



Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY – AUGUST 2013

Chairman's Message: Historic Meeting with Tule Tribe



Communication and collaboration between individuals, groups, and governmental jurisdictions can serve as invaluable tools for effective and efficient governing.

Lack of communication and collaboration can lead to conflict and confusion, which can put a strain on any relationship.

The latter has been more the norm in the past few years when describing the relationship between Tulare County and the Tule River Indian Tribe.

While the communication hasn't always been adequate, I'm pleased to report that both groups took an important step in July towards mending the relationship.

On July 15, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors and the Tule River Indian Tribal Council met in Visalia – the first joint meeting of its kind between the two elected bodies. During the meeting, staff delivered reports on how the County and Tribe have collaborated in the past in delivering services and projects that benefit Tulare County residents.

In addition, the Tribal Council disclosed its intentions for future development – including a possible casino – within the unincorporated areas of the County and other locations in southeast Tulare County.

In the event that the Tribe would attempt to build a casino outside of the Reservation, the Tribal Council pledged to work with the County to mitigate traffic, public safety, and any other potential impacts to County infrastructure.

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I am confident that this meeting will be a great start to increased communication between the Tribe and the County. This new line of communication will ensure responsible growth and seeks to benefit all residents in Tulare County.

Pete Vander Poel, Chairman Board of Supervisors

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Tom Tucker Appointed as Assistant Ag Commissioner



Tom Tucker has been appointed to the position of Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer Marilyn Kinoshita announced in July.

Tucker has served as Interim Assistant Agricultural Commissioner for the past seven months.

“In a relatively short time, Tom has proven himself to be extremely capable,” Kinoshita said. “Tulare County will benefit from his attention to detail as we remain vigilant in our efforts to protect the individuals, businesses and

agricultural community of Tulare County. We congratulate Tom and are confident that he will serve our Ag industry and the public with dedication and the highest level of professional competency.”

Tucker graduated from California State University, Fresno with a degree in Agricultural Sciences. Prior to working for Tulare County, Tucker was a full-time farmer on his ranch just north of Dinuba, where he still farms a small block of citrus and alfalfa on the weekends.

During his career with Tulare County, Tucker

served as an Ag & Standards Inspector in the Weights and Measures Division for four years. Working in this position, he was able to make contact with a variety of industries and individuals as he enforced the laws and regulations of California. He has worked with cattlemen and stockyards, large and small farmers, retail stores and directly with consumers.

Tucker is well-versed with Tulare County’s farming community having been born in Visalia and raised in the Dinuba/ Reedley area.

Supervisors Call for More Water Storage



In July, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors approved a letter of position for the 2014 Water Bond. The message: no water storage, no support.

The position letter calls for “a holistic Water Bond that would ensure a long-term sustainable solution that would withstand the tests of courts, biological cycles, and interlinked economics throughout the state.” The letter goes on to say, “Unfortunately, we cannot support a Water Bond that lacks a definitive surface storage program.”

The original bond measure, totaling \$11.4 billion, was

approved in 2009 for the November 2010 ballot. However, it was amended then postponed to November 2012. It was then determined the bond needed to be reduced to cut costs, and last year no agreement could be made on how to do that. The bond was delayed to the November 2014 ballot.

In addition, the letter states, “additional surface water storage, both North and South of the Delta, are crucial for assurance of an adequate water supply, flood protection, cold water fish, and efficient and successful groundwater storage projects. Storage

projects such as the enlargement of Shasta Dam, Temperance Flat and Site Reservoirs would assist in regional conjunctive use projects and provide multi-benefits to residents, growers, delta levees and the environment.”

Employee Spotlight: John Gonzalez



Lt. Gonzalez had his father present a pin during the ceremony.

Tulare County Sheriff Bill Wittman held a ceremony on July 29 to promote Sergeant John Gonzalez to the rank of Lieutenant.

Lt. Gonzalez, a Sanger native, began his career with the Tulare County Sheriff's Department in November 1986 and was assigned to work at the Main Jail. After one year he was assigned to jail transport. In July 1989, he was assigned to work a special detail and worked undercover as a student at Mt. Whitney High

School. In Jan. 1990 he returned back to jail transport. In May 1990, he transferred to Headquarters Patrol where he worked for four years. During that time, Lt. Gonzalez was assigned to a burglary task force for several months.

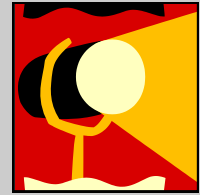
In Sept. 1994, he was transferred to the Sheriff's Tactical Enforcement Personnel (STEP) Team as a Detective. His first task was to work with a team to help shape and create the Gang

Task Force that is still in place.

