



Around Tulare County

Delivering Information about Tulare County - March 2011

Supervisor's Message: Leaders Lobby in Washington, D.C.



Members of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors and officials with the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) will travel to Washington, D.C. from February 28 through March 4 as part of an annual "One Voice Trip."

As local leaders, each delegation will meet with Federal elected officials and policymakers in support of vital projects to Tulare County. This annual visit to Washington, D.C. has proven to be beneficial. For example, efforts at the State and Federal level last year led to Tulare County acquiring more than \$92 million in road project funding from the California Transportation Commission for the widening of Highway 99 between Goshen and Kingsburg.

This year, the TCAG delegation, which includes County Supervisors and representatives from multiple incorporated cities, will attend a variety of transportation-related meetings. Some of the projects and policy items up for discussion include:

- Requesting funds for additional Highway 99 widening in Tulare County.

- Continuation of the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program and Bridge Program in the next transportation authorization.

- Support for short haul rail and protection against abandonments.

In addition to TCAG requests, members of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors will meet with Federal representatives to lobby for the following items:

- The need for existing funding through the USDA to allow for preliminary design and engineering for water systems for disadvantaged communities.

- Additional funding for marijuana eradication on Federal lands.

- Funding for the remediation of Success Dam.

The results of these visits often aren't immediately known. However, by looking at the outcomes of previous visits, these face-to-face meetings have proven to benefit all of Tulare County.

Should you like to receive day-to-day updates after each delegation is finished with meetings, you can visit the www.aroundtularecounty.com blog or follow us via Twitter at www.twitter.com/CountyofTulare.

A staff member or elected official will submit a report at the end of the day to update interested people. This report will be posted on the blog.

**Allen Ishida, District One
Tulare County Board of Supervisors**

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Redistricting Committee Applications Available

Residents interested in participating in an advisory group to make recommendations on how to redraw Tulare County's Supervisorial district boundaries need to submit an application by March 8.

Supervisorial districts are redrawn every ten years

based on population counts collected by the United States Census. The 2010 Census data will be released April 1, 2011.

The Redistricting Advisory Committee is charged with developing criteria to be applied during the redistricting process and

developing proposals to be presented to the Board of Supervisors. The Committee will also conduct outreach meetings in various parts of Tulare County to solicit public input. The Redistricting Advisory Committee will present their final report to the Board of Supervisors by August 1, 2011.

Download an application at:
<http://co.tulare.ca.us/government/redistricting/default.asp>

Call 636-5000 for more details.

Employees, Public Impacted by Courthouse Closure

“WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS POWER FAILURE CREATED A MAJOR INCONVENIENCE FOR BOTH THE PUBLIC AND EMPLOYEES,” KRISTIN BENNETT, ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



Crews pulled melted wire, conduit from exterior vault.

The Tulare County Superior Courthouse in Visalia was closed from Feb. 2-4 to the public and County and State employees due to a power failure. Power to the courthouse was restored and employees reported back to work on Feb. 7.

Tulare County officials said a power failure at the Tulare County Main Jail and Courthouse was reported sometime after midnight on Feb. 1. Emergency generators at the main jail were activated and there was no lapse in power coverage. A maintenance call was placed to check power at the courthouse.

It was determined that the cause of the failure was a short circuit, which created a major power failure in the main electrical feed in an exterior vault outside of the courthouse. The power outage was isolated to the courthouse and main jail. Surrounding

areas were not affected.

Tulare County officials advised the public there would be no services available at the courthouse in Visalia for the rest of the week. Employees working in the courthouse were notified via AlertTC, an emergency notification system. More than 550 County employees work in the courthouse.

“We understand that this power failure created a major inconvenience for both the public and employees,” said Kristin Bennett, Assistant County Administrative Officer. “To avoid public safety and workflow issues, it was important that the courthouse be vacated for the remainder of the week.”

