

newsgallery



20th Annual CHARACTER COUNTS! Week celebrated with over 6,300 student nominations Good character shines through service to others



(top photo) Tania (l) and Carla are sixth-grade students at Tipton School. The pair turned a journalism assignment into a schoolwide campaign to fund breast cancer research. (lower photo) Tanner Ragan, a seventh-grade student at Valley Life Charter, shakes hands with Marilyn Barr, a board member of the Provident/Salierno Family Foundation, at the annual awards presentation recognizing Tulare County's top students of character.

Tipton School sixth-graders Carla and Tania weren't looking for recognition. They were simply moved to serve others as the result of research they did for a classroom assignment. This year, the 11-year-olds are taking a journalism elective from teacher Gina Manfredi. Since October is breast cancer awareness month, Ms. Manfredi asked the girls to do an article on the disease for the school newspaper.

Carla says that she was surprised to learn that the disease affects both women and men, and even animals. So moved by the information they found, Carla and Tania asked Ms. Manfredi if they could raise money to help fight breast cancer. "Their plans just grew from there," she said, smiling. "They wanted to know if they could buy something to sell to other students and faculty. And then they incorporated a fund-raising goal with a special incentive."

The girls made a deal with school administrators. If they raised \$300 by October 30, then Tipton's superintendent Dr. Guerrero and the school's principal and vice principal would have to dress up in costumes of the girls' choosing. **Read more at tcoe.org/NewsGallery.** 🍎

50-year-old program gets new home, a symbol of new era in science instruction

New Planetarium & Science Center dedicated



In the mid-1960s, Jim Vidak was a brand new fourth-grade teacher at Mineral King School, a single school district which later joined Visalia Unified. Mr. Vidak recalls attending an in-service presentation designed to introduce teachers to the new Tulare County Office of Education planetarium program. For the first few years of the program, the small theater was located in a temporary building on the Snowden School campus in Farmersville.

On October 14, some 50 years later, County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak stood before a crowd of educators and community supporters introducing them to the brand new Tulare County Office of Education Planetarium & Science Center. The crowd assembled in front of the colorful building watched as cadets from La Sierra Military Academy raised the flags for the first time and listened as Mr. Vidak thanked special guests and shared a short history of the planetarium.



“From that simple theater I remember at Snowden School, the planetarium moved to a building at the Tulare County Fairgrounds,” said Mr. Vidak. [Read more at *tcoe.org/NewsGallery*](https://tcoe.org/NewsGallery).



(top photo) The new Planetarium & Science Center was dedicated on October 14. (middle photo) La Sierra Military Academy cadets prepare to raise the flags at the dedication ceremony. (lower photo) At the ribbon cutting are (l-r) Board Vice President Chris Reed, trustees Debby Holguin, Judy Coble and Tom Link, County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak, Board President Joe Enea, and trustees Pat Hillman and Celia Maldonado-Arroyo. (right photo) Jim Vidak poses with Harman Smith, the artist who created the solar system image for NASA which became a mural painted by local artist Colleen Mitchell Veyna.



Theatre Company prepares production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*

Popular production premieres November 19



(Caption) Andrew Cantelmi (center) plays Joseph in the Theatre Company's fall production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. He is surrounded by members of the production's children's chorus (clockwise from top) Jessica Peters, Josh Peters, Ashlyn West, Manjari Perry, Katie Peters, Tessa Hemphill, Shelby Wisehart, Seth Monty and Anu Perry.

The Andrew Cantelmi is enjoying the challenges of playing Joseph in the Theatre Company's fall production of the Andrew Lloyd Webber classic musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Andrew, a freshman at Redwood High School, has appreciated the support of Theatre Company veterans Jack O'Leary, who plays Pharaoh, and Carly Caviglia, who plays the narrator. At the same time, Andrew admits that the production has been a growing experience as he has to play an older adult who wrestles with the wrongs done to him by his brothers. *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* is based on the biblical story from the Book of Genesis about Joseph, who was sold into slavery by his brothers. Joseph arrives in Egypt, where he eventually rises to become head of the household for a prominent Egyptian captain. **Read more at tcoe.org/NewsGallery.** 🍏

Students begin creating sustainable, community partnerships that make a difference

29 teams kick off Step Up Youth Challenge



Comedian and the voice of many *Star Wars* characters Michael Pritchard greets students at the Fifth Annual Step Up Youth Challenge.

