

# WHATSSUP?!

## News to Help You Say So Long to Summer



**CROWFEST 2024**  
**Saturday, Aug 17**  
**6:00 PM - 10:00 PM**  
**241 E. Kern Avenue**  
**Downtown Tulare**

LIVE MUSIC  
BEER GARDEN  
FOOD VENDORS

Music by  
The Band  
**August**  
Celebrating  
50 years!

for more info:  
tularedowntown.org



## Crowfest Returns to the Downtown

Tulare Downtown Foundation presents the annual Crowfest event on Saturday, August 17th starting at 6:00 PM at 241 E. Kern, the home of **Valli Coffee** and **Tulare Real Estate Team** at the corner of L street and Kern Avenue in downtown Tulare. The event features the band **August** celebrating their 50th anniversary in the Central Valley. The event also features a beer garden along with the live music. Food and retail vendors will round out the event for an evening of fun and relaxation. Be sure to bring your lawn chair to sit back, relax and enjoy!

Visit [Tularedowntown.org](http://Tularedowntown.org) for more information or call 559-685-2350.

**Crowfest** was started as a way to raise public awareness of the contribution that these large black birds play in our local ecology. While crows can be a nuisance in some respects, farmers also rely on them to help clean trees of nuts and fruit and to clean up the ground around the trees in the groves as well.

Crows are highly intelligent birds. In trying to move the crows from downtown, several methods have been employed with varying levels of success. One of the most notori-

ous crow control efforts involves hawks. But crows are so smart they leave the area where the hawk is, their only natural predator, and return within two or three hours of the hawk leaving.

Sound effects of injured crows or crows under attack have been experimented with but unfortunately sound effects often have the exact opposite effect and attract the murder (as a flock of crows is called) toward the sound because these very social animals want to help what they believe is a distressed member of their murder calling.

## Zumwalt Park Renovation Continues

September 2023, the Tulare City Council approved the construction contracts for the renovation of Zumwalt Park.

This capital improvement project creates a new regional destination with recreational and entertainment opportunities through the construction of a new amphitheater building and stage with tiered seating, lighting and landscaping, a playground, and splash pad.

The central location of the park makes it an ideal focal point in the community that will attract 35,000-50,000 visitors to Downtown annually.

Of major concern is the parking, however, studies have shown that most people traveling to events usually travel at least two to a vehicle. The maximum capacity of the venue is 6,000 but some concerts aren't going to "fill the house." There are 3,000+ parking spaces in the vicinity of the park.

New rest rooms are part of the renovation, a long-needed and awaited improvement to the venue.

The John Phillips Souza bandstand remains, a splash pad and a playground for children to use year-round. The playground and splash pad are accessible during concerts.

Visit Facebook for updates at <https://www.facebook.com/spadeconcerts>.



TULARE DOWNTOWN FOUNDATION PRESENTS  
**KASINO ROYALE**

Happy Hour  
5:00 PM  
Dinner  
6:00 PM

Raffle  
Silent Auction  
Casino Prizes  
And More

Casino Night and Fundraising Dinner  
**Thursday, August 22, 2024**  
 Happy Hour @ 5 PM - Dinner @ 6 PM  
**Rancho Brazil Steakhouse - 144 South K Street**

TIX online @ Eventbrite  
"Tulare Downtown"

## Annual Banquet Thursday, August 22

The second annual **Tulare Downtown Foundation** fundraising banquet and casino night at **Rancho Brazil** is **Thursday, August 22nd** starting at 5:00 PM with happy hour and dinner service at 6:00 PM. Entertainment follows starting at 7:30 and concludes with a night of blackjack, roulette and craps. Seating is limited so purchase tickets now in order to be included in the festivities. Group rates are available as are sponsorships. For more informa-

tion and ticket sales, log onto [tularedowntown.org](http://tularedowntown.org).

This year's theme for the banquet is "Kasino Royale," alluding to the James Bond movie of similar name. Black and white dress is optional but if you want to get into the spirit of the evening, come dressed as a secret agent! Be prepared for a little "bonding" at this event!

The newly remodeled **Rancho Brazil** now houses a sports bar which will be the focal point for the happy

hour. For dinner, **Jamie "Frank Sinatra" Hitchcock** will croon the tunes of Ol' Blue Eyes while you dine on a buffet of scrumptious food prepared by **Rancho Brazil**.

The silent auction at last year's banquet was a huge hit; we'll have even more items to bid on this year. One of the top items being offered this year is a \$500.00 gift certificate courtesy of **Quest Equity**, owned by **Adrian and Korrie Herrera**, which can be redeemed

at any of their locations.

Raffle prizes for winners at the gambling tables have been enhanced this year. And again, this year as last year, your admission ticket enters you in a door prize drawing.

