



# Around Tulare County

Delivering Information about Tulare County - May 2011

## Supervisor's Message: Three Step Up Events in May



How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time, of course. But who really wants to eat an elephant? And why? They are big and can be mean, pushing others around just because they are bigger than everyone else. Elephants can be intimidating, you know.

When I was 13-years-old and a seventh grader at Divisadero Middle School in Visalia, every day I walked down the same corridor to get to class. I don't know why, but about two weeks into the semester a big eighth grader bumped into me on purpose. Then every day for two weeks he would go out of his way to find me and bump me again. I changed my route, but, still, he would find me and hit me harder than ever. I didn't tell anyone about this bully, until one day he really hurt me.

I told my brother what was happening and he said "you don't have to take that, push back and he will leave you alone." So the next day I went by the old route and sure enough he walks up to me with a big grin on his face, mocking me and trying to intimidate me. This time, I pushed back! You should have seen the look on his face! Shocked!

He started at me again and I yelled out, "I'm not going to take it anymore!" All the other kids stepped around in anticipation of a fight. What did he do? He turned around and walked away. He never pushed me again.

Some neighborhoods and communities are being overrun by gangs, drugs and violence. So how do we push back? It starts with acknowledging there is a problem, then we educate ourselves about how to deal with it and start joining others who are tired of being pushed around. We need to take our neighborhoods back.

Now don't take this as a call to act as a vigilante. Go to the Step Up events and talk

to your police officers, Sheriff's deputies, District Attorney representatives, and Probation Department employees. They will teach you what you need to know to join with others who are tired of being pushed around.

There are three Step Up events scheduled in May at the following locations: Porterville on May 5; Alpaugh on May 18; and Goshen on May 26.

Even if you don't live in one of these communities, take your family and learn how to save our children from a life of crime and unhappiness.

What happened to me as a young boy is happening everyday and it's not right! Gangs, drugs, and violence is the elephant. Together we can rid our schools and neighborhoods of this threat, but we must not do it on our own. Come and learn. By working together we can make a difference.

Phil Cox, District Three  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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### STEP UP EVENTS IN MAY

- Step Up Porterville Conference: 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 5. Porterville Nazarene Church, 2005 W. Olive Ave.
- Step Up Alpaugh & Allensworth: 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 18. Alpaugh Elementary School, 5313 Rd. 39.
- Step Up Goshen & Unite: 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 26. Goshen Elementary School, 6505 Ave. 308.

PLEASE CALL 559/636-5000 FOR MORE INFORMATION





## Assessor Warns of Homeowner's Mailer

Tulare County's property owners should avoid a mailer in which a company is asking for a \$25 fee to file a homeowner's exemption application which can be completed for free, Tulare County Assessor/Clerk-Record Roland Hill announced on Apr. 29.

Hill said the mailer, from Property Tax Assessor's Corp., offers to assist

homeowners in obtaining a homeowner's exemption for \$25.

"This isn't the first time that this company has mailed out such offers," Hill said.

"Naturally, this service is provided free of charge by the Assessor's Office."

Hill said any property owner who receives a solicitation offering help with property taxes should contact the

Assessor's Office to make sure the service is not available for free.

Property owners who have questions about homeowner's exemptions, or who wish to request a review of their assessed values, can call the Assessor's Office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at 559/636-5100.

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## Redistricting Forums Scheduled This Week

### Redistricting Forums:

Time: 6:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m.  
Date: Tuesday, May 3.  
Place: Visalia Convention Center. 303 E. Acequia Ave. Visalia, CA 93291

Time: 6:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m.  
Date: Wednesday, May 4.  
Place: CHMA Community & Conference Center. 466 E. Putnam Ave. Porterville, CA 93257

Residents will have two opportunities this week to voice their opinions on what criteria should be used to draw Tulare County's supervisorial district lines.

Tulare County supervisorial districts are reviewed and redrawn every 10 years based upon the United States Census information. These district boundaries define the representation on the Board of Supervisors. The purpose of the outreach meetings is to receive public input on which criteria the committee should use. No maps or lines will be

discussed at the outreach events.

Examples of criteria that will be considered include: topography; geography; continuity and compactness; avoid dividing cities; and avoid dividing urban growth areas, among others.

Free refreshments and child care will be provided for attendees.

