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Publisher's Note



Welcome to the tenth edition of “Profiles in Business,” which was designed to give local business owners a unique opportunity to market their company to The Business Journal’s core audience — in their own words. This publication consists of sponsored profiles about each company, completed by their in-house marketing teams or by The Business Journal’s team of freelance writers.

The profiles give our advertisers a chance to showcase products and services our readers may not be familiar with, and to also share the unique stories that make up the character and culture of each firm. We thank the participating companies for giving us a chance to share their story, and we also thank all the other businesses that invested in this product. We believe the result is a “who’s who” of the top companies in the Central Valley.

This year’s profiles, as did the prior nine years, make for informative reading. They detail stories of grit in the face of adversity, generosity and can-do spirit. They are stories told exactly the way those involved wanted to tell them. I hope you enjoy reading this year’s edition of “Profiles in Business.”

Sincerely,

Gordon M. Webster, Jr.
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Leave dealership stress behind for 'The Car Buying Process, *Evolved*'



By Hannah Lanier Aycock

Pinnacle Auto Brokers has been serving the Fresno area for over two decades, most recently expanding to the Central Coast. It all started with one question: What is an auto broker?

Deborah McHenry had a friend who one day mentioned that she had to meet with her auto broker. McHenry found herself asking, "What's an auto broker?"

Curious, McHenry offered to go with her friend to a car lot to negotiate on her friend's behalf. She felt like she had the disposition for it.

"I'm Armenian, she laughed. "I'll go with you to the dealer — I don't mind negotiating."

Her friend declined the offer.

It wasn't until six months later that McHenry attended a networking event and actually met an auto broker. It was then that the future owner of Pinnacle Auto Brokers got the full grasp of what they do — and the value they bring to the industry.

Shortly after that meeting, she asked for mentorship. After a few years, McHenry decided to step out on her own. As a single mom who graduated from the Leavey School of Business at Santa Clara University, and with years under her belt in finance and marketing, she decided to take this new career by storm.

McHenry found herself in a male-dominated industry, where a majority of the clientele was earned by word of mouth and referral. She was determined to get her name out there, and create a strong brand so the business would



one day be sellable when she was ready to retire. Even the business name is trademarked.

"Small businesses don't have big advertising budgets," she said. So, she got to work.

With a brand built through client satisfaction and a lot of networking and community involvement, Pinnacle Auto Brokers is still going strong more than 20 years later. "Where at first it was customers calling because they were referred to me personally, now a majority of people contact us because of the brand's reputation. They don't necessarily know who I am. I love that!" McHenry said. "We have an all-female team, and we are very good at what we do. The best part is that we can work from anywhere, with anyone in the state, and we utilize video calls, so you don't even have to leave your living room to meet with us."

Brokers are licensed by the DMV and first must obtain a dealer license. "Once you have an auto broker endorsement on your dealer license, you become a fiduciary," she said.

Being a fiduciary requires your broker by law to advocate for what you want as a customer. You are their priority, not what you are buying.

"When you come to me as a broker, the car is the last piece of the equation," she said.

Buying a car with an auto broker from start to finish is headache- and hassle-free. Say goodbye to dealership anxiety.

"You don't get the runaround. I don't do any sales pitches," McHenry said. "I'm just going to give you your options and tell you what I think might work really well for you."

Over a few phone calls, your auto broker will be able to give you a short list of your best options, based on certain aspects like how long you normally keep your car, how many miles you drive or how much you travel.

When it comes to the cost difference of buying directly from the dealer versus buying through a broker, Pinnacle Auto Brokers uses its fleet buying power to get the best price possible in the marketplace.

"We don't allow our dealers to add markup into financing or leasing," McHenry explained. "All we're doing is looking at the car and working with fleet dealers across the state to see where we can make our best buy."

Clients don't just have what is on the dealer lot to choose from. "We can see what



Deborah McHenry

vehicles are being built in the factory and what is in the pipeline to the dealership, and we can put our customer's name on one," McHenry said.

At the end of the day, she added her job is about treating customers with dignity and respect.

At Pinnacle Auto Brokers, the slogan is "The Car Buying Process, *Evolved*," and that has proven true time and time again.

"It is such a fun job because you're just having a conversation with really great people. What's not to like about that, seeing the joy and relief on their faces, when they realize they don't have to step onto a car lot to get their new car or truck!" she said.

Payroll People, Inc: Simplifying HR for Success



Since its founding in 1981, Payroll People, Inc has been a beacon of innovation in the realm of human resources management. Our mission is to reimagine payroll, benefits, and HR, simplifying the most complicated tasks to empower modern companies to foster success for their people, their companies, and their communities. Reimagining Payroll: Imagine a world where calculating paychecks and managing taxes feels effortless. That's the reality we strive to create at Payroll People, Inc. With our state-of-the-art payroll solutions, businesses can bid farewell to the headaches of manual payroll processing. From automating payroll calculations to facilitating direct deposit, we ensure accuracy and efficiency every step of the way. By simplifying payroll, we enable companies to focus on what truly matters: their people and their growth.