The man of a thousand voices had one message for the students attending the fifth annual Tulare County Step Up Youth Summit on October 21. Michael Pritchard, a motivational speaker and stand-up comedian who has voiced many of the *Star Wars* characters, encouraged over 300 participants in attendance to welcome and involve all students on their campus. "The kid you're picking on at school might just turn out to be the nurse who cares for your mother at the end of her life or the doctor who sets your son's broken leg." Mr. Pritchard told the audience a story to drive home his point, "I knew a girl who ran in a Special Olympics event. When the race began, she jumped out in front. We were all cheering for her, when suddenly she stopped." Dumbfounded, Mr. Pritchard urged the girl to finish the race to claim the gold medal. **Read more at tcoe.org/NewsGallery.** 🍏

spotlight



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(photo 1) In October, nearly 70 students from the **Porterville Academy of Business at Porterville High School** visited the **SEE Challenge Course** for a day of team building exercises. The Challenge Course contains a ropes course, a rock-climbing structure, a balancing platform, plus grassy space for team games. The Challenge Course, which is fully staffed with trainers/facilitators, is **available to student groups and community organizations**. For more information on utilizing the Challenge Course, call **Steve Tellez at (559) 733-6730**. 🍏 Over **800 young women**, grades 4-10, are expected to attend the annual **Expanding Your Horizons** conference at **College of the Sequoias Visalia** campus on **Saturday, November 14**. Attendees will have the opportunity to attend various hands-on breakout sessions led by women working in STEM-related fields (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). (photo 2) This year, the keynote presenter is **Dr. Suzanne L. Singer**, who holds a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from U.C. Berkeley. Dr. Singer is currently an energy systems and thermal analyst at **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)**. She supports engineering and energy security through energy flow chart analysis, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. Dr. Singer also has a passion for renewable energy and energy independence for Native American Tribes. 🍏 (photo 3) In October, **Hope Gonzalez** was crowned **homecoming queen** for **Dinuba High School**. Hope is pictured with senior quarterback Isaac Leppke. Hope is a member of the **Emperor Fusion Club** and a student in **TCOE's Special Day Class**. Her teacher is **Brooke Ikuta**. 🍏 (photo 4) Dozens of students attended **Educational Resource Services' first annual Cardboard Challenge** on October 10. Many students brought their cardboard creations to exhibit. **Michela Pasquini (l)** and **Makayla Malmsten** pose in front of their pink Barbie limo. The girls are first-graders at **Shannon Ranch Elementary** in Visalia. With plenty of cardboard and other building supplies on hand, many students took the opportunity to build something on site. 🍏 (photo 5) Over **500 students** from high school programs and Community Based Instruction (CBI) Classes throughout Tulare County attended the **10th Annual Harvest Festival** last month at the Tulare Youth Center, where they were treated to recreation and entertainment. Pictured are members of **Anne Clifford's CBI class**, which is based at the Youth Center and helps to maintain the building and its grounds. 🍏



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November '15

- 3 Excellence in Education Awards Ceremony**
7:30 – 9:00 a.m., Visalia Convention Center
303 E. Acequia, Visalia
For information, call Marlene Moreno at (559) 733-6302

- 10 & 20 Career Technical Education Credential Program Information Meeting**
4:00 – 5:30 p.m., Educational Enrichment Center
2500 W. Burrel Ave., Visalia
For information, call Norma Lovelace at (559) 740-4409
Register online at tcoe.org/NTLD to attend

