

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

January 30, 2009

## **For Immediate Release**

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**Tulare County Office of Education Announces:**

## **Visalia Downtown Kiwanis and TCOE CHARACTER COUNTS! honor Visalia student athletes**

Visalia Downtown Kiwanis and the Tulare County Office of Education's CHARACTER COUNTS! program are pleased to honor nine student athletes as part of an ongoing "Pursuing Victory with Honor" Sports Recognition program. The Visalia student athletes, selected for their exemplary character and sportsmanship, will be recognized at the Downtown Kiwanis meeting Tuesday, February 3 beginning at noon at The Club House, 699 West Center in downtown Visalia. The students embody the essential elements of Kiwanis' principles of character-building and ethics in sports. The honorees are:

**Kaitlen Stallings**, El Diamante High School Girls Soccer

**Jesus Soto**, El Diamante High School Boys Wrestling

**George Montiel**, Golden West High School Boys Soccer

**Jennifer Krage**, Golden West High School Girls Soccer

**Anneke Verhoeven**, Central Valley Christian High School Girls Basketball

**Thys DeHoop**, Central Valley Christian High School Boys Soccer

**Bianca Flores**, Mt. Whitney High School Girls Basketball

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**Matt Wykoff**, Mt. Whitney High School Boys Wrestling

**Brooklyn Miller**, Redwood High School Girls Soccer

**Ramiro Valle**, Redwood High School Boys Wrestling

“We are excited to have the local Kiwanis as partners in promoting the ‘Pursuing Victory with Honor’ program from the developers of CHARACTER COUNTS!,” says County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “The ‘Pursuing Victory with Honor’ curriculum is a powerful tool for teaching good sportsmanship. It is used by amateur and professional sports organizations throughout the country.”

“Each of our honorees has a unique story that demonstrates their commitment to teamwork, responsibility, hard work and leadership that was exciting to hear,” said John Cowherd, president of Visalia Downtown Kiwanis.

The Visalia Downtown Kiwanis Club encourages the local community to become a part of these special recognitions. For more information on the Kiwanis “Pursuing Victory with Honor” program, please contact Randy Wallace (559) 737-8019.

# TCOE #

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