Comprehensive Benefits Administration:

Employee benefits play a crucial role in attracting and retaining top talent. However, managing

benefits can often feel like a juggling act. At Payroll People, Inc, we simplify the process with our comprehensive benefits administration services. From healthcare plans to retirement savings, we offer a user-friendly platform and expert guidance that make enrollment a breeze. By empowering employees to make informed decisions about their benefits, we help businesses build happier and healthier teams.

Efficient Onboarding and Offboarding:

The journey of an employee begins long before their first day on the job and extends beyond their departure. At Payroll People, Inc, we understand the importance of seamless onboarding and offboarding processes. Our intuitive onboarding tools streamline the paperwork process, allowing new hires to hit the ground running. Similarly, our offboarding solutions ensure a smooth transition for departing employees, minimizing administrative burden and maintaining compliance every step of the way.

Seamless Applicant Tracking:

Finding the right talent is essential for business success. With Payroll People, Inc's applicant tracking system, businesses can streamline

their recruitment process from start to finish. From posting job openings to scheduling interviews, our intuitive platform simplifies every aspect of candidate management. By leveraging advanced analytics and automation, we help businesses identify top candidates quickly and efficiently.

Efficient Time and Labor Management:

Time is money, and nowhere is this more apparent than in workforce management. Payroll People, Inc offers advanced time and labor management solutions that optimize productivity and control costs. From tracking employee hours to managing schedules, our robust tools empower businesses to make informed decisions about staffing and resource allocation. By streamlining timekeeping processes, we help businesses maximize efficiency and minimize waste.

Compliance with ACA Regulations:

Navigating the complexities of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) can be a daunting task for businesses of all sizes. Payroll People, Inc simplifies ACA compliance with our comprehensive reporting and tracking capabilities. From monitoring employee eligibility to generating ACA-compliant forms, we ensure that businesses remain compliant with healthcare regulations. With our expert guidance and automated tools, businesses can rest assured that they're meeting their ACA obligations with ease.

Facilitating Mobile Access:

In today's fast-paced world, flexibility is key. That's why Payroll People, Inc offers mobile access to our suite of HRIS solutions. With our mobile app, employees can access their pay stubs, request time off, and update personal information on the go. Likewise, managers can approve timecards, review applicant resumes, and track

employee performance from anywhere, at any time. By embracing mobile technology, we empower businesses to stay connected and responsive in an increasingly mobile workforce.

Streamlining Payroll Tax Filing:

Navigating the labyrinth of payroll taxes can be a daunting task for many businesses. That's where Payroll People, Inc steps in. Our integrated payroll tax filing services take the guesswork out of tax compliance, ensuring that businesses stay on the right side of the law. With automated tax calculations, timely filings, and expert support, we provide peace of mind to businesses, allowing them to operate with confidence.

Empowering Companies and Communities:

At Payroll People, Inc, we believe that true success extends beyond the bottom line. That's why we're committed to giving back to the communities we serve. Whether through volunteer initiatives, charitable donations, or environmental sustainability efforts, we strive to make a positive impact on society. By fostering a culture of corporate social responsibility, we not only empower our clients to succeed but also contribute to the greater good.

In conclusion,

Payroll People, Inc is more than just a provider of HRIS solutions - we're a partner in progress. Since 1981, we've been dedicated to simplifying HR for modern companies, empowering them to thrive in an ever-evolving business landscape. From payroll processing to benefits administration, applicant tracking to compliance management, we offer a comprehensive suite of solutions designed to streamline every aspect of HR. With our humanized approach, innovative technology, and commitment to making a difference, we're proud to continue leading the way in HRIS innovation. Join us on our mission to simplify HR and build a brighter future for all.





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Hoppe Law

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Hoppe Law specializes in helping agriculture, insurance, and business organizations navigate the complex legal world. The team of experienced attorneys takes a highly collaborative approach, bringing seasoned, solution-oriented counsel to every matter-focused on **agriculture, business, insurance, and transportation law**. The group intuitively focuses on the key points of each case and the related risks, while bringing about rapid and cost-efficient outcomes.

“Based in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, Hoppe Law is dedicated to providing our expertise in traditional defense analysis and litigation to globally recognized agribusinesses,” says Theodore “Tad” Hoppe, Founder of Hoppe Law. With a focus on the agricultural sector, the firm’s expertise spans business transactions, property disputes, as well as livestock and crop matters. With personal connections in the agriculture community, Tad has an advantage to serving his clients

in this space as he personally understands the challenges that come with the territory. “The complications can be immense, because there are many moving parts to keep the operation going. When possible, I help clients lay the groundwork to mitigate issues before they occur,” says Tad.



Kate Hoppe

As a thought leader and business owner himself, Tad and fellow colleagues Adam Benkoski, Barbara J. Rueger, and newest member Katherine “Kate” Hoppe hope to share their expertise in the law.