Tickets are available online at [tularedowntown.org](http://tularedowntown.org) or by stopping by our office at **306 E. King**. Plan to join us for a night of "bonding," networking, "friendshipping" and just plain fun as we celebrate downtown Tulare. All proceeds from the banquet support events and services in the downtown and for the downtown. *Join us to be a part of the fun!*



# Los Angeles County Says It Won't 'Criminalize' Homelessness

Cities and counties across California are preparing to crack down on homeless encampments following a landmark Supreme Court ruling and a recent executive order issued by the governor. Los Angeles County won't be one of them.

On Tuesday, the L.A. Board of Supervisors passed a motion reiterating a "care first" approach to the unhoused.

"Arresting people for sitting, sleeping, or lying on the sidewalk or in public spaces does not end their homelessness, and will only make their homelessness harder to resolve with a criminal record and fines they can't afford to pay," the motion states. "Moving people from one community to another does not resolve their homelessness."

## Several People Sickened by Valley Fever After Visiting Festival

Five people who attended the Lightning in a Bottle festival in Kern County between May 22-27 have been diagnosed with Valley Fever and three of them have had to be hospitalized. If you attended this concert and are displaying symptoms of infections, public health officials advise you be checked immediately.

Valley Fever is a fungus that's inhaled and spores colonize in the lungs.

Valley Fever can cause cough, fever, headache. Prolonged illness can lead to skin lesions, meningitis or death.

Valley Fever has been on the rise in California, prompting a state health care advisory earlier this year. Kern County has the highest rates of Valley Fever in California. The county currently accounts for about one-third of cases.

## San Francisco Begins Dismantling Encampments, Busing People Out

There's been a decided uptick in the number of vagrants we see on Tulare streets. A part of this is fueled by the start of an aggressive effort to clear homeless encampments from San Francisco. The crackdown is the result of the June SCOTUS decision in *Grants Pass v. Johnson*. The ruling established that governments are constitutionally permitted to enforce anti-camping laws regardless of whether there is enough shelter.

San Francisco Mayor London Breed also issued an executive order Thursday prioritizing relocation services for unhoused individuals. That means outreach workers must offer transportation out of the city before offering other services such as shelter.

According to the motion, county jails "will not be used to hold people arrested due to enforcement of anti-camping ordinances."

Sheriff Robert Luna agreed that "criminalizing homelessness is not the answer." The department has strict guidelines regarding who it will take into custody, and he said his deputies will continue to abide by existing standards.

California is likely to see a patchwork of laws emerging across different jurisdictions. One question is whether more lenient jurisdictions will get an influx of unhoused people from areas with stricter enforcement. If they do, the socioeconomic and political implications could be significant.



## First Concert at Zumwalt

**SAVE THE DATE!** Saturday, October 26th, 2024 is Tulare Country Nights! Follow **Spade Entertainment** on Facebook for updates at <https://www.facebook.com/spadeconcerts>. You can buy tickets at [spadeentertainment.com](https://spadeentertainment.com).

"We've made significant progress in housing many long-time San Franciscans who became homeless, but we are seeing an increase in people in our data who are coming from elsewhere. Today's order will ensure that all our city departments are leveraging our relocation programs to address this growing trend," Breed said in a press release.

January's point-in-time survey showed 40% of unhoused San Franciscans are from outside California. Five years ago, the percentage was 28%.

It seems Tulare is experiencing a similar situation. One thing you can do is participate in our "*Paradise City Express*" program. Donate to help stranded individuals living in camps get back to their home state.



## U.S. Supreme Court Rules on Grants Pass

The U.S. Supreme Court issued a pivotal decision in the Grants Pass case concerning homeless encampments.

Since the 2018 decision in *Martin v. Boise*, the *California Downtown Association* has actively advocated for more effective and compassionate solutions to homelessness. That commitment led to support of an amicus brief in 2019, urging the Supreme Court to hear and decide on the case, which was unfortunately declined.

However, another opportunity to address the Court arose this past year when the High Court decided to take up the *Grants Pass v. Johnson* case.

In a 6-3 ruling authored by Justice Neil Gorsuch, the Supreme Court concluded that city ordinances regulating camping on public property do not constitute "cruel and unusu-

al punishment" under the Eighth Amendment. Justice Gorsuch highlighted the complexity of homelessness and the necessity for varied public policy responses, stating that federal judges should not bear primary responsibility for devising these solutions.

This decision aligns with the perspectives and experiences many of us have shared, conveyed in the amicus brief filed by IDA and supported by CDA. The Court acknowledged the challenges cities face under the previous *Martin* and *Grants Pass* rulings, noting that these decisions have often hindered, rather than helped, efforts to move people experiencing homelessness into shelters.

While this ruling does not solve the issue of homelessness, it represents a crucial step toward enabling cities to use a broader range of tools.



