

Tulare County
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news
galleryweek

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Annual Student Art Exhibition opens today



Arts Education Month kicks off today with the virtual opening of the annual Student Art Exhibition.

Over 600 pieces from 47 participating schools – an over 25% increase from last year's exhibition – are available for virtual viewing at tcoe.org/ArtGallery.

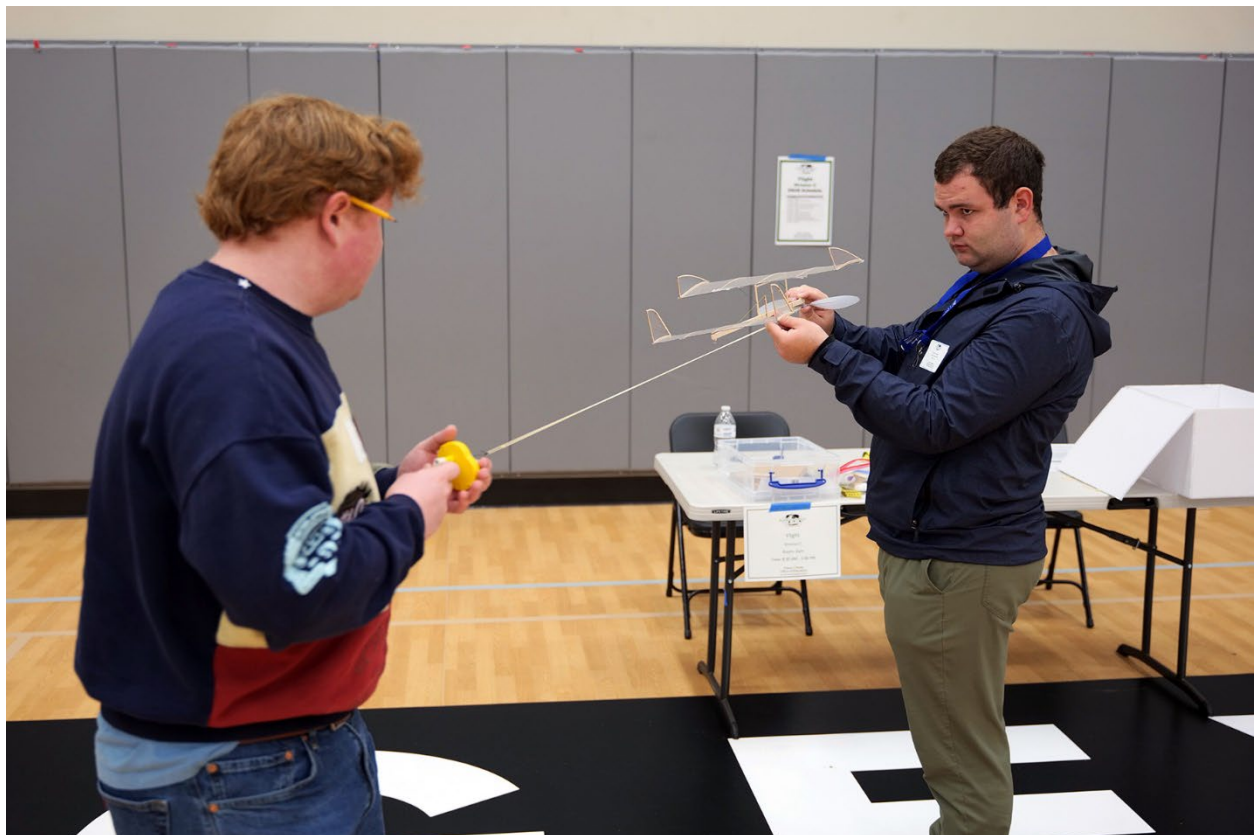
Open to students in grades PK-12, the annual Student Art Exhibition showcases the county's gifted young artists. Entries are judged by local artists and select pieces receive a Best of Show award. Last year, over 200 pieces were recognized with Best of Show honors.

The exhibition includes visual and media arts in 2D, 3D, and digital. Digital was a new addition last year, with the website allowing artists a platform to feature their digital work.

