

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education announces:
Tulare County History Day
March 22, 2003

Visalia: Thanks to National History Day, students who are turned on to history need not be a thing of the past. Project-based learning at its best, National History Day gives students opportunities to become the leaders of tomorrow. Past participants have produced documentaries that were displayed in their local museums, been granted interviews that are denied to adults, even cleared the honor of soldiers long forgotten by all but their children. National History Day allows students an opportunity to change the world.

While many do not know about History Day, that is about to change in Tulare County. County Superintendent of Schools, Jim Vidak, and the Tulare County Office of Education are teaming with the Visalia Times Delta to spread the word about National History Day.

“When I heard about History Day, I knew it was a winner for our students,” said Vidak. “We at Tulare County Office of Education want to encourage all students to participate in this life-enriching event.”

As part of its partnership with Tulare County Office of Education, The Visalia Times Delta will print information about National History Day in their newspaper and on newspaper racks across the county – all

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simultaneous with a two-day training conference planned for parents, teachers and administrators. Students will be invited to participate in History Day. Parents will be urged to contact their child's teacher and the local school for information.

"Guide to Glide into History Day," held October 25 and 26, is a training opportunity teachers can sign up to receive a classroom set of newspapers once a week for 14 weeks. Tulare County Office of Education absorbs this cost, so that teachers pay nothing. Parents and teachers will receive a Visalia Times Delta Activity Card to give their students. Students will research at local libraries, college libraries and museums. They will conduct interviews of primary sources. Those organizations or persons will initial the Activity Card validating that the students did visit. Students will complete the activities and bring the initialed cards to Tulare County History Day on March 22, 2003. At that event, the Visalia Times Delta will draw the name of a busy student and award them \$200 for their investigative endeavors.

Our goal is that a greater number of students and their families and schools will choose to expend energy and time rediscovering what's new in history. We know that they will develop life long skills along the way. We know their lives will never be the same. We want them to know that too.

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