

LOCAL NEWS

Chamber honors 2009 business stars

The Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce has announced and will recognize the 2009 business people of the year. For the first time in over 20 years, two brothers were first elected as a pair and then garnered the voting majority.

On Friday, Feb. 5, at the chamber installation dinner, Trent and Gary Williams will both be honored with this, the chamber's highest award. Continuing in the recognition of this long-time Mariposa family for their support and contribution to the community, Pearl Williams, their mother, has been voted Business Woman of the Year for 2009.

While the nominees were solicited from all chamber members, the voting ballots were issued to just the 40 past recipient businessmen and women. This group then narrowed down the slate of nominees and selected all three of the Williams' family members.

Also nominated were Bob Kirchner, Bill Verley, Jim Nady and Jeffery Hentz. The other women nominees were Tracy Dubberke, Dell Knell, Courtney Twiss, Helen Kwalwasser, Sabrina Lyons, Trish Nady and

LeeAnn Granville.

The chamber also announced the Mariposa County Fairgrounds as the 2009 Business of the Year. This balloting was cast by the chamber of commerce membership who chose from the following list of businesses of the month for 2009 starting with January:

Mariposa Brewing Company, SierraSunTimes/Goldrushcam, River Rock Inn, Mariposa Contractors Association, Mariposa Shipping Company, Yosemite Glass and Window Inc., Ponderosa Auto Dismantling and Towing, Barn and Garage King, Mariposa County Fairgrounds, Pioneer Market and Foster True Value Hardware.

The public is invited to celebrate these individuals and businesses by attending the dinner. This event will be hosted by Chamber President Lester Bridges with a key note address delivered by Chairman of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, Kevin Cann. The social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. Dinner and the program follow at 6:30 p.m. Those planning to attend should call the chamber office or register online at www.mariposachamber.org

TDS completes first phase of network

TDS Telecommunications Corp. (TDS®) has completed construction of the first phase of a 10-Gigabit (10G) transport network, eclipsing its previous network and positioning the company for continuous broadband growth.

"Evolving our reputation as 'a local phone company' has been our mission for the past five years," said TDS President and CEO, Dave Wittwer. "We strive to be the preferred

broadband provider in our markets. With more than 93 percent of our market areas connected to broadband you could say we have arrived as a broadband company, but this 10G network expansion really epitomizes our transformation."

In development and deployment since 2008, implementation for the 10G project has kept TDS plant and network engineers, technicians, and

vendors at full-throttle. The fully IP-based network pairs regional hub sites using multiple carriers and has geographical route diversity. For example, should one hub site suffer a catastrophic failure or acute outage, the other hub site or pair can take over raising the level of reliability at TDS' core network exponentially. Take an in-depth look at the TDS 10G Network, including a map.

"The 10G architecture replaces our traditional communications infrastructure of more than 100 network clusters and creates a streamlined regional hub structure," states Ken Paker, vice president of Network Services for TDS. "The network has expansion opportunity and is designed to evolve with the needs of our customers for years to come."

Carrier grade Alcatel-Lucent and Cisco routers principally interface with the network connections, utilizing national transport vendors, such as Level 3, along with other regional carriers to complete connection points. The 10G structure simplifies monitoring and maintenance while improving network reliability, all measures aimed at controlling operational expenses and delivering greater reliability for TDS customers throughout the 30 states where the company operates.

Butterfly Festival seeks artists and crafters for show

Spring time is just around the corner and in Mariposa that means wildflowers, butterflies and the Mariposa Butterfly Festival. The Butterfly Festival Committee invites artists and handcrafters to apply for the art and artisan show that is the anchor of the festival.

This year's dates are Saturday, May 1 and Sunday, May 2. The booth spaces fill the Art Park and along the Creek Parkway behind Fifth Street. Most booth spaces are 10 by 10 at a cost of \$50. The show is open to all artisans who do their own work. No imports or commercial items are allowed. This is a juried show, based on workmanship and originality. There are categories of artisan/vendor products with limited

numbers in each category.

The Butterfly Festival is advertised throughout California and thousands come to shop the art and artisan show, see the parade, quilt and car show, the skate park competitions, the chalk art and enjoy the music and food. The highlight of the festival are the butterfly releases which take place throughout the weekend near Mariposa Creek.

Applications can be picked up at the chamber of commerce office or the Company Store in downtown Mariposa. They are also available at www.Mariposabutterflyfestival.org, by emailing butterfly-festival@sti.net or calling Robbie at 742-6624. The application deadline is March 15.



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Binnewies Says Thanks

I want to sincerely thank all those who helped make our campaign celebration at the fairgrounds a success last Sunday. The family pizza dinner was great fun and the conversation, questions and advice will all immediately help shape my approach to managing the Sheriff's office.

I am humbled at the turnout and enthusiastic support from so many of Mariposa County's community-minded citizens. Our county has a unique culture of compassion and selfless concern for others. I will work hard to preserve that ethic while proactively fostering a climate which leads our youth and young adults away from the criminal side of our society.

These events are far more work than I imagined. My gratitude and warm thanks go out to all those who made it happen, especially my campaign committee of long time friends and professionals. We look forward to an exciting campaign. A special thanks to members of the various Mariposa Youth Sports teams, with whom I have worked for many years, who came out and helped serve the gathering.

Another special thanks to the following artists and businesses that helped make our celebration possible: Pizza Factory, Pioneer Market, Chocolate Soup, Mt. Mud, Fosters True Value, Mariposa Feed and Nursery, Sarah Brewster, Mariposa Settlement Services, Mariposa Stampers, Logan Mankins, and Happy Burger Diner.

Sincerely,
Doug Binnewies