Photo above:

~ Over 600 student art pieces, like *Mystic Wolf* by Golden West High School's Melissa Martinez, can be viewed in the virtual Student Art Exhibition beginning today.

Tulare County teams selected to compete at the NorCal Science Olympiad



Saturday's rain didn't dampen the spirits of hundreds of young scientists who participated in the annual Science Olympiad competition for middle and high school students. This year's written and most of the "build" competitions were held in-person at Ridgeview Middle School in Visalia. A total of 21 middle and high school teams participated in two divisions – Division B (middle school) and Division C (high school).

At the end of the competition, students gathered in the gym to receive medals in over 20 competitions in each division. The competitions ranged from testing handmade musical instruments and flying rubber band-powered airplanes to written tests about astronomy, cell biology, and rocks and minerals.

“We were happy to host the entire competition in person this year,” said Tim Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools. “We greatly appreciate Visalia Unified School District for allowing us to utilize their beautiful Ridgeview Middle School campus.”

The points each team received in the individual competitions were tallied to determine the top four teams advancing to the state competition in April.



The middle school teams that qualified for the state competition include Green Acres Middle School Team 5 (Visalia), Ridgeview Middle School Team 3 (Visalia), Jefferson Academy Team 2 (Hanford), and Live Oak Middle School Team 4 (Tulare). While Green Acres Middle School actually had a second team in the top four, rules state that schools can only send one team to the state competition. In this case, fifth-place Live Oak Middle School is participating in the state competition in place of Green Acre’s second team.

The high school teams advancing to NorCal include Tulare Union High School Team 41 (Tulare), Exeter Union High School Team 51 (Exeter), University Preparatory High School Team 42 (Visalia), and Redwood High School Team 48 (Visalia).

For a complete list of Science Olympiad Divisions B and C winners, visit tcoe.org/ScienceOlympiad. The Science Olympiad Division A competition for elementary grade teams is scheduled for Saturday, April 22 at Mission Oak High School in Tulare.

Photos above:

~ (top) At the annual Science Olympiad competition, held on Saturday, students participated in a variety of “build” events, which included airplanes, bridges, trebuchets, and roller coasters.

~ (lower) In addition, students took written tests on subjects related to biology, chemistry, astronomy, geology, and technology.

Around the County

Jennah Creason wins county’s first-ever girls state wrestling title



This past weekend, Redwood High School’s Jennah Creason became Tulare County’s first-ever girls state champion wrestler. Creason pinned Adelaida Fernandez of Birmingham (Van Nuys) in a minute and 42 seconds in the 143-pound championship match in the CIF State Girls Wrestling Championship at Mechanics Bank Arena in Bakersfield.

Creason finished the season undefeated and won area and masters championships too. Also from Redwood, Audrey Segura (150 lbs) placed sixth. From Golden West, Jacklyn Green (170 lbs) placed fifth and Salana Camacho (189 lbs) placed fifth. All four

wrestlers also won Central Section Masters championships in their respective weight classes.

As a team, Redwood (Visalia) placed ninth overall at State, while Golden West (Visalia) tied for 10th.

From the boys wrestlers who placed at state were: Caleb Rivas (Golden West, 113 lbs) who placed eighth, Jacob Perez (Monache-Porterville, 132 lbs) placed sixth, Thomas Thongseng (Exeter Union, 145 lbs) placed eighth, and Dominic Wilson (Tulare Union, 220 lbs) placed eighth.

Prior to masters and the state championships, Redwood High School boys won the CIF Central Section Division II title.

For more information on section championship results, visit www.cifcs.org. For state championship results, visit www.cifstate.org.

Photo above:

~ Jennah Creason is Tulare County's first-ever state girls wrestling champion. John Sachs/Tech-Fall 2023

Three county teams win section championships in basketball and soccer



Tulare Western High School boys basketball, Lindsay girls basketball, and Exeter Union High School girls soccer teams all won CIF Central Section championships in their respective divisions last Friday.

