

# Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY – MARCH 2012

## Supervisor's Message: Tulare County Tackles AB 109



In 2011, the State of California passed Assembly Bill 109, which was a major realignment of public safety programs from the State to Local Governments.

AB 109 transfers responsibility for supervising specified lower level inmates and parolees - non-violent, non-serious, non-sex offenders - from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to Counties beginning October 1, 2011.

Since AB 109 implementation, more than 300 Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) inmates have been released from State prison to Tulare County communities. Prior to AB 109, those inmates were released under State Parole supervision. Now, these

inmates are under the supervision of the Tulare County Probation Department.

Under AB 109, a County Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) was put in charge of recommending a local plan to each County's Board of Supervisors in order to handle this transfer of responsibility. The CCP is comprised of representatives from County public safety, social service, education, and workforce agencies and the State.

The CCP has brought the local plan before the Board for approval and did a tremendous job collaborating to formulate the plan that was adopted. The CCP along with the Board of Supervisors believe we can reduce recidivism and have a greater impact on people through local efforts. However, there is more to do to make this impact a reality.

A critical piece of Tulare County's plan is outreach and

education of key community leaders about public safety realignment. The hope is that by providing community leaders with useful information, they can in turn educate their respective communities.

To do this, the CCP will host a conference in March to educate community leaders on the impacts of AB 109. Local law enforcement leaders will present their observations regarding the effects of AB 109 and a trio of guest speakers will provide information to attendees regarding best practices.

The Board of Supervisors commends the CCP for their efforts and hopes that together, Tulare County as a community can have greater success in transforming the lives of our residents.

Pete Vander Poel, District Two  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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## Residents Saved More than \$2 million in Prescription Costs

Tulare County residents have saved more than \$2.2 million in prescription drug costs since the Board of Supervisors approved the Coast2Coast card program in 2010.

The free Coast2Coast Rx card provides instant discounts of up to 75 percent on more than 60,000 brand name and generic prescription drugs and through a partner program, can save on dental, vision

and hearing services, diabetes supplies and even pet prescriptions. With no eligibility requirements, the card is available to all Tulare County residents regardless of age or health status. While the card can provide significant savings for those without health insurance, it can also be effective for those whose insurance plans carry high deductibles or do not cover certain medications.

The program does not require membership paperwork; residents can simply pick up or download and print free cards at [www.coast2coastrx.com/tulare/](http://www.coast2coastrx.com/tulare/) and present the card at one of the many participating chain and local pharmacies for immediate savings when they purchase their prescriptions.

### Stats Since 2010:

Total Claims:	95,590
Net Submitted Amt:	\$4.2 million
Net Patient Pay:	\$2 million
Net Savings:	\$2.2 million
Savings Percent:	53.7 percent
Source:	Coast2Coast

## Tulare County Designated “Share the Road County”



“Providing road safety education to Tulare County residents, particularly to those who cycle, run, and walk, is a proactive step to preventing future tragedies.” Allen Ishida, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

Tulare County’s Resource Management Agency has formed a coalition with residents, several other county departments, schools, and the California Highway Patrol to spread one common message – share the road.

The Tulare County Share the Road Committee has established several goals to achieve, including:

Educating the public – including schools and local community groups – regarding the rules of the road and best safety practices.

Implementing additional signage on the roadway system to remind the public about the rules of the road.

Increased enforcement by local law enforcement agencies.

In February, the Board of Supervisors approved a proclamation which designates Tulare County as a “Share the Road County.” The proclamation challenges all users of the county road

system to work together through cooperation, courtesy, and observance of the laws governing the use of the public roads to improve safety and enjoyment for all modes of transportation.

According to the California Highway Patrol’s 2009 statistics, there were 13,083 pedestrians injured in roadway accidents and 12,043 cyclists injured in roadway accidents statewide. In Tulare County, there were 119 pedestrians injured and 12 fatalities. There were 93 cyclists injured and one fatality.

While 2011 statistics aren’t available, there was at least one reported cycling-related fatality in Tulare County when 41-year-old Scott Nelson died in August after crashing his bicycle into a jogger outside of Exeter.

“Providing road safety education to Tulare County residents, particularly to those who cycle, run, and walk, is a proactive step to preventing future tragedies,” said Allen

Ishida, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. “The Board of Supervisors supports this coalition’s efforts and urges other government agencies to join us in encouraging the public on how to share the road properly.”

The Share the Road Committee plans to ask Tulare County’s eight incorporated cities to adopt a similar proclamation of support, as well as outlying community councils.

The Tulare County Share the Road Committee was created in September 2011 and includes representatives of Tulare County’s Resource Management Agency, Health & Human Services Agency, and Sheriff’s Department, the Tulare County Association of Governments, California Highway Patrol, Southern Sierra Cycling, Visalia Runners, City of Exeter, Exeter High School, Visalia Waterways and Trails Committee, and the Tulare County Office of Education.

