

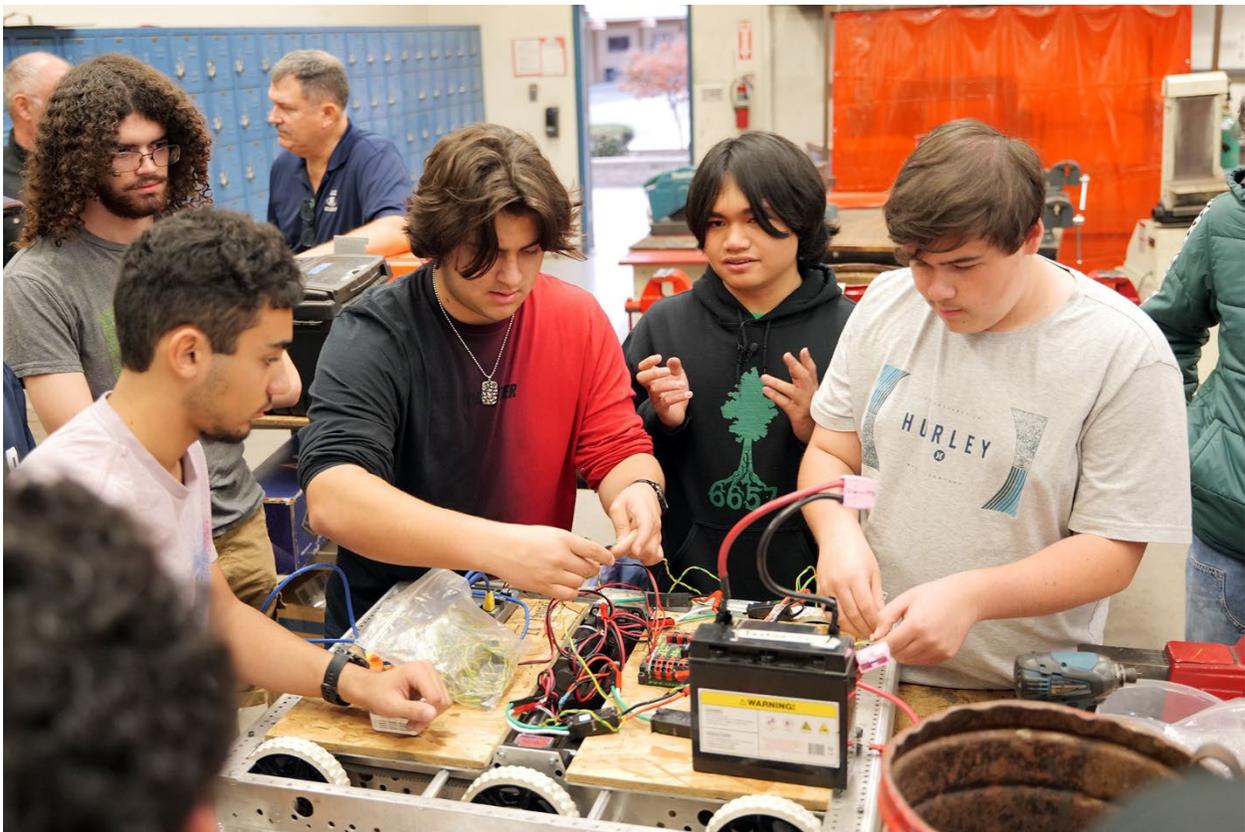
Tulare County  
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news  
galleryweek

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University Preparatory High School robotics team  
featured in upcoming *Children First* special



ABC30 has chosen to focus its latest *Children First* special on students who are amazing volunteers. The special, which is hosted by news anchors Graciela Moreno and Vanessa Vasconcelos, airs Sunday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m. and streams on [www.abc30.com](http://www.abc30.com).

Among the segments is the story of how University Preparatory High School's robotics team, Arborbotics, is helping Redwood High School to establish a FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team of their own. Now in its eighth year, Arborbotics has been Tulare County's only FRC team until this year. Last year, the UPHS team competed in the FRC World Championship in Texas.