Tad is honored to have his team of experienced attorneys to help take on a wide variety of cases in the Central Valley, all while following the firm’s **5 Golden Rules**:

1. *Be honorable*
2. *Value the time of your clients*
3. *Defend the honor of your fellow attorneys*
4. *Give straight answers*
5. *Have ideals you believe in*

By implementing those 5 Golden Rules into their everyday practice, Hoppe Law’s attorneys work with clients, opposing counsel and judicial officials from local to federal levels, with an extensive trial portfolio that spans courtroom, jury, appellate and federal venues. With decades of experience and a strategic yet collaborative approach, Hoppe Law aims to achieve tangible results for every client while forming sincere, long-term relationships along the way.



For more information on Hoppe Law, visit their website Hoppe-Law.com.



In the lab with FENNEMORE.

Fresno firm leveraging innovation, deep leadership to serve clients

By Gabriel Dilliard

With a 139-year track record of results for entrepreneurs and businesses, Fennemore is one of the most elite law firms in the West. With its values grounded in the fundamentals of client relationships, it also lives on the edge of innovation with its own idea incubator and research hub, Fennemore Labs.

Fennemore Labs partners with startups as part of its Venture Accelerator, offering access to high-quality legal counsel and strategic business guidance. It hosts an annual Hackathon, gathering attorneys and legal professionals to brainstorm ways to streamline operations and improve client service.

And Fennemore's team of lawyers, technologists and business professionals are using generative artificial intelligence models, finding ways to improve efficiency and devote more of their legal brain power toward clients' needs. The work of Fennemore Labs is making a difference in Fresno, said new Office Managing Partner Steven D. McGee.

"As a forward-thinking law firm, we are always seeking to implement new innovative ideas," McGee said. "We leverage

cutting edge technology to continually improve our firm."

McGee, a third-generation Fresnan, has more than 40 years of business trial experience. During his high school and college years, he worked for the family restaurant supply business, Dale Bros. Coffee and Restaurant Supply. The former downtown Fresno business still has the iconic Dale Bros. coffee can on its roof. McGee keeps a real Dale Bros. coffee can — part of the last production run — on his desk.

He earned his law degree at University of San Diego School of Law, but instead of interning with a law firm, he needed to make some money to support his education. He sold imported cars at Haron Motor Sales for founder Charles Haron and worked as a sales route driver for Wonder Bread. McGee practiced law and was a partner in a local business litigation law firm before joining Dowling Aaron Incorporated in 2011. In 2021, Dowling Aaron combined with Fennemore.

Toward the end of 2023, McGee was approached by Chairman Richard Aaron and then-Office Managing Partner Leigh Burnside about succeeding her in the position. Burnside had been promoted to Chairperson

of the Board of Directors of the entire Fennemore firm.

McGee's primary duty is maintaining a positive and productive work environment for Fennemore's attorneys, legal professionals and staff. He's recently been overseeing a remodeling project for Fennemore's north Fresno office. Another indication of how technology is changing the industry, Fennemore is replacing its physical law library and converting the space to four additional attorney offices and storage. The conference rooms are also getting a technology makeover for virtual meetings and depositions.

With most every document living in the cloud, it's much easier to share files and information among Fennemore's approximately 350 attorneys and 19 total offices across the West — 10 in California alone.

Much as Fennemore partners with innovative startups to advance its client services, it is also a stakeholder in the Central California economy — rich with agriculture but also attracting technology businesses, distribution facilities, and the ever-developing real estate market. Inside the Fresno office lives a wide-ranging knowledge and legal



Steven D. McGee

expertise vital to Central California, such as water law, land use, governmental compliance issues, patent and trademark and more.

"We have so many smart, knowledgeable people spread throughout the firm that we likely have someone with substantial knowledge about any particular new topic or legal issue," McGee said.

The benefit of Fennemore Labs, decades of experience from McGee and local experience is combined with systems that will streamline work including research and analysis of documents such as trial transcripts. That will only further Fennemore's reputation in Fresno for performing national firm work at regional firm prices.

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New Comcast Fresno market leader committed to spreading crucial connectivity to the margins



By Hannah Lanier Aycock

Access to reliable and affordable internet in the Fresno area has been an uphill battle for years — if not decades.

Population growth has only further driven up the price for quality connection. Marginalized communities face even greater challenges accessing the internet. Comcast has committed to rectify these issues as part of a critical mission taken up locally by new Area Vice President of Field Operations Justin Minniti.

A former Director of Field Operations on the East Coast, Minniti was recently promoted to Area Vice President of Field Operations in Fresno, overseeing a team of 300 employees.

His No. 1 priority in his first year in the Valley is expanding crucial internet service where it's needed most.

"One of the exciting things about coming to the Fresno market is the growth opportunity for our network," said Minniti, "We have to expand our network into areas that may not have our services."

Disparities in internet connectivity were laid bare during the COVID-19 pandemic, when all schooling went online. Comcast's solution? Lift Zones — free, WiFi-connected areas hosted in community centers nationwide.

