

**Tulare County
Office of Education**

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news galleryweek

February 26, 2025

Reception for Porterville Art Show to be held Thursday, February 27

A reception for the third annual Museum Masterpieces: Youth Art Show will be held Thursday, February 27 to debut nearly 400 pieces of student artwork from Porterville area small schools. The opening reception for the student artists will be held from 3:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the Porterville Historical Museum, located at 257 North D Street in Porterville.

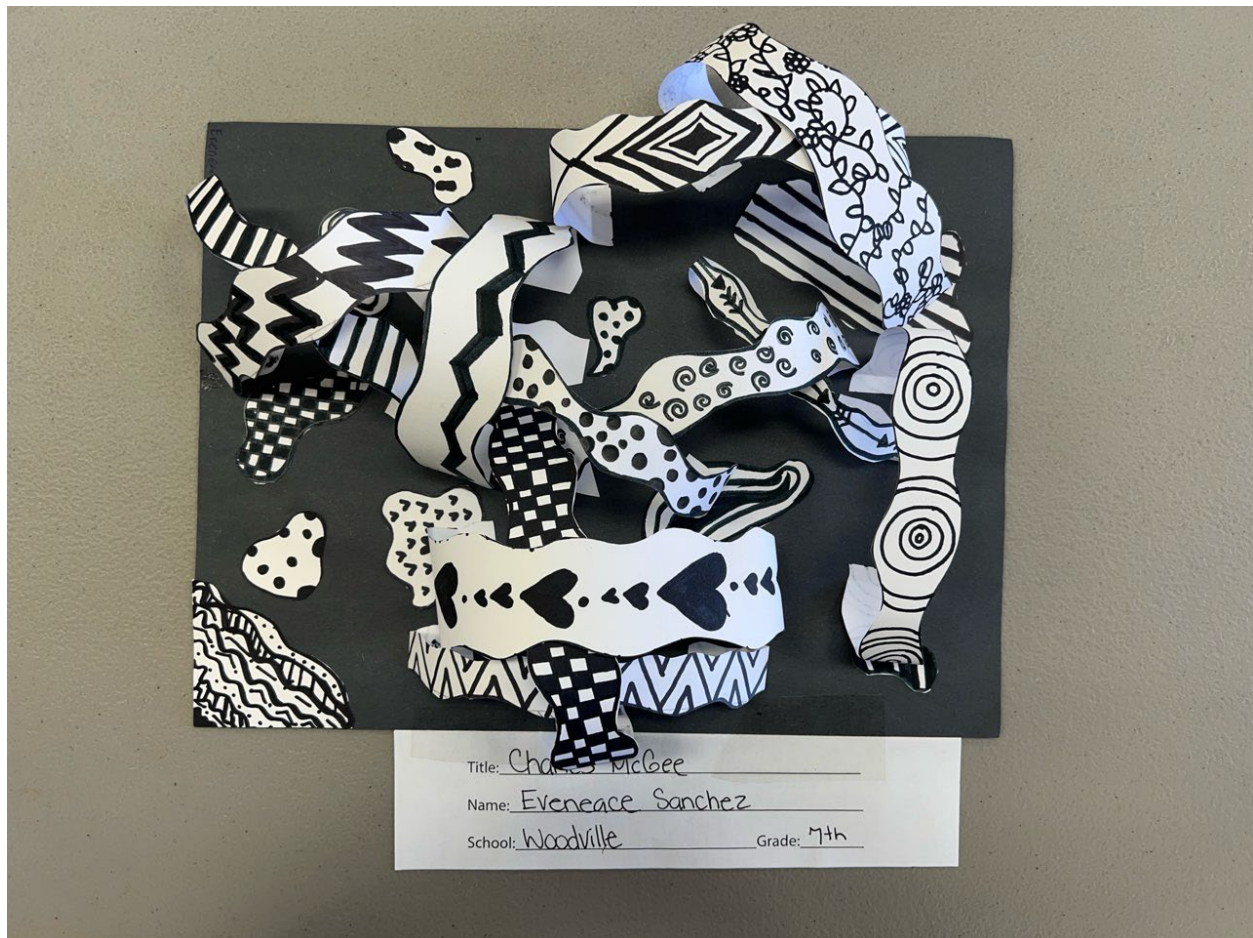
The annual showcase gives young artists the opportunity to have their work displayed in the Main Exhibit Hall of the Porterville Historical Museum throughout Arts Education Month in March. The Museum Masterpieces: Youth Art Show is open to TK-8th grade students in the Porterville area.



This year's event features hundreds of student artwork from Alta Vista, Ducor, Hope, Rockford, Saucelito, Springville, Terra Bella, and Woodville school districts. Museum Masterpieces has nearly doubled in size since last year and continues to grow. The collaboration is part of the QUAIL Project, TCOE's federally-funded arts program. One of the main goals of QUAIL is the development of new arts-related community partnerships and events.

The exhibition is open to the public throughout the month of March from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. every Friday and Saturday.

"We are honored to continue partnering with the Porterville Historical Museum to showcase the artwork of our south county students," said Kate Stover, TCOE's Visual & Performing Arts Staff Development & Curriculum Specialist.



For more information, contact Kate Stover at kate.stover@tcoe.org.

Circle J-Norris Ranch to host annual Biodiversity Festival March 8

The public is invited to attend and participate in fun, hands-on outdoor activities at the annual Circle J-Norris Ranch Biodiversity Festival on Saturday, March 8. The free event includes guided nature walks, bird watching, native plant investigations, BioBlitz, and aquatic exploration. The Biodiversity Festival is open 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. with nature walks and hikes in the morning, followed by native plant and pollinator exploration in the afternoon. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own lunches.



A program of the SCICON school of outdoor education, Circle J-Norris Ranch is located at 41893 Yokohl Valley Road in Springville. Circle J offers all grade levels a wide variety of field study experiences.

For more information on the Biodiversity Festival, contact Amanda Driver at circlej@tcoe.org or (559) 539-2263.

Around the County

Mission Oak High School Aquatics Complex opens



Yesterday, a joyous ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the new Mission Oak High School Aquatics Complex in Tulare. The large pool complex is the first that the school district has built in over 20 years. Prior to conducting the “first dive” into the new pool, students who spoke at the ribbon cutting appreciated the fact that they would no longer have to travel to Tulare Union or Tulare Western high schools for early morning or evening practices. The Aquatics Complex features both a competition pool and a warmup pool, concession stand, and a locker room. Mission Oak High School opened in August 2008.



**Local Odyssey of the Mind team wins at regional,
advances to state**



On Saturday, the Odyssey of the Mind team from Three Rivers Union School placed second in their division at the NorCal Odyssey of the Mind competition in Sacramento. Superintendent/principal Jason Porter reports that this was the school's first-ever Odyssey of the Mind competition and that the team will advance to the state finals March 8 in Concord.

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving program where team members present their solution at a competition to a predefined long-term problem that takes many months to complete and involves writing, design, construction, and theatrical performance.

The Three Rivers team is comprised of Elisabeth Oprea, Zofia Mestaz, Madison Riddle, Ryn Fermin, Jade Eskridge, and Pearl Welch. Marla Pleyte is the coach.

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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.