

Quarterly Public Affairs Report
First Quarter 2023
Sonora, CA
January – March, 2023

COMMUNITY ISSUES: During the first quarter of 2023 it was determined the most significant issues facing our coverage area were:

- + Government
- + Education
- + Public Safety
- + Homelessness
- + Business

Public Affairs Program – Mother Lode Views

This 30-minute interview program features a guest or guests from the community who speak for a group or organization, or in some way represents the public interest. The program airs both Saturday and Sunday at 9:30am on KVML-AM and FM and on Sundays at 10am on KKBN-FM and at 9am on KZSQ-FM. The program addressed the significant issues of the community during the third quarter.

January 7-8 – Government

Mother Lode Views continued its series featuring the individual Tuolumne County Supervisors focused on issues and projects in their specific districts. Anaiyah Kirk, who represents the greater Twain Harte and Tuolumne area in District Three, was the guest. He talked about new housing projects, the recently passed vegetation management ordinance, and water concerns.

January 14-15 – Government

Mother Lode Views featured District Four Tuolumne County Supervisor Kathleen Haff, who represents the Don Pedro and Groveland region. She talked about new biomass projects proposed in her district, the need for more fire staffing in Groveland, and planned park updates.

January 21-22 – Government

Mother Lode Views featured District Five Tuolumne County Supervisor Jaron Brandon who represents Columbia and Jamestown. He spoke about the Visit Tuolumne County contract, recent Columbia storm impacts, state park decisions, and new economic development projects.

January 28-29 – Government

Mother Lode Views featured District Two Tuolumne County Supervisor Ryan Campbell who represents Soulsbyville and Phoenix Lake. He talked about storm drainage

improvements conducted ahead of this winter season, the crumbling state of roads in his district, and upcoming fire season concerns.

February 4 - 5 – Health

Mother Lode Views focused on a community effort to transform Tuolumne County into a Blue Zones Community. The goal is to live longer and more fulfilling lives. Guests were Blue Zones Co-founder Nick Buettner and Blue Zones Tuolumne County Project Executive Director Tyler Summersett.

February 11-12 – Homelessness

Mother Lode Views featured a new community collaborative that is working to find solutions related to the homelessness crisis. Guests from Compassion Outreach included Shelley Muniz of Resiliency Village, Nancy Scott of Nancy's Hope, and Jeanette Lambert of the Lambert Community Drop-in Center.

February 18-19 – Business

Mother Lode Views featured the new President of the Tuolumne County Business Council, Tom Crosby. He talked about the role of the organization, how the group is working with local government leaders, and the organization's strategic plan.

February 25-26 – Education

Mother Lode Views featured new Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools, Zack Abernathy. He talked about his goals and priorities as superintendent, and challenges facing rural education.

March 4-5 – Government

Mother Lode Views featured Sonora Mayor Mark Plummer. He gave an update on the passage of the one-cent sales tax increase and a consultant that has been hired to help the city get on a more desirable financial path. He also talked about planned improvements on Linoberg Street and a major transit project that will get underway in downtown.

March 11-12 – Public Safety

Mother Lode Views featured Tuolumne County Office of Emergency Services Coordinator Dore Bietz. She gave an update on storm impacts from the recent weather system, earlier damage in the county from December and January storm incidents, and flooding concerns heading toward the spring months.

March 18-19 – Schools

Mother Lode Views focused on new initiatives related to rural broadband expansion and forestry initiatives. Tuolumne County sent Supervisor Jaron Brandon to the National Association of Counties meetings in Washington, DC, and he reported back on the happenings.

March 25-26 – Public Safety

Mother Lode Views featured Yosemite National Park Ranger, Scott Gediman. He gave an overview of the extensive storm damage that recently closed the park for several

weeks. He also talked about Horsetail Fall, Glacier Point Road improvements, and work on the Tioga Road.