## Chick-fil-A In Tulare

Recently reviewed plans put the future Chick-fil-A at the southeast corner of Cartmill Avenue and Highway 99, approximately halfway between the chain's only locations in the south Central Valley.

"We are constantly evaluating potential new locations for our restaurant expansion, and Tulare represents a tremendous opportunity to serve our customers and fans," Chick-fil-A said via emailed statements to The Exeter Sun-Gazette. "At this time, we are still very early in discussions on prospective locations."

According to the site plan, the restaurant will span nearly 5,000

square feet and include seating for 70 customers. It will feature a two-lane drive-thru and more than 70 parking spaces, including 13 spaces capable of charging electric vehicles. The site plan review application estimates the restaurant would employ between 50 and 75 individuals and would be open from 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Chick-fil-A currently has two locations in Fresno and two in Bakersfield.

Planned just off the exit ramp from northbound Highway 99 to Cartmill Avenue, the location could have the potential to attract many travelers





## State of the City Coming Friday, August 23

The State of the City luncheon event will be held Friday, August 23rd, from 11:30 am to 1pm at International Agri-Center Heritage Complex.

The State of the City address will be delivered by Mayor Terry Sayre. State of the County report will be presented by Pete Vander Poel III, County of Tulare Supervisor, District 2.

Tickets are \$55 for Chamber Members, or \$65 for Non-Chamber Members. Get your tickets ASAP as there is a ticket price increase of

\$10 each after August 11.

As this is a luncheon and includes an excellent lunch, there is a registration deadline of August 18.

If you have a business or are a citizen active in supporting the community there are sponsorship opportunities available.

For more information or to buy tickets, call the Tulare Chamber of Commerce at (559)686-1547 or visit their offices at Tulare Chamber of Commerce, 220 East Tulare Avenue | Tulare, CA 93274.

## City Manager Discusses State of Assessment in Downtown District

The Exeter Sun-Gazette Newspaper (thesungazette.com) recently reported that an annual report from the Tulare Downtown Association has indicated ongoing difficulties collecting taxes levied against businesses in the downtown area, which are intended to fund the maintenance of public parking lots, sidewalks and gutters at a level over and above what the City provides.

This association is called a “Business Improvement District” and is chartered and funded for the express purpose of providing these and other services.

The article focused on parking lot

maintenance however, the Association has never been involved in that maintenance.

Instead, the Association is the parking district *management agency*, meaning it is commissioned to clean and service parking lots, sidewalks and gutters, but isn’t neither equipped nor mandated to repair and/or build parking lots.

“In terms of a fix, I don’t know that we will ever have a perfect, precise fix,” Mondell said. “The biggest problem with the existing taxing districts is that it is an assessment on a business, not on a property, so that creates a problem.

## Tulare County Federal Credit Union Partners with Altura Centers for Health

Tulare Federal Credit Union (TFCU) took proactive steps to enhance financial literacy and support among low-income and uncertain individuals in collaboration with **Altura Centers for Health**.

This initiative, spearheaded by **Marketing Director Coraima Linares** and facilitated at the Porterville branch, aimed to inform and empower the community about TFCU’s range of services including loans, savings, and where to best allocate money..

In a personalized presentation at **Altura Centers for Health**, attendees engaged deeply with TFCU representatives, particularly on topics such as credit repair, fraud prevention, and responsible credit card usage. This interaction underscored the community’s keen interest in financial education and management.

**Krystal Talingo’s** creation of a comprehensive flyer and QR code allowed easy access to essential information, further promoting understanding of TFCU’s offerings

and benefits. Notably, TFCU emphasized its member-owned structure, highlighting the advantages over traditional commercial banks.

The event, held at the Santa Fe apartments’ presentation office on July 8th, emphasized TFCU’s commitment to safeguarding community finances through insured accounts and offering low-interest loans for debt consolidation.

The partnership between TFCU and **Altura Centers for Health** signifies a significant step towards financial empowerment and security for under served communities. By bridging the gap in financial knowledge and offering practical solutions, TFCU continues to demonstrate its dedication to the well-being of its members and the broader community.

For more information, visit TFCU’s website at **Tulare County Federal Credit Union (tularefcu.org)**, or follow them on Facebook @Tulare County Federal Credit Union and Instagram @tularefcu



*Tulare Federal Credit Union and Altura Centers for Health are both avid supporters of the downtown, the Tulare Downtown Association and the Tulare Downtown Foundation. When seeking banking services or health-related assistance, visit either of our partners for the help you need.*



Over the last two fiscal years, the city has issued letters informing business owners of the obligation and has found that many are willing to pay the tax once they understand what services it provides. The assessments ranges from less than \$100 to a cap under \$900 levied semi-annually and based on the type, size and location of the business.

“The assessments that come in cover more things than just parking,” Mondell said.