Bennett said facilities staff and electrical vendors completed full inspections, assessments and initiated repairs. Repairs included: new 5,000 volt feeder cables, conduit and

connections; and a thorough cleaning of all high-voltage electrical components. Power was restored on Saturday, Feb. 5.

To mitigate the odor, facilities coordinated with outside vendors to provide complete replacement of all air filters. Activated charcoal filters, HEPA filtration units and nanometer scrubbers were operated for 48 hours.

In addition, walls, floors, and surfaces were thoroughly cleaned in the impacted areas of the ground floor and first floor.

“We wish to extend thanks to all employees for your patience and support during this incident,” Bennett said. “A special thanks to the Sheriff’s Department for providing 24-7 security, to Facilities for their outstanding response, IT for amazing technical support, and OES for the TCAalert notifications.”

Slick Rock Film Festival Adds Step Up Category

SLICKROCK
STUDENT | FILM | FESTIVAL



For more information please visit www.slickrockfilmfestival.org

Slick Rock Film Festival, the San Joaquin Valley’s premier student film competition, has added a “Step Up” anti-violence, anti-gang category.

Participants who enter the Step Up category have a chance to earn a high-definition flip video camera, have their entry featured on prime-time television, and conduct an interview on KMPH’s Great Day morning program. Students are being asked to produce a 30-second advertisement that targets gang or violence prevention.

District Three Supervisor Phil Cox said the Board of Supervisors and the Tulare

County Film Commission are partnering with the Slick Rock Film Festival in an effort to promote the Step Up anti-gang program among high-school aged youth.

“Tulare County’s gang task force has done an excellent job in reaching thousands of people through educational summits and grant programs,” Supervisor Cox said. “Through the film festival, we feel we can utilize a youth-created advertising tool to reach our biggest target audience: youth.”

Step Up-themed Slick Rock entries must include the Step Up logo and website address www.stepuptc.com, the “Be

Part of the Solution” slogan, convey a message that violence is never the answer, and be 30 seconds in length.

Films must be submitted through the Slick Rock Film Festival portal between March 1, 2011 and April 15, 2011. An entry form must be completed and submitted by the advisor between March 1, 2011 and April 15, 2011.

The Slick Rock Film Festival concludes at the Award Ceremony on Saturday, May 14 at Fox Theater in downtown Visalia.

Employee Spotlight: Kirk Ingoldsby



Name: Kirk Ingoldsby

Title: Ag & Standards Inspector Trainee

Years of Service: 2

Duties:

To enforce laws and regulations pertaining to the office of the County Ag Commissioner and to conduct inspections of agricultural commodities and nursery stock and other duties as assigned.

Family:

I was born in Lindsay and live there now with my wife, Kathy, for 32 years. We have 3 grown children and a wonderful life.

Hobbies:

In recent years I have enjoyed square dancing and acting in plays for the Lindsay Community Theatre.

Clubs/Organizations:

Board member of the Lindsay Cultural Arts Council. Former board member of the Lindsay Chamber of Commerce. Member of the Sequoia Squares square dancing club. I also have significant responsibilities as a leader of the LDS Church. I was recently honored as Lindsay's Man of the Year for 2010 by the Chamber of Commerce. I was in business in Lindsay for many years as the owner/operator of Ingoldsby Nursery and Floral Shop.

What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee?

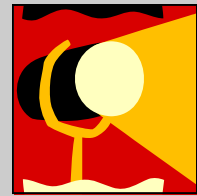
The most rewarding aspect of my job is meeting lots of new people.

Please tell us something other employees might not know about you:

I play several musical instruments with varying degrees of proficiency including: piano, trombone, guitar and harmonica.

Where is your favorite place to visit in Tulare County?

I would have to say that it is the Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Wilderness Camp which is reached by an eleven-mile hike into the back country of Sequoia National Park. Since 1975 I have been there nine times and will make my tenth visit this summer.