The redistricting committee encourages everyone to attend and provide comment regarding the common interests, views, and

characteristics of the supervisorial districts, said Dick Eckhoff, chairman of the redistricting committee.

Eckhoff said the committee will host five additional public meetings in June to discuss how to redraw the district lines. The time, date, and location of those meetings have not been set.

For more information, please call Carol Pightling at 559/636-5005.

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## Kings River in Tulare County Closed



Tulare County's Resource Management Agency and Sheriff's Departments announced in April the Kings River in Tulare County is closed to all recreational uses due to potentially dangerous conditions. Recreational uses include swimming and boating. This closure is in effect through May.

The Army Corps of Engineers is releasing water from Pine Flat Dam, which flows into the Kings River and travels through Fresno and Tulare

counties. In mid-April, the flow at the Kings River was 5,100 cubic feet per second and reached a high of 5,600 cubic feet per second.

"The Kings River is closed to recreational use due to rapid currents, a great deal of debris present, and cold water," said Neil Pilegard, Tulare County Parks Manager. "By no means should residents attempt to enter the river. These conditions pose a great concern for public safety."

Pilegard said the Kings River Water Master's Office project the flood releases to continue through May.

The Kings River closures were posted throughout April. The Tulare County Sheriff's Department will provide enforcement.

## Employee Spotlight: Christine Chavez



**Name:** Christine Chavez

**Title:** Regional Planner

**Years of Service:** Since November 2006 – 4.5 years.

**Duties:** Transit Planning in Tulare County which currently includes the Tulare County Community College Transit Study and the Regional Mobility Access Project, the Tulare County Transit Guide, and the annual Unmet Transit Needs Process. I help administer TDA and FTA Funds for transit, and coordinate Transit Forum Meetings and Social Services Technical Advisory Council (SSTAC) Meetings. I work on coordinating Carpool/Vanpool services in Tulare County (CalVans, Valley-Rides.com, and eTrip), Bicycle Planning (managing and

updating the Tulare County Regional Bicycle Transportation Plan), and managing the Santa Fe Trail Connection project. Other tasks include the Make a Difference in Air Quality Contest, Tribal Collaboration, grant writing, and coordinating public outreach for TCAG.

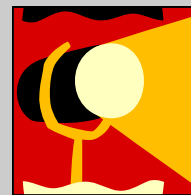
**Hobbies?** Working on my Masters in Public Administration at Fresno State so there is not much downtime. When I do have downtime, I like to travel (to San Francisco, Sacramento, Tahoe, Mexico, San Luis Obispo, Sonoma, and Las Vegas), ride my bike, play softball, and hang out with friends and family.

**Clubs/Organizations?** I'm a Sequoia Regional Leadership alumni, a University of the Pacific Alumni and Lifetime member of Delta Delta Delta. I recently got confirmed into the Catholic Church – St. Mary's Catholic Church in Visalia – a really exciting step in my life.

**What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee?** Being able to work on alternative modes of transportation. It is a pleasure to be able to work in a field that I find of personal interest and enjoyment. I enjoy riding my bike, and am given the opportunity to help cities make their communities bicycle and bus friendly. I love that I am able to give back and help improve the very same communities I grew up in.

**Please tell us something other employees might not know about you?** I have a really big family. I have about 45 cousins from about 30 aunts and uncles, but no nieces or nephews.

**Where is your favorite place to visit in Tulare County?** Exeter area, it is where I grew up, and it is so beautiful.



**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: Tulare County Museum

As early as the 1920s, an effort was made to establish a museum for Tulare County. This initial effort failed, but reemerged in 1936 when Hugh Mooney left \$5,000 to Tulare County for park improvements. The county chose to build a museum with the money; however, the lingering Depression and World War II delayed construction. The building was not finished until 1948.

Tulare County Museum operates on a county budget approved by the Board of

Supervisors. However, since the beginning, Tulare County Historical Society has been actively involved in the museum's growth, donating funds for additions and repairs, as well as members' time and effort to restore old structures. Tulare County Historical Society is a non-profit organization. They welcome all donations for the Museum Improvement Fund.

The museum fees are included in Mooney Grove Park admission fees.

The museum offers guided tours for students as well as adults.

For more information, please call Tulare County Museum Curator Amy King at 559/733-6616 or visit

[www.tularecountymuseum.org](http://www.tularecountymuseum.org)  
/Museum.



