



# Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY – APRIL/MAY 2012

## Supervisor's Message: Family Matters



Three years ago my wife Connie was diagnosed with cancer. Within a matter of one week she had three surgeries, all of which were very painful and draining. From the beginning of this nightmare she was determined to fight this monster inside of her and beat it! While I know my wife has the strength to face any obstacle, it's always important to have help from family.

One good example of help that family provided came about three months after the surgery. It was time for the chemotherapy portion of her treatment. Her only worry is that she was going to lose her hair and that people would stare at her. After three sessions she still had all her hair and she was hopeful. The next morning when she woke up she noticed a few hairs on her pillow. She ran her fingers through her hair and sure enough, her hands were full of it. She ran downstairs and woke our son Matt up and said, "you have to shave my head right now!"

Later that day all five of her sons showed up at the house and one by one had their heads shaved for Mom. I was the last one in the chair that

day. We wanted her to know that she wasn't alone. This was a very special and sacred day for my family as we all pulled together for "Mom." Connie wore a scarf on her head for almost a year as the treatment continued and after what seemed like an eternity finally ended. Her hair has come back in now and she is proud to represent grandmas with grey hair. I'm proud to say our family pulled together and gave her the support she needed in order to beat cancer.

There have been many occasions while I have been a Supervisor over that last seven years that I have watched our "County Family" rally around and support fellow workers much like my family did for Connie.

For example, the Information & Communications Technology Department pulled together to support Director Peg Yeates, who was determined to complete the 26.5-mile 2012 San Luis Obispo Marathon in April.

Beginning in June 2011, Peg partnered with ICT employee Courtney Wilson to train for the marathon. During the course of training and the marathon, Peg endured a couple of health issues. Peg, with the help of Courtney and ICT employees, didn't let that stop her.

During the marathon at the 21.5 mile mark, ICT employee Frank Embrey and

his wife, who were celebrating their anniversary that weekend, stood with a sign that the department made to support Peg. More than half of the department signed a banner that read, "Our Boss Did a Marathon Today. What Did Yours Do!" Peg, pictured below, took time to stop and pose with Frank, his wife, and the banner. Peg and Courtney continued on and finished in 4 hours and 13 minutes!

To me, Peg's story really shows that the concept of family spills into our offices here in Tulare County. Whether a personal or professional challenge, there is no doubt that we are all here for each other.

I am proud to be a member of this "County Family".

Phil Cox, District Three  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors



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## Tulare County Receives Funding for Porterville Jail

“This funding will afford an opportunity to plan for future growth in the jail population while also filling an immediate need in an underserved area of the County.” Allen Ishida, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

California's Corrections Standards Authority in March approved \$60 million in AB 900 funding to be used for the construction of a 200-bed jail in the city of Porterville.

Tulare County Board of Supervisors Chairman Allen Ishida said the new jail will help in meeting space needs due to the expected growth in inmate population based on a 2009 analysis of the County's present and future detention needs.

“This funding will afford an opportunity to plan for future growth in the jail population while also filling an immediate need in an underserved area of the County,” Chairman Ishida said.

Chairman Ishida said the need for more jail space will

grow even more as a result of the 2011 Public Safety Realignment Act – AB 109. 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.

The new jail would be located near the new Porterville courthouse. The two-story complex would have 200 beds, with the capacity to expand to 350 beds.

“This new jail will be a great compliment to the courthouse in downtown Porterville,” said Fifth District Supervisor Mike Ennis, whose district includes Porterville.

The \$60 million in funding comes under Phase II of the AB 900 Jail Construction Financing Program. AB 900 was signed into law on May 3, 2007 appropriating \$1.2 billion in jail construction funding through state lease-revenue bonds. The grant will pay for 90 percent of construction, with the remaining 10 percent, or \$6 million, financed by Tulare County. Construction would be scheduled to start in 2016 and finish in 2018.

More than \$600 million was awarded to California counties by the Corrections Standards Authority. Other San Joaquin Valley counties who received funding include:

Kings County: \$33 million  
Madera County: \$3 million  
Stanislaus County: \$80 million

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## Design/Construction Management Firms Sought for Porterville Jail



Tulare County is seeking statement of qualifications from firms to provide architectural and construction management services for the design and construction of the new \$68 million South County Detention Facility in Porterville.

A statement of qualifications describes the firm's previous work related to similar projects, personnel information of assigned staff involved, references, and other items.

Interested parties should contact Tulare County Assistant Administrative Officer Kristin Bennett at 559/636-5005 to obtain Request for Qualifications (RFQ) materials.