"Lift Zones were developed to provide children with an opportunity to do their

schoolwork at a safe location, even when the pandemic was at its highest. Once it was safe for kids to go back in person, Lift Zones remained open to allow families to go there, use the internet at no cost, acquire digital skills, and just get familiar with the internet itself," said Minniti.

Comcast has committed \$1 billion to advance digital equity and Lift Zones are a part of that commitment.

The program has launched over 1,250 Lift Zones nationwide, 16 of which are in Fresno County. Several are in the most rural areas. The most recent Lift Zone was created at Saint Rest Baptist Church in Southwest Fresno in 2022, all in the name of making internet access a right instead of a privilege.

This great display of need is what pushed lawmakers into providing solutions, explicitly for families deprived of a strong internet connection due to their low income status.

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) was signed

into law in November 2021, providing families access to high-speed internet at an income-based price. However, the ACP's last month of being fully funded was April 2024.

Comcast's Internet Essentials Program has been going since 2011, with no end in sight.

"There's a \$9.95 program for Internet Essentials that provides high speed internet to families, and there's also an Internet Essentials Plus," said Minniti, "That's a way that we're able to help these families out as the ACP program starts to expire. This is something that Comcast has continued to provide."

Above all else, Minniti wants his new community to know that fast, reliable, and most importantly affordable internet is just within reach.

"We just want to get louder to make sure our customers know we're still there to help provide these opportunities for them," the 20-year Comcast veteran said.

He plans to be as involved in the community as possible, bringing the internet into every



Justin Minniti

home and listening to concerns from the community.

"I love to get involved with the communities, whether it's to help impact certain areas or help revitalize certain areas," said Minniti.

He's been recalling a story about a new customer, a pastry shop owner in Planada, a community near Merced, who was having trouble staying online because of the lack of reliable internet in the area, which means problems for customers. Comcast was able to expand its services to his area last Fall, making a night-and-day difference in his business.

"He was ecstatic about the reliability, the speed of making sure those transactions happen without flaw, Minniti said. "Bringing that excitement to these customers, whether it's residential or commercial based — I love seeing those happy situations happen." To learn more about Comcast in California, visit www.comcast.california.com.



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Caring for Hearts in the Valley

Back in the days of 8-track tape players, earth shoes, and puka shells, three cardiologists settled in California's Central Valley and established the first cardiology group in Fresno. Formed in 1970 as a matter of convenience and efficiency, its founding became the first of many firsts for the pioneering practice now known as The Heart Group.

At the time, cardiology was a subspecialty of medicine, not a specialty with subspecialties of its own. But with heart attacks claiming the lives of more Americans than any other cause of death, a drive to save lives propelled rapid and phenomenal growth in the field of cardiology. From its founding, the energizing force behind The Heart Group has been to remain a beat ahead of emerging technologies.

The Heart Group's founding physicians shared a mindset to focus on acquiring the tools and training needed to implement cutting-edge technologies and perform innovative procedures. The practice soon gained a reputation for pushing ahead to bring new lifesaving procedures to the Valley.

The Heart Group performed the first angioplasty in Fresno in 1978. The procedure, which opens clogged arteries with a balloon, limited the number of heart patients requiring surgery.

In the 1980s, The Heart Group introduced the groundbreaking practice of electrophysiology to its patient population, who received some of the first ablations in the Valley.

Continuing their practice of bringing the latest technology and expertise to the Valley, The Heart Group performed the first transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) in April 2014. Two years later, they performed the first transcatheter mitral valve-in-valve replacement (TMViVR) and the first transcatheter mitral edge-to-edge repair (Mitraclip).

The Heart Group has not only set the bar by being the first in the Valley to perform all of these cardiac procedures, but their physicians also have earned a reputation of expertise. For example, The Heart Group has performed

more than 1,200 TAVRs and 150 Mitraclip procedures with good outcomes.

The past 50 years have seen remarkable improvements in cardiovascular care. Back in the 70s, angioplasty cleared arteries by inserting a balloon into an artery near the groin, and then running it up toward the heart. Today, patients are able to receive a stent through their wrists. As the care of heart patients has evolved, so has The Heart Group. The practice continues to preserve its position as the vanguard of cardiac care by recruiting subspecialty trained cardiologists who bring an even greater depth and breadth of services to the practice.

The Heart Group currently employs 10 cardiologists who are trained in a range of cardiac subspecialties, including board-certified interventional cardiology, structural heart cardiology, electrophysiology, heart failure, and general cardiology. The practice is supported by nine nurse practitioners and two physician assistants who are skilled in the practice of cardiology and devoted to the provision of compassionate care.

The Heart Group currently practices in two offices with a vascular lab and expansive diagnostic departments. With plans to build an 11-acre cardiology campus, the practice continues to grow and thrive.

From the beginning, the mission of The Heart Group has been straightforward: practice good cardiology. As the founding physicians transition into retirement, the younger members of The Heart Group have stepped up to carry on the legacy to remain a beat ahead in the practice of cardiology. Standing on the shoulders of more than 50 years' experience, the next generation of cardiologists are demonstrating the same commitment to offer the latest technologies and provide the best cardiac care in the Valley.

