

**Quarterly Public Affairs Report  
Third Quarter 2023  
Sonora, CA  
July – September, 2023**

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

- + Education
- + Public Safety
- + Government
- + Community
- + 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 first quarter.

**July 1-2 – Public Safety**

Mother Lode Views featured Calaveras County Sheriff Rick DiBasillio. He talked about recent state decisions that he feels are leading to more criminal activity in Calaveras County. He also spoke about his new budget, staffing concerns, and general crime trends.

**July 8-9 – Public Safety**

Mother Lode Views featured Tuolumne County Sheriff Bill Pooley. He talked about recent efforts to increase staffing at the jail, pay increases to make his department more competitive, fire prevention planning, and recent fentanyl busts.

**July 15-16 – Business/Technology**

Mother Lode Views featured Len De Groot, a Project Manager in the Tuolumne County IT Department who is helping to coordinate local broadband efforts. Grant funding from the state and federal government is anticipated to help local efforts to expand broadband internet infrastructure in the region.

**July 22-23 – Government**

Mother Lode Views featured Tuolumne County Administrator Tracie Riggs. She talked about recent county budget decisions including taking over the Columbia Fire Department, continuing the Tuolumne Water Agency, and the new contract with Visit Tuolumne County.

#### July 29 - 30 – Community

Mother Lode Views featured Tuolumne County Health and Human Services Director Rebecca Espino and Sonora Area Foundation CEO Darrell Slocum. They talked about the Community Roots Resource Fair that aims to connect local residents with state and federal benefits that they are eligible to receive.

#### August 5-6 – Public Safety/Education

Mother Lode Views featured Tuolumne County Chief Probation Officer Dan Hawkes and Assistant Probation Officer Annie Hockett. They provided an update on the operations, programs, and financing for the Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility.

#### August 12-13 – Education

Mother Lode Views featured three recently graduated Tuolumne County high school students who are preparing to head off to college in the next couple of weeks. The purpose is to hear about challenges facing the younger generation of leaders. Featured were David Talavera, Aidan Pink, and Gracie Bearden.

#### August 19-20 – Government

Mother Lode Views focused on the implementation of a new CARE Court program in Tuolumne County. The statewide initiative aims to get those with mental health and substance abuse disorders the care they need. Guests included Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Director Tami Mariscal, Deputy Behavioral Health Director Dr. Brock Kolby, and Tuolumne County Counsel Sarah Carrillo.

#### August 26-27 – Community

Mother Lode Views focused on the multimillion-dollar Foundation Sports Park that is under construction in Standard. The guests were Youth Sports Foundation of Tuolumne County President Brandon Meyer and Sonora Area Foundation CEO Darrell Slocum. The Foundation Sports Park project will include soccer fields, trails, batting cages, an indoor sports pavilion, and pickleball courts.

#### September 2-3 – Community

Mother Lode Views focused on events taking place in Tuolumne County celebrating the local filming of Back to the Future III and raising money for the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. The film was shot over 30 years ago in the Red Hills area outside of Jamestown and at Railtown 1897. Guests were cinematographer Dean Cundy and actor Jeffrey Weissman.

#### September 9-10 – Education

Mother Lode Views featured Summerville High School Superintendent Michael Merrill. He talked about campus infrastructure projects, challenges to hiring teachers, and new issues on the horizon related to state educational funding.

#### September 16-17 – Education

Mother Lode Views featured Sonora High School Superintendent Ed Pelfrey. He talked about enrollment trends, programs offered at the school, challenges related to vaping, and efforts to sell or lease the historic dome property.

#### September 23-24 – Business

Mother Lode Views featured Visit Tuolumne County CEO Lisa Mayo and Director of Sales and Marketing Katie Kirkland. They relayed the latest tourism numbers for Tuolumne County and the related economic impacts. Also, they explained changes that the county recently made in relation to their funding stream and the directive to create a Tourism Improvement District in the coming three years.