Lt. Gonzalez was promoted to Sergeant in Dec. 1998, where he returned to the Custody Division at the Tulare County Correctional Center.

In Oct. 2004, Gonzalez returned to the STEP Unit and worked on a number of high profiles cases. Operation LOCCUST was one of the largest scale multiagency details from the Sheriff's Department ever coordinated. Lt. Gonzalez was instrument in LOCCUST, which received national recognition from the President of the United States and a visit during the detail from Federal officials.

Lt. Gonzalez's most recent assignment as Sergeant was in Internal Affairs.



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: Boards, Commissions, & Committees

Have you ever considered volunteering to participate on a County board, commission, or committee or just wanted to know the names of the people who serve on them?

The Tulare County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors has now made it easier for the public to find out by

posting all relevant information on the Internet.

By visiting, <http://tularecounty.ca.gov/clerkoftheboard/index.cfm/board-commissions-and-committee/>, residents can review a list of all boards, commissions, and committees. In addition, special district and special district

rosters are also posted for your convenience.

If you do not have Internet access and need to acquire an application, please call 559/636-5000.

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

newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us

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"Top 10" 2012 Rankings

1. **Milk: \$1.8 billion**
2. **Grapes: \$863 million**
3. **Oranges: \$654 million**
4. **Cattle & Calves: \$577 million**
5. **Corn - Grain & Silage: \$262 million**
6. **Alfalfa - Hay & Silage: \$199 million**
7. **Pistachio Nuts: \$193 million**
8. **Almonds - Meats & Hulls: \$187 million**
9. **Walnuts: \$185 million**
10. **Peaches - Cling & Freestone: \$146 million**

Source: 2012 Tulare County Crop and Livestock Report

Ag Commissioner Delivers Crop Report, Good News for Tulare County

Ag Commissioner Marilyn Kinoshita presented the 2012 Tulare Crop and Livestock Report at the July 23 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Annual crop and livestock reports are prepared by the Agricultural Commissioners as required by law. Included in the reports are the acreage, production, and value of each of the many crops grown in Tulare County. The reports are used by the media, legislators, insurance companies, financial institutions, and many others interested in the value of commodities produced.

Kinoshita reported Tulare County agriculture had a record year in 2012, with sales of local products totaling \$6,210,693,000. The total represents an increase of \$581,297,000, or 10 percent, above 2011's value

There were 43 commodities valued at more than \$1 million, with milk being number one at more than \$1.8 billion.

Milk continued to be the leading agricultural commodity in Tulare County; with a total gross value of \$1,813,816,000, a decrease of 12 percent. Milk represents 29 percent of the total crop and livestock value for 2012. Total milk production in Tulare County remained relatively stable. Livestock and poultry's gross value of \$660,661,000 represents an increase of 5.8 percent above 2011, mostly due to an increase in value for turkeys, cattle, and calves.

Fruit and nut commodities were valued at \$2,835,406,000, representing a 29 percent increase. The majority of this gain was

a result of an excellent year for the grape category. The total value of field crops was \$765,840,000, an increase of 24 percent from the previous year. Local demand for dairy feed continues to maintain high values for field crops. Nursery products were valued at \$67,370,000, presenting a 2.5 percent increase from 2011. This minor increase is a reflection of the continuing uncertainties in both the housing and agricultural markets. Vegetable crops were valued at \$19,700,000 in 2012, representing a less than 1 percent increase. Harvested vegetable acreage continues to decline in the County.

To view the full report, please visit: <http://bit.ly/14zSbiY>

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.

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AUGUST COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

Meeting: (Date/Time)

More Information:

Board of Supervisors' Meeting: 9 a.m. Aug. 13, 20, 27	559/636-5000
Tulare County Water Commission: 3 p.m. Aug. 12	559/636-5005
Tulare County Association of Governments: No. Aug. meeting.	559/624-7274
Tulare County Planning Commission: 9 a.m. Aug. 14, 28	559/624-7000



Places to Go Play: The Tulare Historical Museum preserves and showcases the history of the City of Tulare. In addition, the museum features holdings such as an art glass collection and has an entire wing devoted to military history - the Manuel Toledo Military Collection. The museum serves as a cultural center for the community, and also hosts a revolving collection of special exhibits. Learn more about the Tulare Historical Museum and other places to "Go Play" in Tulare County at www.tularecountymap.com.