

## **Business News: July 10**

JULY 10, 2014 6:00 AM

### **FRIDAY**

## **Conservation award offered**

SACRAMENTO — The Sand County Foundation, California Farm Bureau Federation and Sustainable Conservation are offering a \$10,000 California Leopold Conservation Award. The award honors California farmers, ranchers and other private landowners who demonstrate outstanding natural resources stewardship and practice conservation leadership and outreach. The application deadline is Friday.

## **Corcoran Chamber holding Fourth Friday Coffee**

CORCORAN — The Corcoran Chamber of Commerce is holding an open discussion over coffee with Chamber Ambassador Mike Graville on the fourth Friday morning of every month.

The discussions start at 7:30 a.m. at El Capitan, and topics focus on local issues in and around Corcoran. The coffee is free, and topics are open to those who attend.

El Capitan is located at 1220 Whitley Ave. For more information, call the chamber at 992-4514.

Please email business and ag briefs a week prior to publication to [features@HanfordSentinel.com](mailto:features@HanfordSentinel.com).

For more information, visit [www.leopoldconservationaward.org](http://www.leopoldconservationaward.org).

### **UPCOMING**

## **SBA announces grants for small businesses**

WASHINGTON — The Small Business Administration announced it is

seeking grant proposals to award up to \$1.5 million in grant funding to for-profit and non-profit service providers including, but not limited to, universities, trade and professional associations, firms, and other organizations for special projects to promote the development, success, and long-term survival of small disadvantaged businesses that participate in the agency's 8(a) Business Development Program.

The SBA expects to award 6-10 grants in the range of \$150,000-\$250,000, and that up to two awards may be made to small businesses. Applications will be accepted through July 20, 2014, and awards will be issued by September 30, 2014.

For more information, go to the [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) website, and search keyword GCBD-7J-2014-01.

## **Miya Family and UCCE to be Honored at 2014 Salute to Ag Banquet**

LEMOORE — The Lemoore Chamber of Commerce will host the event on Friday, September 12, at Jack Stone's Barn. The Miya Family will be honored as the 2014 Agriculturalist of the Year. The Ag Supporter of the Year will be presented to UCCE, who is celebrating 100 years of service, along with a special recognition to longtime Kings County UC farm advisor, Dr. Bob Beede for his many years of service and dedication to Kings County Agriculture.

For more information about the event, please contact Jenny MacMurdo at 559-924-6401, or via email at [events@lemoorechamberofcommerce.com](mailto:events@lemoorechamberofcommerce.com); or Carolina Evangelo at 209-777-8995, or via email at [cevangelo@ymail.com](mailto:cevangelo@ymail.com).

## **Construction growth keeps Valley economic indicators strong**

FRESNO — The June San Joaquin Valley Business Conditions Index points to growth for the 18th time in the past 19 months, despite slipping slightly from May. The overall index dipped to 57.0 from 57.4 last month. An index of greater than 50 indicates an expansionary economy over the course of the next three to six months.

## Other survey findings:

- **Employment:** After sliding below growth neutral for January, the hiring gauge has stayed at or above the 50.0 threshold for the past five months. In June the job index declined to a still healthy 57.8 from 58.8 in May.
- **Wholesale prices:** The prices-paid index, which tracks the cost of purchased raw materials and supplies, declined for the second straight month. The wholesale inflation gauge fell to 69.8 from 71.4. On average, business leaders in our survey expect prices to rise by 3.3 percent in the next six months, or about 6.6 percent annually.
- **Business confidence:** Looking ahead six months, economic optimism slipped to a still solid 55.6 for June, down from last month's 56.2.
- **Inventories:** Businesses expanded inventories of raw materials and supplies for the month but at a slower pace than in April. The June inventory reading sank to 53.9 from May's 57.8.
- **Trade:** The new export order fell to 48.2 from May's 55.5. Goss said the reading is discouraging given the important contribution that sales abroad make to regional growth. The regional import reading for June slid to 53.1 from 56.2 in May.
- **Other components:** Other components of the June Business Conditions Index were new orders at 55.6, down from May's 58.6; production or sales at 58.3, up from May's 52.9; and delivery lead time at 59.3, up slightly from last month's 59.1.

For more information, contact Goss at 278-2352.