Seeded third in Division IV, Tulare Western upset No. 1 Kerman 60-40 in the championship game. The Mustangs were led by Carmine Ficher and Malachi Ficher, who scored 16 points apiece.

Tulare Western's season came to an end Tuesday in the first round of the CIF State Southern Regional Division IV Championship tournament. Seeded 16th, the Mustangs lost 89-50 to No. 1 Valencia. The team finished the season with an 18-15 record.

Also falling in the state's Division IV tournament was No. 5 Porterville. The team was upset 61-43 by No. 12 Beaumont. Porterville finished the season with a 23-11 record and as CIF Central Section Division II runner-ups after losing 59-30, as the fourth seed, to No. 2 Arroyo Grande.



Lindsay High School girls basketball won the CIF Central Section Division VI championship Friday morning. Seeded fifth, Lindsay defeated No. 2 Torres of Madera 53-37 with Melanie Millan's 21 points leading the Cardinals.

However, the team's season came to an end in the first round of CIF State Southern Regional Division V Championship. Seeded 16th, Lindsay lost 51-24 to No. 1 Gahr of Cerritos on Tuesday. Lindsay finished the season with a 21-13 record.

In the Northern Regional Division V tournament, No. 14 Tulare Union lost 58-38 to No. 3 Bret Harte of Angels Camp. Tulare Union was the CIF Central Section Division IV runner-up, after falling 32-31 to No. 6 Lompoc as the No. 12 seed. Tulare Union's overall record was 14-18

On Saturday, No. 2 Porterville lost 45-57 to No. 1 Bakersfield Christian in the CIF Central Section Division III Championship game. The No. 6 Panthers are now the only county basketball team still playing in the state tournament after defeating No. 11 Notre Dame of Los Angeles 43-28 on Tuesday.



Exeter Union High School girls soccer won their second-straight section championship with a 1-0 overtime win over No. 3 Kerman in the CIF Central Section Division III Championships. No. 1 Exeter Union's Daya Ramirez scored the game-winning goal.

The team's season unfortunately came to an end on Tuesday with a final record of 22-4. Seeded fourth in the CIF NorCal Division IV Regional Championships, Exeter Union lost 2-1 to No. 5 Mira Monte of Bakersfield. Mira Monte is the CIF Central Section Division V champions, who defeated Porterville 3-0 on Friday for the title.

Photos above:

~ Tulare Western High School boys basketball, Lindsay High School girls basketball, and Exeter Union High School girls soccer teams all won CIF Central Section Championships in their respective divisions last Friday. Photos provided by the CIF Central Section and Ben Orozco/Central Section All-Star Game.

College of the Sequoias breaks ground on new Applied Technology & Trades Complex at Tulare campus



Last week, over a 100 Tulare County educators, business leaders, and city and county officials gathered at the College of the Sequoias (COS) Tulare campus to celebrate the groundbreaking of the college's Applied Technology & Trades Complex. Rain forced the ceremony to be moved indoors and that included a large container of soil that COS trustees and administration used in the traditional shovel ceremony.

COS Superintendent and President Brent Calvin, Ed.D. addressed the crowd, explaining that the complex is the third phase of the campus, which opened in January 2013. The Applied Technology & Trades Complex will feature three buildings and a two-acre outdoor teaching and event area. Once complete, the complex will house the college's growing agricultural technology, automotive technology, construction



technology, electrical training, environmental control technology (HVAC), industrial maintenance, and industrial automation programs.

Louann Waldner, Ed.D., provost of the COS Tulare campus, noted the complex was designed with flexibility to accommodate ever-changing advances in industrial and agricultural technology. The complex is the final project financed by the Measure J bond Tulare voters passed in 2008 to create the COS campus in their city. COS estimates that the new complex will be completed in August 2024.

Photo above:

~ An architectural rendering depicts the Technology Building, one of three new buildings planned for the College of the Sequoias (COS) Tulare campus. COS Superintendent and President Brent Calvin (left) and Provost Louann Waldner pose with members of the COS Board of Trustees at the groundbreaking ceremony last week.

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