



# Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY — JUNE 2013

## Supervisor's Message: Summer Night Lights is a Can't Miss



School is out for the summer for most youth in Tulare County. For them, that means figuring out what to do. For some parents, that means figuring out what their child should *not* do.

Fortunately, Tulare County has partnered with a variety of organizations to bring back Summer Night Lights for the third summer in a row.

Summer Night Lights is a program that aims to curb violence and other negative activity by keeping selected parks and recreational facilities open from June to August.

The program was initiated in 2011 with three sites participating. In 2012, it grew to eight different sites. This year, there will be nine sites, with the City of Woodlake being the newest

partner on board. Other sites include: Alpaugh/Allensworth, Cutler-Orosi, Dinuba, Farmersville, Porterville, Richgrove, Tulare, and Visalia.

In some communities, youth have a variety of opportunities to participate in summer activities. For other communities, particularly in the rural unincorporated areas, this program may be the only option. Regardless of the community, here are three reasons why residents should consider participating in Summer Night Lights.

### Activities

People can get bored doing the same activity over and over.

At Summer Night Lights' locations, youth can participate in the following activities: movie night, pool parties, sports night, carnival night, and more. Each "night" should have a different activity.

### Safety

Summer Night Lights is a safe option for your family.

Each site has staff with adult supervision, including representatives from law enforcement.

In the past two years, there has been 41 events with more than 7,200 people in attendance. There has not been one report of violence!

### Community

Don't take for granted the people who live in your community.

This is a great opportunity to meet other community members and develop relationships with them. Forging these relationships may improve your community and safety of your children.

I would like to extend an invitation to all County families to attend a Summer Night Lights event.

Mike Ennis, District Five Board of Supervisors

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**TO REVIEW A FULL LIST OF SUMMER NIGHT LIGHTS DATES, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.STEPUPTC.COM](http://WWW.STEPUPTC.COM) AND CLICK ON "CALENDAR."**

## Indian Gaming Committee Awards Grants



Residents in southeast Tulare County can expect road improvements, an increase in transit services, and better equipped fire personnel thanks to a boost in funding.

On May 22, the Tulare County Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee (TCLCBC) awarded \$261,177 to County of Tulare and City of Porterville departments for a variety of projects which include:

**Tulare County Resource Management Agency:** \$130,000 for improvements to Success Valley Drive and Reservation Road.

**Tulare County Fire Department:** \$30,906 to purchase personal protective equipment for firefighters.

**Porterville Transit Department:** \$57,271 to expand transit services on

Sundays to Eagle Mountain Casino.

**Porterville Fire Department:** \$50,000 to purchase mass casualty equipment.

Senate Bill 621, which became law on January 1, 2004, makes grant funding available to counties, cities and special districts impacted by tribal gaming from the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund. Gaming tribes that operated 200 or more gaming devices on or before September 1, 1999 contribute a variable portion of their net winnings into the Fund. In Tulare County, the Tule River Tribe contributes winnings. The seven-member TCLCBC is responsible for selecting these grants.

The Tule River Tribe must sponsor the grants and affirm that the proposed grant projects have a reasonable

relationship to the impacts of their gaming facility.

To be considered, a grant proposal must fall into one of two categories: 60% of available funds are Nexus Grants, which must meet specific criteria. Non-Nexus or discretionary grants representing 40% of the total funding are also available.

The TCLCBC evaluated grant proposals and weighed their merits based on state guidelines that give priority to: law enforcement; fire services; emergency medical services; roads; public health; recreation and youth programs; waste disposal and water supplies; child care programs; mitigating environmental impacts and behavioral health.

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## Kings River Reopens to Motorized Vessels

Residents who want to take their jet ski or boat on the Tulare County portion of the Kings River could have until the end of July to do so.

In May, Tulare County's General Services and Sheriff's Departments announced that the Kings River in Tulare County was closed to motorized vessels, such as boats and jet skis, until water levels and rates increased.

Tulare County Parks Manager Neil Pilegard said motorized vessels should not be used in the Kings River unless water flows reach 400 cubic feet per second. In May, water was flowing at a rate between 30- and 50 cubic-feet per-second.

As of June 3, Pilegard said water levels and rates increased above 800 cubic feet per second.

"The Kings River is expected to maintain flows above 800 cubic feet per second until the end of July, per communication with the Kings River Water Master," Pilegard said.

Tulare County works with the Kings River Watermaster to determine water levels and flow rate.

For more information, the public should call 559/624-7227.

Please consider the following tips before swimming in the Kings River:

Keep an eye on friends and family: Drowning can occur in as little as 20 seconds for children and 60 seconds for an adult.

Learn to swim! The American Red Cross has swimming courses for people of any age and swimming ability.

Swim near the shore: Drowning most often occurs within 10 feet of safety and usually within about 50 feet from the shore.

Remember that swimming and alcohol can be a deadly combination.