Just as the 8-track tapes of the 70s evolved into the mp3 files of today, technological advancements have transformed the practice of cardiology. Like a steady heartbeat, The Heart Group has proven its consistent dedication to the practice of cardiology by continually expanding and enhancing services to improve patient care. This rich history provides a solid foundation for a bright future.



United Health Centers

has become a Leader in Medical Education



UHC received a \$2 million grant to launch a new Internal Medicine Residency Training Program from the State of California, Department of Health Care Access and Information under the Song-Brown Health Care Workforce Training Program's 2023 Primary Care Residency Application. The funding will help address the critical shortage of Internal Medicine doctors in the Central Valley.

Justin Preas, President and CEO at United Health Centers, remarked "We are grateful to receive this grant from the California Song Brown Program, which will allow us to establish a program to train the next generation of doctors and increase the retention of these physicians. The program aligns perfectly with our mission because we need physicians that are professional, clinically competent, and trained to deliver culturally appropriate care to our diverse patient population and increase the accessibility to comprehensive quality care in the Central Valley."



New Internal Medicine Primary Care Residency Program

Leading the effort to oversee and manage the new Internal Medicine Primary Care Residency Program will be Internal Medicine physician Dr. Ganga Hematillake, Chief Medical Officer for United Physician Network. Dr. Hematillake completed his Medical Doctorate (MD) from St. Georges University School of Medicine. Following post graduate training in Internal Medicine, Dr. Hematillake received his Board Certification in Internal Medicine and subsequently held many academic appointments at medical schools including Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, Associate Dean and Assistant Professor of Medicine. The new residency program will host five new first-year Internal Medicine Residents with the goal of increasing the capacity to train up to 15 residents by the third year of the program. Residents will train in Fresno and Parlier, which are both located in Medically Underserved and Health Professional Shortage Areas.

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Primary Care Family Practice Residency and Intern Programs

UHC is currently a participating teaching site for the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Fresno Medical School Family Practice Physician Residency Program, which annually graduates five 3rd year family practice physicians from the program. Program Director, Dr. Juan Ruvalcaba has been leading the UHC Family Practice Residency Program since 2015 and has been instrumental in the retention of more than 60% of the graduates to remain in the Valley.

UHC also hosts the Physician Assistant Residency Program from California Health Sciences University, the ATSU Central Coast Physician Assistant training program, Family Nurse Practitioner student programs from Fresno Pacific and Fresno State Universities, as well as several other training programs from across California and beyond including The University of Texas Arlington, CSU Bakersfield, United States University of San Diego, CSU Dominguez Hills, Marysville University, Purdue Global University, Chamberlain University and Walden University.



Medical Education Training Programs

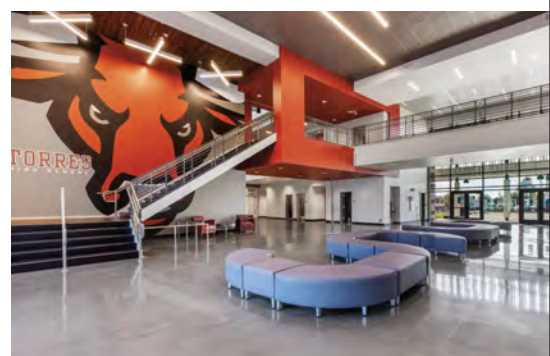
At the forefront of the UHC Medical Education Program is Dr. Sharareh Shabafrooz, Associate Medical Director for Medical Education, who oversees Advanced Practice Medical Practitioners in the various Post-Grad and Pre-Grad residency programs. UHC's program is comprised of nearly 50 coach/mentors that assist with the training and coaching of more than 165 future clinicians, hosted annually across over 30 UHC clinical training sites.

By developing a comprehensive training program that provides hands-on clinical experience, mentorship from experienced faculty and opportunities for professional development to create strong bonds between new residents and underserved communities, the Central Valley can expect to retain up to 40% of its graduates to help address provider shortages and reduce access barriers to healthcare. As a teaching health care organization, UHC is staffed with over 180 staff clinicians in various clinical specialties, which provide services to 190,000 patients living across four Central Valley counties of Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern. UHC employs over 1,200 staff who coordinate nearly one million appointments annually; 80% of UHC patients are Hispanic, 56% are migrant or seasonal farmworkers, and 75% live at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. For additional information on residency and training programs, please visit www.unitedhealthcenters.org.