Five copies of the statement of qualifications should be submitted by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 23, 2012 to the following address:

Kristin Bennett, Assistant County Administrative Officer  
Tulare County Administrative Office  
2800 W. Burrel Ave.  
Visalia, CA 93291

The South County Detention Facility will be located on a 15-acre site – location still to be determined – in Porterville. The project will be built as a detention facility with specialty health beds.

The \$60 million in funding for the jail comes under Phase II of the AB 900 Jail Construction Financing Program. AB 900 was signed

into law on May 3, 2007 appropriating \$1.2 billion in jail construction funding through state lease-revenue bonds. The \$8 million balance in project costs will be financed by Tulare County. Construction is scheduled to start in 2016 and finish in 2018.

## Eulalia “Lala” Moreno Named 2011 Employee of the Year

Productivity, efficiency, high performance, willingness to accept new responsibility, contributions to morale, and extraordinary services are attributes that more than 4,000 Tulare County employees strive to achieve when they report to work. In 2011, one Tulare County employee outshined the rest.

Eulalia “Lala” Moreno, a health education assistant with the Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA), has been selected as the 2011 Tulare County Employee of the Year, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors announced in March. The majority of Moreno’s work is spent educating Tulare County residents about the negative impacts of tobacco.

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Allen Ishida said more than 125 County of Tulare employees were nominated from 15 departments.

“To be the most outstanding employee in 2011 among thousands of hard working people is a great honor,” Chairman Ishida said. “I commend Eulalia and all other nominees for making a difference and taking pride in their work.”

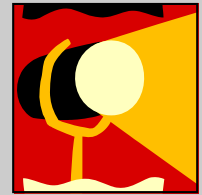
Tulare County HHSA Director Dr. Cheryl Duerksen said the selection came as no surprise, as Moreno spent countless hours at health fairs, volunteering her time to help other HHSA programs, and, most importantly, helped lead the Tobacco Control Awareness and Education Program when her supervisor retired last year.

“Lala stepped up to keep the program running on her own,” Dr. Duerksen said. “Her enthusiasm, positive attitude, and outstanding work ethic is a fine example to those around her.”

Moreno has worked for Tulare County as a full-time

employee since 1999. She worked as an extra help employee from 1997 to 1999. Some of her current duties as a Tulare County Health Education Assistant include: prepare and deliver presentations to schools and community groups on health topics; assist in preparation of exhibits, posters, displays and materials for meetings, conferences, clinics and public gatherings; and assist in planning and participate in workshops, forums, and discussion groups to promote public health and health education programs.

Tulare County is the largest employer in the County at approximately 4,000 employees, which represents 2.25% of the workforce in the County.



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)



Top: Chairman Allen Ishida presents Lala Moreno with Employee of the Year plaque.

Right: Lala Moreno, 2011 Tulare County Employee of the Year.



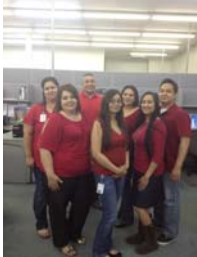
“Lala stepped up to keep the [Tobacco Control Awareness Program] running on her own. Her enthusiasm, positive attitude, and outstanding work ethic is a fine example to those around her.” Dr. Cheryl Duerksen, HHSA Director.



## Tulare County Participates in Denim Day



HR&D



HHSA: Dinuba



County Council



HHSA: TulareWorks



KT - AAA



CAO

Tulare County gave its employees an option Wednesday, April 25 to wear jeans in recognition of Denim Day, an awareness day for sexual assault victims, and is asking residents to consider doing so as well.

Denim Day came about in 1999 when an Italian court overturned a rape conviction because the victim was wearing tight jeans. The court overturned the rape conviction, arguing that because the girl wore tight jeans she must have had to help remove them, thereby giving consent to have sex.

The case made international headlines, and the young woman's jeans became a symbol of awareness that what someone wears is never an excuse for rape.

Prompted by a request by members of the Zonta Club of Porterville, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors passed a proclamation on Tuesday, April 24 recognizing Denim Day.

"Denim Day encourages the public to wear jeans to educate society about the injustices and seriousness of rape," said Allen Ishida, Chairman of the Board of

Supervisors. "The Board of Supervisors commends the Zonta Club for bringing this important issue to our attention and encourages all Tulare County residents to consider wearing jeans on Wednesday."

Tulare County encouraged departments to submit pictures who supported Denim Day. Those pictures were posted on the County of Tulare's Facebook fan page and are featured in this newsletter.

## Share the Road Implements Signage in Tulare County



Tulare County's Share the Road Committee was busy in March putting up road signs in two strategic places – Rocky Hill Road and Yokohl Valley Drive.

Tulare County Resource Management Agency road workers installed four new signs to remind drivers to share the roads with runners, walkers, and cyclists.

