

**Tulare County
Office of Education**

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news galleryweek

February 16, 2022

Circle J – Norris Ranch to hold its annual Community Biodiversity Festival February 26

In partnership with Alianza Ecologista – a Tulare County environmental alliance – Circle J - Norris Ranch is holding its Community Biodiversity Festival Saturday, February 26. The public is invited to attend and participate in fun, hands-on activities suitable for the whole family.

Beginning at 9:00 a.m., attendees can participate in the annual BioBlitz to document the biodiversity of Circle J utilizing the iNaturalist app. With help from student guides, attendees will be challenged to photograph unique living organisms they discover and upload the images to the Circle J Biodiversity Project on the iNaturalist website. Attendees interested in participating in the BioBlitz are encouraged to download the

iNaturalist app to their devices prior to the event. Data collected from BioBlitz enables the program to create online instructional resources for classes to access and learn more about the species they will see at the ranch.

Following a lunch break, attendees will spend the afternoon planting trees for future wildlife habitats.



Circle J - Norris Ranch is the beautiful 620-acre field study site located in the Sierra foothills. The program, which is operated by the SCICON school of outdoor education, offers all grade levels a wide variety of field study experiences that enrich and extend classroom learning. Studies conducted on the property are designed to expand the appreciation of the environmental and aesthetic values of the outdoors, and increase understanding of the relationship between humans and nature. Circle J - Norris Ranch is located at 41893 Yokohl Valley Road in Springville.

For more information on the Community Biodiversity Festival, email Amanda Driver at circlej@tcoe.org.

Photo above: Visitors to the Circle J – Norris Ranch Community Biodiversity Festival can join in planting trees for future wildlife habitats.

Registration open 37th Annual Tulare & Kings Counties Teacher Recruitment Fair



Registration is now open for the 37th Annual Tulare & Kings Counties Teacher Recruitment Fair. The fair is hosted by the Tulare County Office of Education's Human Resources Division and will be held on Friday, March 11 from 4:00 until 7:00 p.m. in Building C of the International Agri-Center in Tulare.

Candidates are encouraged to preregister online at tulare.k12oms.org/144-214517 by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9 to receive admission at 4:00 p.m. Candidates who have not preregistered by completing the online application prior to the deadline will not be admitted into the fair until 4:30 p.m.

School districts in Tulare and Kings counties (K-12) are seeking the following candidates for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Credentialed Multiple Subject, Single Subject, Education Specialist, and Career Technical Education teachers
- Candidates in all subject areas who will be eligible for a teaching credential for the 2022-2023 school year.

For a list of participating school districts, click [here](#).

For more information, visit tcoe.org/TeacherFair, or contact Ramon Garcia at (559) 733-6322, or ramong@tcoe.org.

Theatre Company adds two workshops for students in Lindsay area



Last week, the Theatre Company created two additional workshops in its campaign to offer performance training opportunities for students throughout the county. The new

March workshops, based at the Lindsay Community Center, include a four-week dance boot camp and a four-week acting boot camp for students in grades 9 - 12.

The new Lindsay workshops bring the total number of spring trainings to 11 with in-person offerings also in Visalia and Exeter. Several of the trainings include Zoom options for students.

Theatre Company choreographer McKenna Friend-Hoffman will lead the high school dance workshop, providing instruction in the most popular theatrical dance styles, including jazz and/or tap. Students will focus on technique fundamentals while building strength and increasing flexibility. The workshop will be offered at the Lindsay Community Center on Thursdays, March 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 4:15 until 5:30 p.m. The cost of the class is \$20 per student and enrollment is limited. For registration information, click [here](#).

Theatre Company director Bethany Rader will lead the high school acting workshop on Tuesdays, March 8, 15, 22, and 29. The workshop will also be offered at the Lindsay Community Center from 4:15 until 5:30 p.m. In this workshop, students will learn how to select and prepare the right monologue for different auditions, and how to find and explore a character. The cost of the class is \$20 per student and enrollment is limited. For registration information, click [here](#).

Rader reports that the Theatre Company continues to seek partnerships with schools and community organizations throughout the county, particularly in the Dinuba, Porterville, and Tulare areas. "We are eager to customize any of our audition, acting, dance, and vocal workshops to meet the needs of students in your schools," Rader said. District administrators who are interested in having the Theatre Company create a student workshop are invited to contact Bethany Rader at bethany.rader@tcoe.org.

For more information about the Theatre Company's spring workshop opportunities, click the "Course Catalog" tab at www.tcoe.org/TheatreCo.

Photo above: Bethany Rader coaches actors in the Theatre Company's 2017 summer production of Hello, Dolly! Ms. Rader will lead a four-week acting workshop in Lindsay for high school students beginning in March.

California State Library makes new STEM resources available



Last week, the California School Library Association held its e-Resources Showcase 2022 for school, district, and county office of education teacher/librarians in partnership with California's K-12 Online Content Project. Since 2018, California's K-12 Online Content Project, a service of the California State Library, has made a wide variety of free research and homework tools available to every school-age student in the state. Last month, the online resource program introduced new student STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) resources.

The online STEM tools were created through a new state partnership with education technology company, Gale. The Gale resources include: *National Geographic Kids*, which allows students to explore science, nature, culture, archaeology, and space. The *Gale In Context: Environmental Studies* resources broaden student understanding of global environmental issues through topic overviews, journals, news, and multimedia content. *Gale's Interactive: Science* allows students to manipulate 3D interactive models to visualize and understand biology, chemistry, earth, and space science concepts.

Through California's K-12 Online Content Project, students can research, analyze, and use information and media for classwork and homework help. Teachers can also go online to build lesson plans geared to the interests and needs of their students. Family members are also able to access the site to participate and support the learning process at home. For more information on California's K-12 Online Content Project, visit library.ca.gov/services/to-public/k-12-online-content-project.

Photo above: Among the new, free STEM-related resources introduced on California's K-12 Online Content Project is National Geographic Kids.

Around the County

Central Section hosts first Women In Sports Conference



The CIF Central Section hosted its first [Women In Sports Conference](#) Wednesday in the Redwood Conference Center at the Tulare County Office of Education.

The keynote speakers were former MiLB general manager Jennifer Reynolds and educator and mentor, Dr. Brenda Lewis. There were three breakout sessions: *Title IX and Beyond* with Karen Wood, *Being a College Athlete* with Ally Briano, and *The Power To Be Your Own Superhero* with Katie Williamson.

The conference was the idea of Central Section commissioner Ryan Tos and Central Section administrative assistant Kelly Jones. When the two were previously at the San

Joaquin Section, they held a similar event. The conference also coincided with the 50th anniversary of Title IX.

Title IX was passed on June 23, 1972 by Congress. The new law gave women and girls the right to play sports and read, “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

On the conference, Tos said, “We think it’s important to do something to support women in sport, and it’s just an opportunity for our student-athletes to see and hear different leaders.”

The Central Section plans to host a Women in Sports Conference every other year and a student leadership conference for the years in between.



Photo above: Karen Wood speaks about her experience during the early years of Title IX passing.

Editor: [Robert Herman](#), Communications Director

Contributors: Nayirah Dosu, Marlene Moreno, Jennifer Fisher, Amanda Driver, Ramon Garcia, Bethany Rader, and Debra Lockwood.

To receive the News Gallery Week, sign up [here](#), or contact Jennifer Fisher at jenniferf@tcoe.org or (559) 733-6172.