## Employee Spotlight: Patricia Cornelius



**Name:** Patti Cornelius

**Title:** Administrative Services Officer II

**Years of Service:** 17 years

**Duties:** Oversee and supervise the County Expense Claim, Foster Care Claim, Food Stamp Claim and various internal reports for the fiscal division. I supervise two divisions within the Claims Unit. These two divisions research and reconcile different reports from different computer systems to complete their jobs.

**Family:** My husband, Curtis, and I have been married almost 40 years and we have been very blessed with three fabulous children. Tami, our oldest, and her husband, Steve, live in Visalia and have given us two wonderful granddaughters, Madi, 7 ½ and Stevie, 2 ½. Tony, our wanderlust son, is currently in New York cultivating an organic vegetable garden. Tina and her husband, Art, live in Hayward CA and have given us a wonderful grandson, Eli, 11 months old.

Family time is a joyous time for me. I come from a family of eight siblings and we are blessed to have Dad, 92, with us. It is so great to be surrounded by so much love and joy at our many family gatherings.

**Hobbies:** I enjoy baking, making rosaries, and playing with my grandchildren.

**Clubs/Organizations:** I am a co-leader of Our Lady's Rosary Makers that we took over from my parents. I am the current Treasurer of the Catholic Daughters - Court Little Flower at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

**What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee?** I have been with three departments in the county since I started back to work in 1996. I think the most rewarding experiences are with the people I have met. I have gotten to know some amazing people that I now call friends. I have had good jobs and great supervisors that have helped me advance in my career and experience new challenges.

**Please tell us something other employees might not know about you?** I worked for the County for 2 years and then had my first child. Fifteen months later I came back to the County and worked for 3 years and then had my second child and was

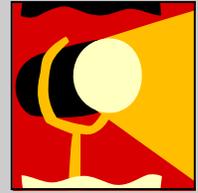
lucky enough to be a stay-at-home Mom for 17 years before returning to work for the County.

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

Home. I am a homebody and my husband and I have created a very comfortable home together. My life is very busy right now and I am always grateful when I come home.

**You were recently selected as CSET's Volunteer of the Year. Please tell us what that meant to you.**

I was very honored when CSET chose me as their Volunteer of the Year this year. I have been doing the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program for ten years now and the last seven have been with CSET. VITA is my way of giving back to the community. It is something I know how to do. When you complete a tax return for a client, they are so grateful. It is something they cannot do themselves and if they went to a paid preparer they would have to pay someone to complete their taxes. The VITA program is free to our clients. I have met some very generous and caring people who run the VITA program. It is a vital program for our community. CSET, please keep up the good work!



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: Cooling Centers

The Tulare County Office of Emergency Services coordinates the operation of Cooling Centers throughout the County during the summer months. Cooling centers are facilities, operated voluntarily by their respective owners, as a service to the community.

These facilities are equipped with air conditioning, seating, and restrooms, and may also provide vending machines, reading materials, and/or activities. Contact cooling centers near you to find out what services are offered and the hours of operation.

For more information please visit:  
[www.tularecounty.ca.gov/county/index.cfm/emergencies/cooling-centers/](http://www.tularecounty.ca.gov/county/index.cfm/emergencies/cooling-centers/)

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Make the Giant Sequoia Tree the 8th Wonder of the World



Residents can play their part in making the oldest living treasures in Tulare County the "8th Wonder of the World."

In a contest being held by www.virtualtourist.com, residents can cast an online vote - at least one per day - to determine what should be considered the next Wonder of the World.

So far, there are 322 entries submitted worldwide. In Tulare County, the Visalia Convention and Visitors Bureau has nominated the Giant Sequoia Tree in Sequoia National Park.

According to the National Park Service, the largest of the Sequoias are as tall as an average 26-story building, and their diameters at the base exceed the width of many city streets. As they continue to grow, they produce about 40 cubic feet of wood each year, approximately equal to the volume of a 50-

foot-tall tree one foot in diameter.

According to Virtual Tourist, voting is open from June 3 to September 30.

To cast your vote, please visit: virtualtourist.com/8thwonder

Once you are on the webpage, scroll down until you see "Giant Sequoia Tree." All of the submissions are listed in alphabetical order.

The Giant Sequoia Tree faces some stiff competition. Here are a few other submissions located in California:

Balboa Island in Newport Beach

Balboa Park in San Diego

Channel Islands National Park in Ventura

Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco

Griffith Park in Los Angeles

Hollywood Sign in Hollywood

Here are some submissions from other parts of the world:

Warwick Castle in Warwickshire, UK

Wales Coast Path in Wales

Torres del Paine National Park in Chile

St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta

Milford Sound in New Zealand

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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JUNE COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

Meeting: (Date/Time)

More Information:

Board of Supervisors' Meeting: 9 a.m. June 11, 25

559/636-5000

Tulare County Water Commission: 3 p.m. June 10.

559/636-5005

Tulare County Association of Governments: 1 p.m. June 17

559/624-7274

Tulare County Planning Commission: 9 a.m. June 12, 26

559/624-7000

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



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.