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HARRIS PROJECTS - Top Left: Phase 1 of the Sanger Education Center (Sanger Unified), Top Right: Fresno High School Replacement Facilities (Fresno Unified), Bottom Left: West Campus (Fresno City College, SCCC), Bottom Right: Matilda Torres High School (Madera Unified)

Building the Central Valley: A Legacy of Iconic Projects Built by Harris Construction



For over a century, the rhythmic clang of hammers and the rumble of machinery haven't just been background noise in Fresno, California – they've been the soundtrack to a remarkable story. Harris Construction Co., Inc., more than just a builder, has been intricately woven into the fabric of Fresno and the surrounding Central Valley, shaping its skylines and fostering its institutions. Founded in 1914 by Walter T. Harris, the company's journey parallels the growth of Fresno itself, a testament to the enduring power of

community, vision, and dedication to building a brighter future, one iconic project at a time.

From Homespun Dreams to Grand Designs

Harris Construction's story began modestly, crafting custom homes and unique commercial projects that reflected the aspirations of a burgeoning city. The 1920s saw the company tackling grander challenges, securing a contract to build 150 affordable housing units for the Federal Works Administration in 1922. At a cost of just \$3,000 per dwelling (roughly \$55,000 in today's dollars), these housing units provided a springboard for countless families, showcasing Harris Construction's commitment to not just building structures, but building a stronger community.

The Great Depression

marked a new chapter for Harris Construction. In 1936, Walter T. Harris's sons, Ray and Clarence, joined the company, armed with engineering degrees from Fresno State College. Their expertise propelled Harris Construction into a crucial role during World War II, where they built more housing and much-needed hangars for the war effort in the Central Valley. This wartime contribution underscored the company's adaptability and its commitment to meeting the nation's needs during a critical period.

Post-War Boom and Shaping the Cityscape

The post-war boom of the 1950s marked a period of explosive growth for both the Central Valley and Harris Construction. Harris Construction became the go-to builder, synonymous with iconic landmarks

that continue to define the city and inspire its residents. The addition of the Roosevelt High School Auditorium, a vibrant hub for countless graduations and performances, stands as a testament to their craftsmanship. Manchester Center, a bustling mall complex at the time, reflects their dedication to the city's evolving commercial needs. The Annex at the Fresno City Hall of Records, an art deco symbol of civic authority to all who see it, embodies their continued commitment to public institutions. Schools like Bullard High (in Bullard Unified at the time) and the first major addition to Fresno Community Hospital, a cornerstone of healthcare in the region, further solidified Harris Construction's reputation as a builder dedicated to the community's growth and well-being.

Innovation and Community Focus

The 1960s marked a shift towards innovative design. Harris Construction built the revolutionary-for-the-time Van Ness Avenue 3-level Underground Parking structure still used today, a testament to their ability to build creative and unusual solutions for Fresno's growing urban challenges of the day. They also constructed the R.T. French and Dow Chemical plants, structures that not only served industry but also signaled Fresno's emergence

also built the innovative "Super Block" downtown, a row of buildings atop the underground parking garage, now home to the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, showcasing their ability to adapt and meet the city's growing needs for functional and aesthetically pleasing urban spaces with the unique look and feel of the ever-changing mid-modern century.

A New Vision under the Spencer Family

In 1986, the Spencer Family

also built the innovative "Super Block" downtown, a row of buildings atop the underground parking garage, now home to the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, showcasing their ability to adapt and meet the city's growing needs for functional and aesthetically pleasing urban spaces with the unique look and feel of the ever-changing mid-modern century.

Hospitals, Schools, and Beyond: A Legacy of Service

The 1990s brought in a new company president, Tim Marsh, and Harris Construction continued solidifying its reputation as a builder not just of structures, but of the community's future. Hospitals like the Kaweah Delta East Expansion became crucial in health care for future generations in the South Valley. Harris built significant portions of the Reagan Educational Complex (a large education center for Clovis Unified) which underscored the company's commitment to building quality learning environments. Building food processing facilities like Danish Creamery (now California Dairies, Inc.) highlighted their understanding of the agricultural backbone of our region.

A New Millennium

The new millennium ushered in a wave of even more ambitious projects. The state-of-the-art Fresno Heart Hospital became a symbol of advanced healthcare. The expansive Clovis North Educational Complex - also for Clovis Unified; Gaston Middle School (Fresno Unified) as a rising star in southwest Fresno; and the historical Old Admin Building remodel for Fresno City College all underscored their continued dedication to building modern education complexes. By 2014, their centennial year, Harris Construction had left its mark on countless more institutions, including the incredible "African Adventure" at Fresno Chaffee Zoo, a testament to their construction team and subcontractors who embraced new challenges to help bring joy and wonder to the

community.

Other notable projects at that time included the three-story Jordan Ag Research Center at Fresno State, and the all-new Central California CHP facility just south of Fresno.

A New Generation, Continued Growth

In 2017, Michael Spencer became President and the company has continued to thrive and build important structures for the Central Valley. Recent projects include new facilities for Fresno City College (the West Fresno Campus opened in 2023), a Child Development Center for Reedley College, modernizing at Fresno State, and new schools Matilda Torres High School and Madera Technical Exploration Center (MADTEC) - both for Madera Unified.

Another project worth seeing that's finishing up this year is the New Science Building for Fresno City College, complete with its own Fibonacci Fountain and state-of-the-art classrooms.