One afternoon last month, ABC30 producer Aurora Diaz and cameraman Reuben Guerra, visited Redwood High School to observe as UPHS students Addie Reardon, Marcus Anderson, Nohea De Lemos, Dylan Asunto, and Andrew Frankovic helped the new Redwood team build their robot. The UPHS students worked in teams with Redwood students to assist with programming, electronics, and hardware. Together, the two teams will compete in a FRC competition in Fresno in March.



Among the other segments is the story of third graders from Cottonwood Creek Elementary in Visalia that are reading to dogs awaiting adoption. The literacy development program is a partnership between the school's ProYouth after school program, Read for Life, and Visalia Animal Services.

For more information on the Children First program, visit [www.abc30/ChildrenFirst](http://www.abc30/ChildrenFirst).

Photos above:

~ Dylan Asunto (center) assists members of the new Redwood High School robotics team with their machine's electronics.

~ Addie Reardon (right), one of the lead programmers on the UPHS Arborbotics team, discusses programming with members of the Redwood team.

## Annual CAC calendar focuses on students finding success in supportive classrooms



The annual Community Advisory Committee (CAC) calendars are out and being distributed across the county. For over 30 years, the calendar has highlighted the needs and abilities of special education students in Tulare County.

This year's calendar is entitled "Meeting Challenges: Finding Success Through Support" and features stories on students who benefit from creative accommodations and modifications in their general education classrooms. Supports for students include creating manageable workloads, increased classroom communication, visual and audio access, freedom to move around, peer support, and much more.

"While distinct, both types of change help students with exceptional needs participate fully in the classroom alongside typical peers, fostering a sense of belonging and a community of inclusion," the calendar reads.

State education code established the creation of CACs. In Tulare County, this 16-member committee is comprised of parents of students with special needs, parents of

general education students, general and special education teachers, representatives from community agencies, and a student or adult with special needs.

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## ERS announces its spring technology classes



The Spring 2024 classes in ERS's popular Essential Office Technology and Essential Classroom Technology series are now available at [tcoe.org/ERS/library/tech-training](https://tcoe.org/ERS/library/tech-training).

The two "Essential" series are ideal for those seeking to enhance their skills in administrative tasks such as Microsoft Office and Google Drive, or leverage innovative instructional tools, such as Google Classroom, Canva, and AI. The hours of the Essential Classroom Technology sessions have been adjusted to better align with educators' workdays.

Instructional technology specialists Steve Woods and Doug Cairns will also host Virtual Office Hours – a Q&A format designed to answer questions on an assortment of technology topics.

Together, the classes and the Virtual Office Hours provide an opportunity for staff to stay current with technology and foster a collaborative educational community.

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## Around the County

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### Strathmore, Central Valley Christian win high school state football championships



Tulare County's second and third state high school football titles were won this past weekend thanks to hard work from Strathmore and Central Valley Christian's football programs. Playing down south at Pasadena City College on Saturday, Strathmore, Mission Oak (Tulare), and Central Valley Christian (Visalia) headlined a day of Tulare County championship football games.

Playing in their fourth state championship game in seven years, Strathmore dominated Southern California Regional champion, Bell Gardens (10-6), 42-7 in the CIF State Division 7-A Championship game for the first win of the day. The victory marked the program's, as well as the county's, second-ever state championship. Strathmore won the county's first-ever state title in 2017. Strathmore finished its season with a 12-4 record and as Central Section Division VI, CIF Northern California Regional Division 7-A, and CIF State Division 7-A champions.

Mission Oak made its state championship debut in the Division 4-A game in the afternoon. The team's impressive season came to an end with a 42-19 loss to Northern California Regional champions Palma (11-4) of Salinas. Mission Oak finished its season

with a 10-6 overall record and as Central Section Division III and Southern California Regional Division 4-A champions, and CIF State Division 4-A runner-up.



Central Valley Christian capped off the day of games with a 45-42 victory over Northern California Regional champions Los Gatos (12-3). After two previous losses in the state championships, Central Valley Christian's win on Sunday marked the program's – and Visalia's – first-ever state championship. It is the county's third football state championship. This season, Central Valley Christian went 15-1 and were the undefeated Tri-County Kings Canyon League champions. The team finished as Central Section Division II, CIF Southern California Regional Division 2-A, and CIF State Division 2-A champions.

Photos above:

~ Strathmore High School (top) and Central Valley Christian High School (bottom) pose for photos after winning their respective CIF State Championship games Saturday at Pasadena City College.

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