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.

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.

## Spotlight: Tulare County Employees in the News

There were plenty of County of Tulare employees who made the news in the past few months.

### 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.

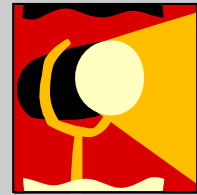
"There is no better way to jumpstart teen programs at the library than by having input from our local youth," Deputy Librarian Jeff Scott said in a statement.

### 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.

RMA's Glenn MacIntyre was featured in the Visalia Times-Delta as part of an ongoing feature that looks at people and the jobs in the public sector. MacIntyre is a Tulare County building inspector.



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 Fish & Game Commission

The Tulare County Fish and Game Commission will hold its annual meeting to hear requests for funding from the County's Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund.

The funds, derived from Fish and Game fines and forfeitures imposed by the court system, are to be expended solely for projects related to the protection, conservation, propagation, and preservation of fish and wildlife during the 2012-2013 fiscal year. The County Board of Supervisors must approve all projects. Such projects may include:

- Public education relating to the scientific principles of

conservation.

- Temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife.

- Breeding, raising, or purchasing fish or wildlife to be released onto public areas.

- Improvement of fish and wildlife habitat.

- Predator control actions for the benefit of fish or wildlife.

- Scientific fish and wildlife research.

- The meeting is at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9, 2012, at Exeter City Hall, 137 N. F Street, Exeter, California, and is open to the public.

For further information, contact Stevie McNeill, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Phone: (559) 684-3350; Fax: (559) 685-3335; E-mail: [smcneill@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:smcneill@co.tulare.ca.us)

The Tulare County Fish and Game Commission is a five-member advisory group appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Duties of the commission include making recommendations regarding Fish and Wildlife Propagation Funds and advising the Board of Supervisors on all matters related to fish and game.

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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## Tulare County Economic Development Manager Hired



Washam will serve as a key member of the RMA's Office of Economic Development – comprised of a highly-experienced team charged with effectively marketing and positioning Tulare County for business creation, expansion and attraction.

Tulare County Administrative Officer Jean Rousseau announced that Michael Washam has been selected to serve as the new Tulare County Economic Development Manager.

“Michael has proven expertise in real estate matters, business finance, land use and planning regulations,” said Jake Raper, Director of the Tulare County Resource Management Agency (RMA). “He is an expert in large scale industrial development, such as food processing, solar and alternative energy generation, and wholesale distribution facilities.”

Washam will serve as a key member of the RMA's Office of Economic Development – comprised of a highly-experienced team charged with effectively marketing and positioning Tulare County for

business creation, expansion and attraction.

Washam has been employed as a planner with RMA since 2008. His responsibilities within RMA have included environmental and project review, countywide planning, and serving as staff liaison to the Tulare County Agricultural Advisory Committee. Before joining Tulare County, he owned and operated for many years Premier Impressions in Monrovia – a commercial printing firm.

Washam majored in Finance, Real Estate and Law at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude and was chosen valedictorian for the College of Business Administration. He also holds a certificate in Urban and Regional Planning from California State

University, Fresno.

“I think there is tremendous opportunity to grow our local economy by facilitating ag-related industrial growth in our rural communities that border major state highways – Highway 65, Highway 63 and Highway 99 – in a manner that is consistent with our county's longstanding commitment to preserving agriculture,” Washam said.

Board Chairman Allen Ishida made economic development a focal point when he delivered his 2012 State of the County speech.

“We will continue to actively market the many benefits Tulare County has to offer businesses that are ready to expand or relocate,” Chairman Ishida said. “Mike will be a key component for those efforts.”

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

#### Meeting: (Date/Time)

#### More Information:

Board of Supervisors' Meeting: May 1, 8, 15, 22. 9 a.m.	559/636-5000
L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: May 2. 2 p.m.	559/624-7000
Step Up Porterville: May 3. 5 p.m.	559/636-5000
Tulare County Planning Commission: May 9, 23. 9 a.m.	559/624-7000
Tulare County Water Commission: May 14. 3 p.m.	559/636-5005
Tulare County Youth Commission Meeting: May 21. 3 p.m.	559/636-5000
Tulare County Association of Governments: May 21. 1 p.m.	559/624-7274



**Places to Go Play:** Visalia is the oldest city between Stockton and Los Angeles. This vibrant town of more than 120,000 is the county seat, and offers dozens of fine dining and cultural arts experiences. The historic Fox Theatre routinely showcases concert artists, performances by the Tulare County Symphony and live theatre. Learn more about Visalia, Fox Theatre and other places in Tulare County to “Go Play” at [www.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).