Harris projects going up over the next 2-5 years include the Sanger Education Center (Sanger Unified), the Terry P. Bradley Education Center (Clovis Unified), King Hussein Middle School (Madera Unified), and more. Harris Construction's reach has also expanded to the Central Coast, with projects at Cal Poly and several coastal school districts.

Building a Brighter Future

As Harris Construction looks toward the future, its commitment to Fresno and the Central Valley remains unwavering. From modest beginnings, it has grown into a company shaping the region's skylines and fostering its institutions. Its story is a testament to the enduring power of community, vision, and dedication to building a brighter future for its clients and the community.



Other Harris Projects include the Jordan Agricultural Research Center (Fresno State, top image) and the Terry P. Bradley Educational Center (Clovis Unified) which is currently under construction.

as a center for commerce and manufacturing.

The 1970s saw the company tackle another ambitious project - the Van Ness Avenue Spiral Parking Structure in Downtown Fresno. This architectural marvel, which seems to defy gravity with its helical design, became a symbol of Fresno and its ingenuity. Harris Construction

purchased and took the helm of Harris Construction, with Richard Spencer as Chairman and Tom Weldon as President. The company diversified its client base, building the St. Agnes Tower and Chapel, a beacon of hope for those seeking medical care. The Wells Fargo Bank building, a symbol of financial stability, further cemented



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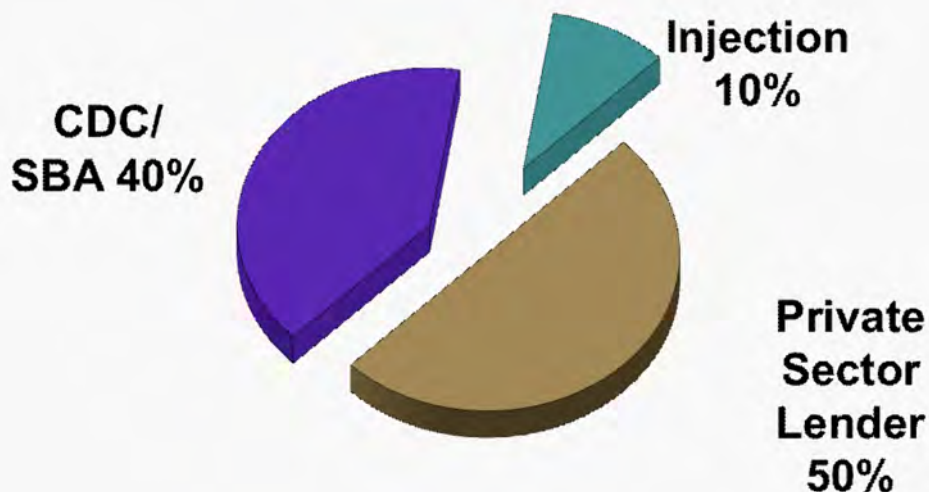
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Measure C

Fresno County, CA - Stepping into his role as Executive Director of the Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA), Terry Ogle brings with him a deep knowledge of the ways in which Measure C has helped positively impact Fresno County's transportation system—because he's watched its projects help transform the county for the last 37 years.

For Ogle, the allure of joining the FCTA lies in the opportunity to contribute to a legacy of progress and transformation. Through Measure C, the county has witnessed remarkable advancements in its transportation infrastructure, with over \$8 billion invested in improving state highways, local streets, and roads. Ogle sees his role in FCTA as a privilege, a chance to build upon the foundation laid by those who came before him and to continue shaping the county's transportation landscape for future generations.

As Fresno County's transportation needs evolve, Ogle envisions the FCTA playing a pivotal role in addressing these changes. With a focus on making roads safer, relieving congestion, and improving air quality, the FCTA remains committed to meeting the diverse needs of commuters, agricultural and industrial stakeholders, and tourists alike. Whether it's repairing rural and urban streets, upgrading interchange systems, or investing in multi-modal transportation solutions, FCTA stands poised to lead the way in shaping Fresno County's transportation future.

Reflecting on what Fresno County would look like without Measure C, Ogle highlights



Terry Ogle

the critical role the measure has played in enhancing safety, reducing congestion, and improving connectivity. "Without Measure C, Fresno County residents would not have a completed freeway system in the Fresno and Clovis Metropolitan areas—and with Measure C, all Fresno County communities will continue to become more connected, have safer roads, and have accessible transportation for every resident," Ogle says, "Our major county roads like Jensen, Manning, Mountain View, Herndon, Willow, Peach, Friant, and Shaw Avenues would not be what they are today without Measure C. Our cities and county partnered with FCTA to complete major improvements along these corridors, and our partners at our local 15 cities and unincorporated areas continue to make street repairs including potholes, signal lights, and safe routes to school."

Central to the FCTA's mission is its commitment to ensuring transportation equity and accessibility for all members of the community. Through initiatives like the Measure C Extension, FCTA aims to invest in affordable transit programs, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and sustainable transportation options. Ogle emphasizes the role of Measure C in driving these efforts, underscoring

its significance in keeping communities connected to essential services and fostering inclusivity.