**Source:**  
<http://visaliahistory.blogspot.com/>

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

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

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## Green Jobs Training to be Offered in Porterville

The Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County (WIB) announced in April it will help provide training for long-term unemployed or previously laid-off workers for careers in renewable energy. The course will consist of a two-week pre-apprenticeship training, beginning May 23, and a five-week introduction to power technologies, called PowerTech, beginning June 13.

"We are very enthused to be able to collaborate with Kern Community College District and Porterville College on this great opportunity," said Adam Peck, Executive Director of the WIB. "The green jobs sector is going to be a growth industry in Tulare County and the Central Valley."

The pre-apprenticeship training will prepare potential employees to apply for apprenticeship programs in a

variety of green building fields, such as electrical, plumbing, sheet metal, and other trades. The PowerTech course will provide an overview of skills needed to move on to other green energy training. The overview includes Math for Trades, OSHA introduction, Basic Electricity, and Environmental Awareness, among other topics.

The funding allows for a total of 35 students to participate in the PowerTech course, and trainees completing the course with a passing grade will receive certifications in OSHA-10, CPR & Basic First Aid, and Hazardous Waste. There is no cost to the students to participate in the class, but participants must meet some prerequisites, such as being able to pass a drug test, and possessing a valid CA drivers license. A high school diploma or GED is

recommended, and preference will be given to unemployed workers with a construction background.

The funding for the training comes from a U.S. Department of Labor grant. The WIB partnered with Porterville College and the Kern Community College District (KCCD) to implement the training in Tulare County. Porterville College is a part of the KCCD.

For more information on the training, call the Porterville Employment Connection at 788.1400, or visit [www.employmentconnect.org](http://www.employmentconnect.org).

### 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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### MAY COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

#### Meeting: (Date/Time)

#### More Information:

Board of Supervisors' Meeting: May 3, 10, 17, 24. 9 a.m.	559/636-5000
L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: May 4. 2 p.m.	559/624-7000
Step Up Porterville Conference: May 5. 5 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	559/636-5000
Tulare County Water Commission: May 9. 3 p.m.	559/636-5000
Tulare County Planning Commission: May 11, 25. 9 a.m.	559/624-7000
Tulare County Youth Commission: May 16. 3 p.m.	559/636-5000
T.C.A.G. Meeting: May 16. 1 p.m.	559/624-7000
Step Up Alpaugh & Allensworth: May 18. 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	559/636-5000
Deferred Compensation Investment Review Meeting: May 23. 1:20 p.m.	559/636-5225
Step Up Goshen & Unite: May 26. 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	559/636-5000



**Places to Go Play:** The 150-acre Mooney Grove Park is home to one of the largest native stands of Valley Oaks in California. The park also includes a lake, playground areas, two 18-hole championship level disc golf courses, a historic Boy Scouts log cabin, 18 large covered picnic arbors, and the recently opened Tulare County History of Farm Labor & Agriculture Museum. Learn more about Mooney Grove Park and other places in Tulare County to "Go Play" at [www.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).





in air  
quality

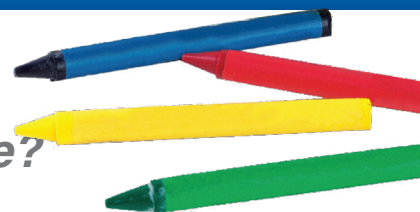


## Annual Make a Difference in Air Quality Contest

Do you **CARPOOL** to school?

Ride your **BIKE** to practice?

**SKATEBOARD** to the park?



Show us how **YOU** help improve our air in Tulare County  
and you **COULD WIN CASH & PRIZES!**

### CONTEST RULES

Here's how you can enter:

- Design and draw a POSTER on an 8 1/2" x 11" (landscape) white piece of paper
- Write a 1-2 page ESSAY
- Create a 1-2 minute VIDEO

Then, upload your picture, essay or video to [www.tularecog.org](http://www.tularecog.org) or mail your submission to:

Sarah c/o Jeffrey Scott Agency  
670 P. Street • Fresno, CA 93721

Entries should be submitted with name, address, school, grade and phone number by Friday, May 6, 2011.

### PRIZES

**ONE \$250 GRAND PRIZE  
PLUS A BIKE!**

One bike will be awarded to the winner of each grade group (K-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12)



The contest is open to all Tulare County students. For more information, visit [www.tularecog.org](http://www.tularecog.org).