636-5000



Places to Go Play: Lake Success is located at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley about eight miles east of Porterville on Highway 190. With the scenic Sierra Nevada in the background, Lake Success provides great fishing, boating, water skiing, camping, picnicking, and more. Learn more about Lake Success and other places to “Go Play” at www.tularecountymap.com.