

news galleryweek

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Readership adds new video resources on YouTube



TCOE's Readership literacy project, which launched in 2019, has created a YouTube channel with a number of new instructional videos. The channel offers teachers short films on building literacy in their classrooms.

Among them is a recently completed video on "book tastings." Hosted by Molly Dewitt, an English instructor at Woodlake Union High School, the video explains the benefits of providing students with many different books to briefly sample, much like a food tasting. In a book tasting, students read several pages of the books they chose and then report on them. The video also offers teachers tips on how they can implement a book tasting.

Another new video explains the important link between social-emotional learning (SEL) and literacy. Teachers will learn how literature can help students see themselves represented in the story and expose them to a broader view of the world. The third video, hosted by Vanessa Esquibel of Orosi High School, describes how she uses book clubs in her classroom to help develop critical thinking, enhanced communication skills, and a deeper appreciation for literature.

To see the videos and follow the channel, visit youtube.com/@TulareCountyReadership-xx3qo. For more information about increasing literacy through the Readership project, contact Jenean Bray at jenean.bray@tcoe.org or Tammy Milligan at tammy.milligan@tcoe.org.

Annual Christmas Bird Count scheduled for Sunday, December 17

Students, parents, teachers, and community members are invited to join the annual SCICON and Circle J Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Sunday, December 17. The morning bird count will be held at SCICON from 8:00 a.m. until noon. The afternoon count will be held at Circle J-Norris Ranch from 1:30 until 4:30 p.m.



For 124 years, the National Audubon Society has conducted annual Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) involving thousands of volunteers across the United States, Canada, and several other countries in the Western Hemisphere. CBCs are early-winter bird censuses conducted between December 14 and January 5 each year and led by community science organizations. The surveys are conducted within 15-mile diameter circles established by the Audubon Society.

In Tulare County, three active circles exist – one at the Kaweah Oaks Preserve, one at the Giant Forest Village in the Sequoia National Park, and one in Springville. The SCICON outdoor education program and its Circle J-Norris Ranch field study site both fall within the Springville survey area.

Participants in the SCICON and Circle J CBC are encouraged to bring their own lunch and water, and to dress warmly. Binoculars will be provided to those who need them.

A no-host dinner will be held at 5:00 p.m. at El Nuevo Mexicali in Springville. Attendees of the CBC are encouraged to come and enjoy the camaraderie of other birders as everyone meets and shares their results and experiences.

Please RSVP for the CBC by calling Amanda Driver at (559) 539-2263 or 359-8575, or send an email to circlej@tcoe.org.

Tulare student-athletes honored for their good sportsmanship



In partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Greater Tulare, TCOE's CHARACTER COUNTS! Program recognized this spring's Pursuing Victory with Honor (PVWH) student-athletes at a breakfast this week. The Kiwanis Club of Greater Tulare recognizes student-athletes, nominated by their coaches, each season for their sportsmanship. The awards included a certificate, a PVWH pin, a PVWH shirt, a PVWH patch, and a lawn sign that read "An Athlete of Character Lives Here."

Below is a list of the Pursuing Victory with Honor award winners along with statements from their coaches.

MISSION OAK HIGH SCHOOL

Mary Jose Sanchez Elias, Girls Tennis

Coach Doug Jones said, "Mary is an AVID student and top tennis player on the Mission

Oak girls tennis team. She is an ideal student, inquisitive with a real love for learning. Her dedication to her academics is matched by her work ethic on the tennis court. Although she has only been playing tennis since her sophomore year, Mary is a problem solver on the court. Mary is also dedicated to her teammates. She roots them on after her match, staying until the end to support them.”

Joseph Serna, Boys Cross Country

Coach Katie Taylor said, “We take immense pride in acknowledging the dedication, hard work, and integrity of one of our standout cross country athletes, Joseph Serna. As a testament to his unwavering commitment, Joseph has consistently demonstrated exceptional discipline, resilience, and determination. As a teammate, he exhibits a level of solidarity and support that does not go unnoticed. His reliability makes him a cornerstone of our team, and his trustworthiness has earned him the respect and admiration of his peers and coaches alike.”



TULARE UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Noeliah Zavala, Girls Golf

Coach Mark Hatton said, “Noelia is a junior at TUHS and can hit a golf ball further than some vacations I’ve taken. She is an elite member of Central Valley girls golfers – one of less than a dozen top athletes. She is a model for the way golf should be played – honest in scoring, humble, and respectful.”

Eric Camacho Coronel, Boys Cross County

Coach Jeremy Monitz said, “Eric has always been a hard worker, even when no one else is watching him. When he began the sport, he struggled to run a mile. Today, he’s running about 100 miles per week. After COVID when we only had nine kids on the team, he evolved into a great leader. Eric is honest, and I’m very proud of him and that he gets the most out of his ability.”

TULARE WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL

Faith Powell, Volleyball

Coach Kaylee Taylor said, “Faith is a very responsible athlete and person. One way she proved this was over the summer when she had practice in the morning, went to work as a swim teacher, and then returned to practice in the afternoon! She never complained but led her team by example. Her dedication to her job, her academics, and the volleyball program is outstanding! She always works hard, no matter what the situation. Faith is a volleyball captain, maintaining a 4.0 GPA and being the go-to person for the team.”

Adrian Fuentes, Football

Coach Derek Rosa said, “Adrian is a phenomenal student in person, doing everything you ask of him. He’s a leader in ASB and in the weight room, encouraging his

teammates forward. He does the right thing and is very trustworthy. He's versatile in his athletics which helps his team be the best. When the team lost a lineman, Adrian stepped to fill the position, working hard to make his team better.”

Students at Strathmore High School support Circle J-Norris Ranch



On Friday, December 1, a small group of students from Strathmore High School visited the Circle J-Norris Ranch to the delight of its feathered residents.

Students brought 30 bird boxes they had made last year and displayed at the Porterville Fair, installing them on oak trees on the ranch. The nesting boxes were tagged and geo-marked along three different trails covering a large area on the north side of the ranch. Circle J lead teacher Amanda Driver reports that the boxes will be monitored in the late spring, summer, and fall to determine their usage and the species using them.

Schools interested in utilizing Circle J-Norris Ranch for short- or long-term field science studies are encouraged to contact Amanda Driver at circlej@tcoe.org or (559) 539-2263.

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