### Five Rules of the Road for Pedestrians and Cyclists

#### Pedestrian safety tips:

1. Walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic, in rural areas where no sidewalks exist.
2. Stay alert! Beware of vehicles making illegal turns or running red lights.
3. Wear light-colored clothing and/or reflective material, especially at night.
4. Use crosswalks if they are available. Remember to stay within the painted lines.
5. Make eye contact with drivers to ensure that they see you.

#### Cycling safety tips:

1. Avoid biking at night.
2. Protect your head. Wear a helmet.
3. Learn the rules of the road. Obey traffic laws.
4. Stay alert. Always keep a lookout for obstacles in your path.
5. Check for traffic. Always be aware of the traffic around you.

## Spotlight: Tulare County Employees in the News

There were plenty of County of Tulare employees who made the news in February.

### Fireman Saves Life

Tulare County Fire Department Lieutenant Casey Lewis saved a man from a burning building, The Foothills Sun Gazette reported in February.

Lt. Lewis and fire staff responded to a structure fire in Lemon Cove. After consulting with the man's wife, Lt. Lewis entered the smoke-filled house and located a person by the sounds of grunts and coughs.

Lt. Lewis found the man laying face down on the floor and got him out of the house safely.

### Film Commission Provides Opportunity for Youth

The Tulare County Film Commission worked with the Porterville Chamber of Commerce to link local

students to the production crew of "The Devout," a movie that is being shot in Porterville.

About three dozen students worked on all stages of the production of the movie. Tasks included on-site medical assistance to set production, makeup consultation and more.

"Working on the film was a way for these kids to step in and see if they really wanted to pursue a particular field," Film Commissioner Eric Coyne said in an interview with the Porterville Recorder.

### Library Recruiting for Youth Advisory Board

The Tulare County Library formed an advisory board comprised of youth. The Teen Advisory Group, or TAG, will be responsible for planning programs, creating content for a teen website, and more.

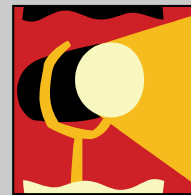
"There is no better way to

jumpstart teen programs at the library than by having input from our local youth," Deputy Librarian Jeff Scott said in a statement.

### Sheriff's Department Helps Restore School Landmark

In November, Sheriff's Department staff helped solve the case of the stolen 150-year-old bell at Rockford Elementary School.

In February, the bell was reinstalled and the man who stole it was sentenced to three years in state prison for one count of grand theft, according to The Porterville Recorder.



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: Indian Gaming Local Benefit Committee

The Tulare County Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee (IGLCBC) is seeking grant applications from interested parties.

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 Tulare County Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee is responsible for selecting these grants.

In Tulare County \$268,177.87 in grant funding is available. 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 IGLCBC will evaluate grant proposals and weigh 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.

Completed grant applications should be mailed to Helen Herrera, IGLCBC staff member at 2800 W. Burrell Ave, Visalia, CA 93291. For questions about the grant process, Herrera can be reached at (559) 636-5000.

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

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

## Alpaugh Fire Station Receives Facelift

"This has been a long time coming. The Fire Department is glad to see this project come to fruition." Tulare County Fire Chief Joe Garcia.

The Tulare County Fire Department in February celebrated the completion of a new apparatus bay building in Alpaugh.

An apparatus bay is where the fire fighting and emergency response vehicles are stored. The old bay was torn down in 2010 due to deterioration.

Dozens of community members and County officials helped ring in the occasion at a ribbon cutting ceremony at Alpaugh Fire Station #9.

"This has been a long time coming," Tulare County Fire Chief Joe Garcia told ribbon cutting ceremony attendees. "The Fire Department is glad to see this project come to fruition."

### Alpaugh Family Tradition

In 1956 the California Division of Forestry built five resident stations in Tulare County -

Alpaugh, Earlimart, Kings River, Richgrove, and Tipton.

The first full time officer to live in the Alpaugh station was Engineer Edward Hinds, along with his wife Ethel Edith and two sons Pat and Michael. Edward retired from fire service in 1985, but his sons continued to dedicate their time and volunteer at the fire station in Alpaugh.

Both Michael and Pat Hinds (pictured to the right) attended the ribbon cutting ceremony and helped raise California and United States flags at the station.



### 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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### MARCH COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

#### Meeting: (Date/Time)

Board of Supervisors' Meeting: Mar. 6, 13, 20. 9 a.m.  
L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: Mar. 7. 2 p.m.  
Tulare County Water Commission: Mar. 12. 3 p.m.  
Tulare County Youth Commission Meeting: Mar. 13. 3 p.m.  
Tulare County Planning Commission: Mar. 14, 28. 9 a.m.  
Tulare County Association of Governments: Mar. 19. 1 p.m.

#### More Information:

559/636-5000  
559/624-7000  
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559/636-5000  
559/624-7000  
559/624-7274



**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).