Looking ahead, Ogle is excited about upcoming transportation projects in partnership with local, state, and federal agencies set to positively impact Fresno County residents. Ogle looks forward to completing the design phase of the State Route 41 Expressway project located in the southern part of Fresno County and getting it into construction. "There have been some serious accidents out there and getting this project completed will significantly improve the overall safety of this stretch of State Route 41," Ogle says.

He's also looking forward to completing the Golden State Improvement Project through the Cities of Kingsburg, Selma, and Fowler, which will be great for the residents in those cities. Additionally, the Veterans Boulevard Interchange Project on State Route 99 that the City of Fresno recently completed is a great testament to how the City of Fresno, Caltrans, California High-Speed Rail, Fresno COG, and FCTA can come together to complete such a monumental and important project.

Lastly, Ogle looks forward to the FCTA's investment in transportation innovation.

Ogle says, "I'm excited by all the research that is being done by our students at the Fresno State Transportation Institute. Measure C funds this transportation institute as our local 'think tank' to improve our transportation system as well as our quality of life both locally and globally. The research and innovative ideas these students develop will be the transportation practices of future generations—and that's pretty incredible."

The FCTA also funds the Technology Reserve Grant program, which bolsters the Sustainable Aviation Project. This project, which is the first of its kind in the country, is an electric aircraft training program aimed at fostering new opportunities in aviation careers, particularly for disadvantaged students in Fresno County. This collaboration not only signifies a shift toward renewable energy in aviation but also underscores the commitment to accessible education and environmental stewardship.

As Executive Director of FCTA, Terry Ogle is poised to lead Fresno County into a new era of safer roads, greater connectivity, and innovation, with a promise to help shape the county's transportation landscape for years to come.



Without Measure C, Fresno County residents would not have a completed freeway system in the Fresno and Clovis Metropolitan areas—and with Measure C, all Fresno County communities will continue to become more connected, have safer roads, and have accessible transportation for every resident.

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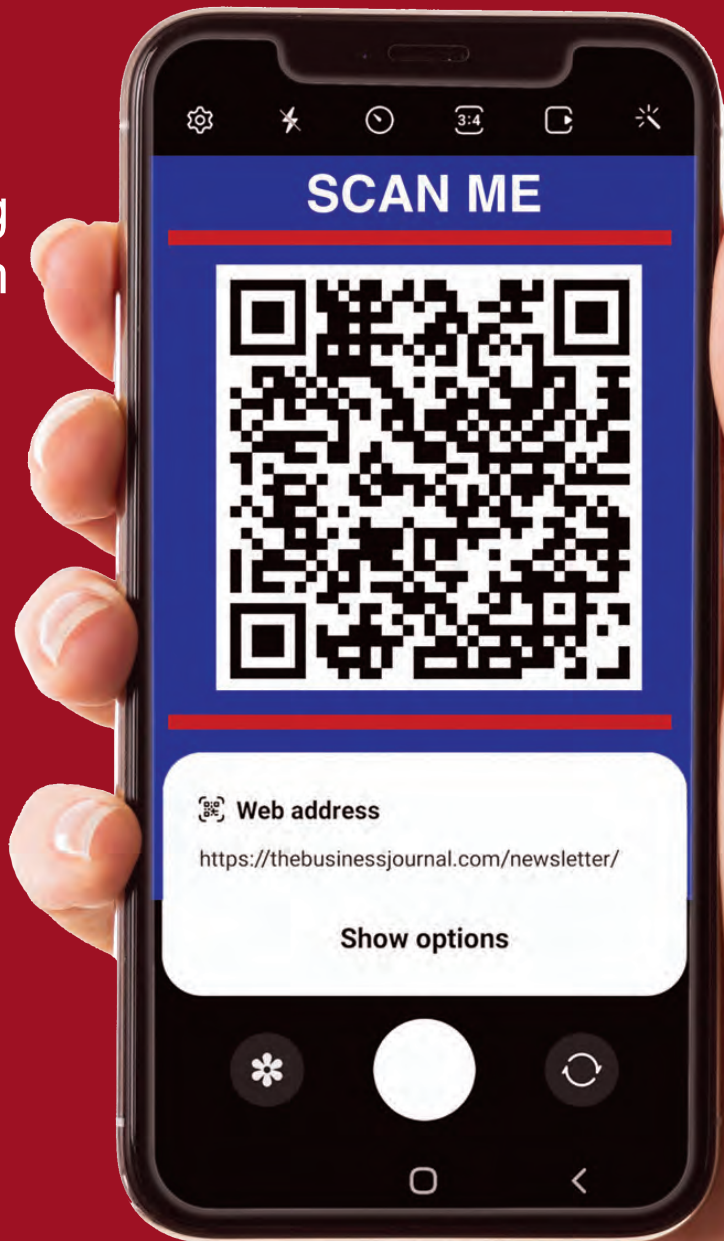
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