



## Burk rises to top of depth chart at Redwood

SPORTS, 1B

# VISALIA TIMES-DELTA

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Izamary Merida Solano, left, a 6th grade student at Roche Avenue Elementary School in Porterville talks to a friend at school. PROVIDED BY TULARE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

## Porterville student helps new students feel at home

Meade Trueworthy

Character Counts!

Starting a new school is scary. Children worry about friends, their new teachers and who to play with at recess.

But, it's also a time for those extroverted students who want to make a difference and help others.

Izamary Merida Solano, a sixth-grader at Roche Avenue Elementary School in Porterville, is the honoree for the Character Counts! Respect Award. She is always on task and consistently treats her peers, friends and teachers with respect, her teacher said.

While she's just learning English, she's a helpful leader at her school already.

"She volunteers to contribute in class discussions, even though I can tell she is nervous to speak, because she is an English-learner and still becoming fluent in speaking English," teacher and nominator, Cassie Rapp said. "When working collaboratively, Izamary works hard and helps her group mates when they are struggling to understand a concept."

When a new student joined Rapp's sixth-grade class at Roche a few weeks after the new school year had started, Izamary volunteered to be the new student's "shoulder partner." She showed up daily to help the new student adjust to a new school and the flow of the classroom.

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### CHARACTER COUNTS! WEEK FINALISTS: RESPECT

Student Name: **Tarin Alaniz-Mederos**

Grade: 6

School: Garden Elementary School, Tulare

Statement:

Nominator Charisse Hastings says, "I wish I had the ability to select all the pillars on Tarin's behalf! He is a trustworthy young man, a pillar in the community, a respectful and responsible student leader, and a caring human. Tarin is an amazing athlete who plays his sport with a level head and encourages his teammates to do the same. I've had the privilege of being Tarin's teacher in past years and have watched him grow into the young man he is today. He has a heart of gold that loves to serve and care for others. Tarin is the student who will leave a game of basketball at recess to ask the lone student to join in on the game. He is an example to his peers in words and actions. When he sets a goal for himself, there is no stopping him."



Alaniz-Mederos

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## Rabbit Fire burning in Sequoia National Forest grows

Sheyanne N Romero

Visalia Times-Delta

USA TODAY NETWORK

The Rabbit Fire, burning in the Sequoia National Forest, has consumed more than 1,600 acres of wilderness and is 25% contained, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

The wildfire was ignited on Sept. 30, during a lightning strike near Hume Lake Ranger District. The fire is located near the Kings Canyon Overlook and Buck Rock.

On Monday, firing operations were being made along Buck Rock Road/13S04 from Buck Rock Lookout South to Big Meadows Road/14S11. Crews also continued burning along Big Meadows/14S11 Road West toward Generals Highway. A drone was used to help fire managers in areas that are difficult and unsafe to access by ground.

Trees that pose a threat to firefighters and the public were removed, according to forest service officials.

The fire continues to burn with low intensity and is creeping through dead and downed trees that cover the ground, according to fire officials. Although the fire is approaching rocky ground, warmer weather and low humidity could cause the fire's intensity to grow.

A more "substantial" area of high pressure will bring warmer temperatures by Wednesday and late next week, according to forest officials. Temperatures could be as much as 5-10 degrees above normal.

Soft closures are in effect for the public's safety. The closures only impact roads and trails within the Rabbit Fire area.

Alternate routes are available to allow as much access to the surrounding forest area as possible, U.S. Forest officials stated on Monday.

"With the public's cooperation, we'll continue to monitor the soft closure numbers and duration, recognizing that fire personnel and public safety are the focus," officials stated in a social media post.



# Students

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"Our new students often struggle to feel comfortable in a new environment, especially in sixth grade, where many students have known one another since Kindergarten," the teacher said. "She

has done a great job of representing the pillar of respect."

Izamary remembers how it feels to be at a new school and wants to ensure students are comfortable.

"I feel happy to be chosen for the pillar of respect," Izamary said. "Sometimes it can be hard to be a new student, but I feel happy that I can make new students feel welcome, and make them feel

better if they are nervous."

Rapp said Izamary is deserving of the Character Counts! Respect Award because she stood up when others didn't.

"I am so grateful to have Izamary as a student. Our new students often struggle to feel comfortable in a new environment, especially in 6th grade, where many students have known one another since Kindergarten. She has done a

great job of representing the pillar of respect!"

A student who treats others with respect; follows the Golden Rule, is accepting of differences, uses good manners, is considerate of the feelings of others, and deals peacefully with disagreements is upholding the Character Counts! Respect Pillar.

# Finalists

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**Student Name: Alexander Flores**

Grade: 5

School: Cutler Elementary School, Cutler

Statement:

Nominator Megan Thiessen says, "Alexander comes to school with an attitude of giving, community service, and respect for every student and staff around him. We have two students who are newcomers to this country and he has taken on the role of facilitator, translator, and the general go-to person in our class to help. Alexander shows these students how we are expected to



**Flores**

learn and does it in a very respectful way. He wants them to feel not only welcomed but also cared about in our classroom. Having a student like Alexander in my class is such a blessing. His kind

nature and respectful ways make a world of difference in our classroom community."

**Student Name: KaiLee Gilbert**

Grade: 11

School: Tulare Union High School, Tulare

Statement:

Nominators Bailey Akins, Ivan Arce and Mark Hatton say, "KaiLee shows respect on and off the field/court. We have had the privilege of coaching KaiLee in



**Gilbert**

both basketball and softball and she has shown such great character in everything she does. She shows respect to her teammates, opponents, coaches, and – most importantly – she respects

the game she's playing. KaiLee works hard and always treats others the way she wants to be treated. KaiLee has been faced with many challenges that could cause her to lose her good character, but she takes those challenges and uses them to make her a stronger person."

**Student Name: Jerusalem Juarez**

Grade: 2

School: Roosevelt Elementary School, Tulare

Statement:



**Juarez**

Nominator Cristal Campos says, "Jerusalem consistently demonstrates our school's core values of being respectful, responsible, and having a positive attitude toward creating new relationships in and out of the classroom. Jerusalem comes to school every day with a big smile, and is always ready to learn. She consistently uses good manners and treats others the way she wants to be treated. When she speaks to me and any other adult she is polite and respectful. I have also had the opportunity to see her interact with her classmates and she always treats them with kindness. I am so proud of you, Jerusalem. Keep up the good work!"