

VISALIA TIMES-DELTA

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Big Visalia intersection now reopen

Sheyanne N Romero

Visalia Times-Delta USA TODAY NETWORK

A major intersection in Visalia has been closed to traffic to fast-track the months-long Caldwell Improvement Project.

The intersection of Caldwell Avenue and Demaree Street is a critical component of the project that originally required as two partial closures. As part of the update, the busy intersection was closed for three days and is expected to reopen Wednesday morning, according to city officials.

"We know that any construction can be an inconvenience in the short term, but a project of this size and scope...it's sure to cause some headaches, especially for the people who live and work along Caldwell," Assistant City Manager Nick Mascia said. "We are constantly trying to make things better. That's why we made this update, to get this intersection work done as quickly and efficiently as possible."

What a full closure meant for Demaree

The Demaree intersection closed on Sunday, Oct. 15. This meant there had been no access through the intersection from Caldwell or Demaree for roughly three days.

Local access to homes, schools, and businesses surrounding the intersection was permitted.

Drivers were encouraged to avoid the work area as delays are expected. Whitendale Avenue and Visalia Parkway have been used as detour routes and were posted throughout the area.

"What's really important to know here is that although the intersection will have been fully closed for three days, people who need to get to the businesses or homes in this area will be able to get to them," Mascia said. "Once the work is done, this intersection will be completed. Not only will they be done with closures, but they will have a completely new roadway."

Grecia Arellano Armenia is this year's winner for Character Counts! Week for the Responsibility Pillar. PROVIDED PHOTO

Character Counts!

Sundale student doesn't 'let fear of failure get in her way'

Meade Trueworthy Visalia Times-Delta

USA TODAY NETWORK

Grecia Arellano Armenia moved to the United States last year knowing very little English. She is now a thriving eighth-grader at Sundale in Tulare. Not only does she not let a language barrier get in her way, she works extremely hard to overcome that challenge and meet all of her academic responsibilities.

Grecia is a role model and willing helper for other English-Language Learners on campus.

"Grecia takes responsibility in her own learning, unselfishly supports her peers and siblings, and has quickly become a role model on our campus for many students," said middle school teacher Brittany Grieb, who nominated her student. "To say I am extremely proud of her, would be an understatement."

Grecia uses her elective class time to work in her younger brother's first grade classroom at Sundale. Her dedication caught the eye of her brother's teacher.

"Grecia is very loving, caring and always willing to help in any way possible," teacher Arzella Barnes

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Finalists: Responsibility

Meade Trueworthy

Visalia Times-Delta USA TODAY NETWORK

Student Name: Jonathan Brown

Grade: CBIC School: AcCEL - Porterville, Porterville

Statement:

Nominator John Cemo says, "Jonathan saw an incident on the bus involving one of his classmates and was concerned about it happen-



ing again. Jonathan talked to his friend and told him that he needed to discuss the problem with me, but his friend was afraid that he would get in trouble. Jonathan was so worried about his classmate that he took it upon himself to bring the problem to

Brown

my attention. Because of his actions we were able to resolve the problems that were occurring so they will not happen again. Because of his actions, and wanting to do the right thing, I am nominating Jonathan for the Pillar of Responsibility."

Student Name: Juan Davalos Grade: 12

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What's next?

Following the completion of the Demaree intersection, construction will begin at the intersection of Caldwell and County Center Drive.

However, the work at this intersection will look different.

County Center intersection will be completed during a three-day partial closure, followed by another three-day partial closure a few weeks later. This is mainly due to the size difference between the two intersections and a "less invasive" need for underground work, city officials said.

During the first partial closure, the outside lanes of Caldwell through the County Center intersection will close, which closes access to Caldwell from County Center for three days. Drivers traveling east and west on Caldwell will use the inside lanes. Drivers can get through the intersection but cannot turn left or right onto County Center from Caldwell.

Drivers will be able to travel through the County Center intersection. Drivers must turn at Demaree or

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Armenia

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said.

Grecia's focus doesn't stop in the classroom, she takes her skills to the court each week for Sundale.

"She has a love for volleyball, and tried out and made the Varsity team," Grieb said. "Grecia is a joy to watch on the court and inside the classroom. She doesn't let fear of failure get in her way."

In addition to being a Varsity volleyball player at Sundale, Grecia is focused on getting grades that will lead her to a top college.

"Her vulnerability is inspiring, and it's paying off,' Grieb said. "Her English has grown immensely and I'm extremely grateful to be one of her eighth grade teachers to get a front row seat to watch her do great things!"

Grieb said Grecia emanates the qualities of a responsible individual.

She prioritizes her own learning and academic goals, while also helping those around her. She is incredibly excited to be the winner of the Character Counts! Responsibility Award.

"I feel very proud to be the winner because I give it my all to win and succeed. I feel that Sundale School has helped me in giving the best of myself," she said. "My parents tell me they will support my dream of becoming a doctor to help cancer patients. I know I can do it because I have all the support."

A student with the character traits



Grecia Arellano Armenia is a varsity volleyball player at Sundale school in Tulare, PROVIDED PHOTO

needed to win the Character Counts! Responsibility Award must work hard and do their best. They are self-disciplined and use self-control, while persevering.

Responsibility

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School: Accelerated Charter High School. Tulare

Statement:

Nominator Desiree Ledbetter says.



Davalos

Ramos

support his mother, who takes care of him and his siblings. He is very bright, excels in all

"Juan has been excel-

ling in his school stud-

ies. In addition to his

stellar academic efforts.

he tries his best to help

of his classes, and refuses to give up on finding a job even though entry into the workforce is difficult. He has high hopes for his future and is always friendly to his peers. He is a very responsible student and always doing what he is supposed to do to make sure he reaches his goals."

Student Name: Faith Ramos Grade: 8

School: Virtual Learning Program, Visalia

Statement:

Nominator Heather Mackey says, "Faith has made some great strides in her academic growth. She has had challenges she's had to

has worked hard to remain focused. Faith has been coached by her grandmother to persevere, looking to always find a way to improve and put in the work necessary to be the change that will one day pay off for her in very big ways. The days of just surviving are quickly becoming a thing of the past for her and she has a very bright and exciting future ahead of her. I can't wait to see not just what the world has to offer her, but what she has to offer the world!"

Student Name: Avery Starr

Grade: 12

School: Tulare Western High School, Tulare

Statement:

Nominator Katherine Nunes says, "Avery is a dedicated student who challenges herself with the most rigorous



courses and has earned and continues to earn straight As. Along with academics. Avery excels in athletics and FFA. She is a top player and natural leader for the TW volleyball team, and is also a key member of the bas-

Starr

ketball and swim teams. Avery is very involved in agriculture education. She is in FFA where she raises and shows cows and is part of the state champion Ag Issues team. Avery has an incredible ability to balance all of her commitments and still shine in each one. She is well respected and liked by her peers and the staff. She gives her all and is a team player, working effectively with others and keeping a positive attitude. Avery is just an all-around incredible student and human!"