To help in addressing this issue, the city council recently authorized the hiring of a consulting firm that is in the process of reevaluating the special tax district in the downtown region.

The firm is expected to present the council with some options for rewording the current ordinance to ensure a more universal application to businesses. The process is still several months from being completed.

“This is a decades-old problem,” Mondell said in an interview with The Sun-Gazette.

The current ordinance allows the city’s finance department to label a

business as a nuisance if it is determined they should be paying the tax but don’t; however, Mondell said the nuisance abatement process is neither efficient or effective in dealing with the problem and likely has never been used in Tulare.

He said one option being explored is to change the ordinance to allow the city to place a lien – which is a legal claim against properties or assets that are used as collateral to satisfy a debt – on businesses that fail to pay the tax, which would provide the city with a more efficient and effective option to ensure compliance.

The way the tax is computed is fairly complex and is determined in part by the location of the business. The ordinance establishes the Parking and Business Improvement region in which the tax funds are broken into two regions: Zone A and Zone B. These zones are further broken down into two Benefit Zones A and B, which have different rules applied for how the tax is computed.

Mondell said that a goal of the process to make changes to the ordinance is identifying ways to simplify the assessment process.

### Coming to the Zumwalt Amphitheater November 9, 2024

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### NEW SHOW ALERT!

Lou Gramm – The Original Voice of Foreigner, alongside ASIA, will be performing at a brand new WORLD CLASS venue in Tulare, California! This show promises to create a magical evening, bringing you all the hits of Foreigner. This is SOMETHING YOU GOTTA SEE!

**When? November 9th, 2024**

**Where? Zumwalt Amphitheater**

**Grab your tickets HERE: <https://bit.ly/3TxnzCg>**





10th Annual

# Crush Party

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**OCTOBER 11**  
6:00 - 9:00 PM

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## AMONG THE HOTTEST CALIFORNIA COUNTIES!

If you live in the valley you know it gets hot in the summertime.

California County News included Kern, Kings, Fresno and Tulare counties with the longest stretch of temps above 90 degrees for 91 to 92 days.

Extreme heat can punish trees and plant life. When you're seeking help with what to do call the experts at Evergreen Tree Service at 685-1579.

# State Auditor Issues Report on Prop 47

The California State Auditor has released a report on Prop 47, the controversial criminal justice reform measure adopted by voters ten years ago. The findings could bolster the campaign to reform Prop 47 this November.

That effort is embodied by Proposition 36 which, among other things, would allow felony charges for repeat thefts of \$950 or less (two or more prior theft convictions).

The State Auditor examined the impacts of Prop 47 in the counties of San Bernardino and Riverside.

Public calls for service, law enforcement response times, and arrests were part of the assessment.

The analysis found a decrease in both the prison and county jail population following Prop 47. It also found an overall decline in recidivism, defined as convictions of a new felony or misdemeanor committed within three years of a previous conviction.

However, there was a 12 percentage point *increase* in the number of individuals who were convicted four or more times. Among that group, theft convictions rose 14 percentage points after Prop 47 was implemented.

The Auditor concluded: "The frequency of theft convictions at the three law enforcement agencies we reviewed increased after the implementation of Proposition 47, particularly for those who reoffended with four or more convictions."

The audit recommends that penalties be increased for individuals who are convicted of four or more repeat offenses. This is consistent with the measure voters will be asked to vote on this fall.

The audit "confirms what we've known for years: repeat offenders are more likely to reoffend and the Legislature should have increased penalties on those who repeatedly violate the law," said Republican Assemblyman Josh Hoover on X. "By voting #YESon36, voters can finally fix this failed policy in November."

Prop 36 still has a number of high-profile opponents, including Gavin Newsom.



**Queen Bee Boutique and Beauty Bar** is one of our newer businesses in the downtown. In the building that once housed the newsstand, **Queen Bee** offers a selection of "haute couture" for stylish women.

The store features the "Judy Blue" line of fashion as well as apparel for curvaceous figures.

You can also find accessories for your outfits and an assortment of bejeweled tumblers in a cornucopia of retail treasures.

Be sure to visit Queen Bee when you are in the downtown area. They're located at 233 S K Street in downtown Tulare. They can also be reached at (559) 467-5127 or find them on Instagram @queenbboutique\_qb

## NOW ON STAGE IN TULARE

It's finally happening — National Touring Talent and World-Class Concerts in a brand new, fully modern, 6,000 person venue.

**OCTOBER 26**  
— Tulare Country Nights —  
Clay Walker, RaeLynn, Canaan Smith

**NOVEMBER 2**  
Buckcherry with Living Colour

**NOVEMBER 8**  
— RADFEST —  
The Tubes, A Flock of Seagulls, The Motels

**NOVEMBER 9**  
Lou Gramm (Foreigner) & ASIA

**SPADE ENTERTAINMENT**

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