- 12 Clear Administrative Services Credential Program Information Meeting**
6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Teleconference Room
2637 W. Burrel Ave., Visalia
For information, call Donna Glassman-Sommer or Jesse Coronado at (559) 730-9956
Register online at tcoe.org/NTLD to attend

- 13 Special Education Induction Clear Program Information Meeting**
4:00 – 5:30 p.m., Educational Enrichment Center
2500 W. Burrel Ave., Visalia
For information, call Norma Lovelace at (559) 740-4409
Register online at tcoe.org/NTLD to attend

- 14 Expanding Your Horizons**
(for young women in grades 4-10)
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., College of the Sequoias
915 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia
For information, call Michelle French at (559) 651-3003

- 14-15 Circle J Field Science Weekend**
(for high school students and their teachers)
8:00 a.m. Saturday through 4:00 p.m. Sunday
Circle J-Norris Ranch, Springville
For registration, call Nancy Bruce at (559) 539-2263

- 18 Preliminary Administrative Services Credential Program Information Meeting**
6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Teleconference Room
2637 W. Burrel Ave., Visalia
For information, call Donna Glassman-Sommer or Jesse Coronado at (559) 730-9956
Register online at tcoe.org/NTLD to attend

- 18 Fall Institute for Tulare County School Board Members, Administrators, and County Committee on School District Organization members**
5:00 p.m., Wyndham Visalia, 9000 W. Airport Dr.
For information, call Marlene Moreno at (559) 733-6302

- 19 IMPACT Intern Program Information Meeting**
6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Education Center
2637 W. Burrel Ave., Visalia
For information, call Marvin Lopez at (559) 624-1035
Register online at tcoe.org/NTLD to attend

- 19-21 Theatre Company Fall Musical: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat***
7:00 p.m. evening performances November 19-21
2:00 p.m. matinee performance November 21
L. J. Williams Theater, 1001 W. Main Street, Visalia
Tickets available November 2 at 7000 Doe Ave., Visalia
General admission: \$12, preferred seating: \$20 (cash or check only).
For information, call Brian Roberts at (559) 651-1482

- 20 Circle J Astronomy Night**
(for third-grade students and family members)
4:30 p.m., Circle J-Norris Ranch, Springville
For registration, call Nancy Bruce at (559) 539-2263

For more events, programs and meetings, visit our online calendar at www.tcoe.org/CalendarOfEvents

County Superintendent of Schools **Jim Vidak** recently announced that **Dr. Craig Wheaton** will be **joining the Tulare County Office of Education** leadership team in February as **deputy superintendent of Administrative Services**. Dr. Wheaton has served as superintendent of the Visalia Unified School District since 2010. He will take the place of John Caudle, who retired in August, in a deputy superintendent position which has been retitled from Business Services to Administrative Services. In his **37 years in education**, he has had a very wide range of teaching and administrative experience at both large and small districts. Prior to his tenure at Visalia Unified, Dr. Wheaton served **24 years with Corcoran Unified** as a high school counselor and coach and an elementary principal. **He joined the Visalia Unified School District in 2002** as director of state and federal projects, before being promoted to area administrator and finally district superintendent.

The **Tulare County Farm Bureau** has announced the theme of its annual **Calendar Art Contest: Tulare County Agriculture, From the Farm to You**. Students have until February 15 to complete their artwork for the 2016-17 Calendar. Details of the competition are posted on the Bulletin Board section of www.tulcofb.org. The contest is annually sponsored by the Tulare County Farm Bureau and the Tulare County Office of Education.

Mr. Vidak reports that staff members currently working in the Burrel Avenue buildings, along with staff from the Migrant Education program at Doe Avenue, will soon begin **moving into the new administration building at 6200 S. Mooney Blvd.** The move will take place in phases over several weeks beginning in **mid-November**. Phone numbers and email addresses for employees involved in the move will remain the same. Staff members relocating to the new building are urged to confirm in advance any appointments, meetings or deliveries – notifying district personnel and vendors of their new location.

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

News Gallery Committee

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Tulare County Board of Education

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