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## VISALIA TIMES-DELTA Tulare Advance-Register

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

### Visalia plans to be first with protected intersection

Sheyanne N Romero

Visalia Times-Delta | USA TODAY NETWORK

Visalia will build the first protected intersection in the Central Valley with plans to add more once the public weighs in on the street safety design.

A protected intersection maintains physical separation between different modes of transportation – vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. There are currently only 30 protected intersections in the state; none are in the Central Valley, according to city officials.

A survey will soon be made available so that residents can have a say in how transportation evolves in their community.

“That public feedback is critical to the engineering process to ensure we are capturing local concerns and context in our designs,” Visalia Civil Engineer Diego Corvera said. “It is also very important to make sure that the public understands the engineering behind their publicly funded streets and the reason for certain design elements.”

#### What is a protected intersection?

Protected intersections are built with corner islands that protect the bike lane and tighten turns for

See INTERSECTION, Page 3A



Visalia plans to build the city's first protected intersection at Riggin Avenue and Giddings Street.

SHEYANNE N ROMERO/TIMES-DELTA

#### CHARACTER COUNTS!

### Mission Oak team has what it takes on and off the court



Mission Oak Girls Basketball team are winners of the Citizenship Pillar Award.

PROVIDED BY TULARE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

### Girls basketball squad earns Citizenship Award

Meade Trueworthy

Character Counts!

High school is a busy time.

Between academic assignments and expectations, friends, family, and a variety of activities, teenagers are given the challenge of finding a way to balance all of these responsibilities. Anyone who manages to do all of that and volunteer their time to help others deserves to be recognized as a good citizen of the community.

Honoring the members of the Mission Oak Girls Basketball team who are setting a wonderful example of Citizenship by giving back to the community as volunteer coaches and referees for younger

See CITIZENSHIP, Page 3A

### Character Counts! Citizenship finalists

Meade Trueworthy

Character Counts!



Guzman

Student Names: Eric Guzman

Grade: 3

School: Lincoln Elementary School, Dinuba

Statement:

Nominator Nadira Arreola says, “Eric always has a great attitude and a welcoming smile. He is a natural leader that leads with kindness and grace. He works very hard on everything he does and always is willing to help anyone who needs help. When he finishes his work early, he assists anyone who is

See FINALISTS, Page 2A

### Newsom signs mental health bill expanding definition for conservatorship

Sheyanne N Romero

Visalia Times-Delta | USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 43, which updates California's conservatorship laws for the first time in more than 50 years.

The new law, authored by Susan Eggman (D-Stockton), updates the definition for conservatorship to include people who are unable to provide for their personal safety or medical care due to severe substance use disorder or serious mental illnesses.

The bill stems from a decades-long fight to amend the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS Act), passed when Ronald Reagan was governor.

Under the LPS Act, a person could be detained against their will if they were “gravely disabled” or posed a danger to themselves or others.

Proponents of SB 43 argued that LPS Act is inadequate and often leads to criminalization and jail rather than treatment.

“(LPS Act) established strong and important civil liberty protections to ensure individual rights are protected,” Eggman said. “Like many things that are decades old, it has long been time to make some adjustments to the law to address the realities we are seeing today on our streets.”

California lawmakers have been working to overhaul the state's mental health system in order to better treat those who pose a risk to themselves and others.

“The mental health crisis affects us all, and people who need the most help have been too often overlooked,” Newsom said. “We are working to ensure no one falls through the cracks, and that people get the help they need and the respect they deserve.”

See CONSERVATORSHIP, Page 3A

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# Citizenship

Continued from Page 1A

basketball players was a must for Coach Dave Caetano.

"It is an honor and privilege to coach and work with these girls," Caetano said. "They demonstrate class on a daily basis by being respectful, kind and considerate of others."

The Mission Oak players were responsible for coaching and refereeing the students in the Tulare County Sheriff's Department PAL, in Pixley, during the sheriff's basketball summer league program. The program serves students ranging in age from Pre-K to eighth grade.

"From about 4th grade and younger they almost became big sisters to the kids. It was remarkable to witness the kind nurturing way my players interacted with the students," says Caetano.

"My favorite part about coaching this summer was getting to know all of the kids, and watch them go out on the court and just have fun," Alora Thomas said of the coaching experience.

For her, it's more than just a team.

"What I really enjoy about my team is that over the years we've become a family," she said. "Everyone looks out for each other on and off the court and it's become kind of a home away from home."

The Mission Oak teammates were caring and exemplify what it means to be great citizens during this summer program working with the various students. They showed kindness and patience while mentoring the younger athletes.

"I loved coaching this summer. I actually want to be



**Mission Oak Girls Basketball team are setting a wonderful example of Citizenship and this year's winner.** PROVIDED BY TULARE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

a PE teacher and major in kinesiology, so this was just me getting the feeling for coaching when I get older," Braelyn Serpa said. "The kids were so good and well behaved and we had a few great basketball players in the older groups! It was a great opportunity and I look forward to doing it again in the future."