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: CSET's VITA Program

Community Services & Employment Training, Inc. (CSET) is gearing up for its 6th year of providing free income tax preparation services to lower-income families through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program.

CSET will provide these valuable services to households with annual incomes below \$50,000. The VITA Program allows taxpayers to electronically file (e-file) tax returns, which enables them to receive their refund within 5 to 10 business days.

Tax time will provide some much needed financial relief to many struggling families. Help your friends, family, colleagues, employees, and clients keep more of their income tax refund by sharing information about the program.

The free program will began February 3 and operates through April 16, 2011 at VITA sites in Visalia, Tulare, Porterville, and Orosi. Last year, CSET and many local volunteers provided assistance to more than 1,500 low-income taxpayers and

brought back almost \$2.8 million in federal refunds to the local economy through the VITA Program.

For more information about the VITA Program, please contact Veronica Soria at (559) 741-4640 or veronica.soria@cset.org.

community
services
employment
training

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

newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us

“BEGINNING TO EXPERIENCED GARDENERS WILL FIND ANSWERS TO THEIR GARDENING QUESTIONS AT THIS EDUCATIONAL AND EXCITING EVENT.”

Event: Gardening Central Valley Style

Editor’s Note: This article submitted by UC Cooperative Extension.

The UC Master Gardener (MG) Program of Tulare and Kings Counties is once again offering a day of fantastic gardening classes to the general public. “Gardening Central Valley Style,” a Landscape Seminar EXTRAVAGANZA will focus on local gardening in Tulare and Kings Counties. The “Central Valley Style” means gardening more harmoniously with the local climate and using creative and successful gardening practices in your personal garden. Think sustainable and join the Master Gardeners from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 12 at the Visalia Convention Center located at 303 E. Acequia, Visalia.

Are you a new homeowner who needs some landscaping

ideas? Are you in search of some ideas to update your existing garden and make it a more livable space? Or maybe you're in search of just the right variety of fruit tree or the perfect tree or shrub for your backyard? Beginning to experienced gardeners will find answers to their gardening questions at this educational and exciting event. MG will help you make thoughtful and innovative choices in design and practice for your particular life style.

Here’s what you will find in this years line up. There will be enlightening speakers from the statewide Master Gardener program as well as talented Master Gardeners. Local experts from landscaping companies and nurseries, educators and horticulturists from COS and UC, and business authorities will be on hand to conduct

hour long informational sessions. There are many different topics to select and attend.

There will be more than 20 gardening and landscaping exhibits from organizations and local companies that specialize in helping the backyard gardener. They will help you meet your gardening needs, answer your gardening questions, and will display their various products.

The registration fee is \$15 for the entire day. To register go to <http://cetulare.ucdavis.edu> and click on Master Gardeners then “Gardening Central Valley Style” Extravaganza or call (559) 684-3300 for a registration packet.

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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MARCH COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

Meeting: (Date/Time)

More Information:

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| Tulare County Water Commission: March 7, 28. 4 p.m. | 559/636-5000 |
| Board of Supervisors’ Meeting: March 8, 15, 22. 9 a.m. | 559/636-5000 |
| L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: March 9. 2 p.m. | 559/624-7000 |
| Tulare County Planning Commission: March 9, 23. 9 a.m. | 559/624-7000 |
| Quarterly Deferred Compensation Meeting: Mar. 14. 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. | 559/636-5225 |
| T.C.A.G. Meeting: March 21. 1 p.m. | 559/624-7000 |
| Tulare County Youth Commission: March 21. 3 p.m. | 559/636-5000 |

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



Places to Go Play: Three Rivers is the gateway community to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The town’s namesake is the three forks of the Kaweah River - Middle, North, and South, which converge in Three Rivers. Three Rivers offers fine or casual dining, lodging in both town or riverside, and has an active arts and music community. There’s also hiking, biking, camping, rock-climbing, and more. Learn more about Three Rivers and other places to “Go Play” at www.tularecountymap.com.