Giving back to the community, working as a team, being honest, dependable and hardworking when serving as coaches and role models for younger players is why the Mission Oak Girls Basketball Team are deserving of the Character Counts Citizenship Award.

"Something I liked about coaching this summer is having the opportunity to help kids build a future with basketball and have fun," Isabella Zepeda-Fernandez said of the coaching experience.

In addition to having fun and teaching basketball skills to younger students, she says about her team, "what I like about my team is that we can always share a laugh. No matter what, on or off the court. That's

what brings us together."

These girls and teammates work well together and have built great friendships.

"The coaches are so amazing and push me to be the best player I can be. Because of them, I am getting better and better at this sport," Braelyn Serpa said. "They saw potential in me... and it is an amazing experience. I love how close everyone on this team is. We are all sisters."

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# Finalists

Continued from Page 1A

behind. He guides classmates in a gentle supportive way and is a natural teacher. Eric is patient, supportive, and caring. He celebrates other's accomplishments as if they were his own. Eric does not treat classmates like classmates, he treats each one of them like best friends."

**Student Name:** Liam



**Lambarena**

**Grade:** 7

**School:** Summit Charter Intermediate Academy, Porterville

**Statement:**

**Lambarena** Nominator Jenifer Sanders says, "Liam is a valuable member of our International Baccalaureate Ambassador Club. He has a natural desire to serve his community and give back. He is quiet, humble, and has a servant's heart. One of Liam's current projects is participating in restoring the B-17 Bomber, Preston's Pride, in Tulare. Beyond his time at the airport, you can find Liam leading food drives and other community work all while reflecting on his goals of creating a more caring and peaceful world. Liam is a wonderful example for his peers at Summit Charter Intermediate Academy."

**Student Name:** Kevin



**Moreno**

**Grade:** 5

**School:** Alta Vista School, Porterville

**Statement:**

**Moreno** Nominator Liliana Juarez says, "Kevin takes pride in his school, community, and education. He is a remarkable young man who always goes above and beyond to be an excellent student

and mentor to his peers. Kevin is someone who consistently gives his best in every aspect of his academic journey. He has inspired his peers in being one of the youngest spelling bee champions at Alta Vista School and represented us well at the Tulare County Spelling Bee last spring. Kevin's commitment, perseverance, and dedication to his studies do not go unnoticed and he sets an example as a role model for his peers at Alta Vista."

**Student Name:**



**Mariana Preciado**

**Grade:** 12

**School:** JJ Cairns Continuation High School, Lindsay

**Statement:**

**Preciado** Nominator Amalia Lopez says, "Mariana is ahead of pace to graduate this year. She is an active officer in All Student Body (ASB) and a campus leader. She contributes actively to her community by serving as the school board representative for Lindsay Unified for the alternative education schools. Beyond those roles, her most important role may just be a resource to her mother. After her long school days, Mariana then attends evening classes at Lindsay Adult School, alongside her mom, who is enrolled in Beginning English as a Second Language. She sits through the classes to help her mom take notes, practice pronunciation, and ensure her mother is successful. Mariana recognizes that her role is to be a learning support to her mother. Mariana exemplifies citizenship and what it means to be a leader in her family and community."

## CHARACTER COUNTS!

**Student:** Luz Chavez Grado

**Grade:** 2

**School:** Pleasant Elementary School



**Comment:** Pleasant Elementary School staff share, "Luz is a respectful student. She comes to school with a positive attitude and is ready to learn every day. She is a hardworking student who respects herself by always making sure to do the right thing and to do her best. Luz follows the golden rule by treating others the way she wants to be treated. Thank you, Luz, for showing great character!"

**Pillar Represented:** Respect

Through the CHARACTER COUNTS! program, the Tulare County Office of Education and the *Visalia Times-Delta/Tulare Advance-Register* recognize local students who exhibit good character.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Sunday, Oct. 22, the 295th day of 2023. There are 70 days left in the year. On this date in:

**1836:** Sam Houston was inaugurated as the first constitutionally elected president of the Republic of Texas.

**1926:** Ernest Hemingway's first novel, "The Sun Also Rises," was published by Scribner's of New York.

**1928:** Republican presidential nominee Herbert Hoover spoke of the "American system of rugged individualism" in a speech at New York's Madison Square Garden.

**1934:** Bank robber Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd was shot to death by federal agents and local police at a farm near East Liverpool, Ohio.

**1962:** In a nationally broadcast address, President John F. Kennedy re-

vealed the presence of Soviet-built missile bases under construction in Cuba and announced a quarantine of all offensive military equipment being shipped to the Communist island nation.

**1968:** Apollo 7 returned safely from Earth orbit, splashing down in the Atlantic Ocean.

**1979:** The U.S. government allowed the deposed Shah of Iran to travel to New York for medical treatment – a decision that precipitated the Iran hostage crisis.

**1981:** The Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization was decertified by the federal government for its strike the previous August.

**2001:** A second Washington, D.C., postal worker, Joseph P. Curseen, died of inhalation anthrax.