

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

February 15, 2017

Media Alert

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

National History Day – Tulare County

February 21, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

TCOE Administration Building, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia

The annual National History Day – Tulare County event will be held Tuesday, February 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Tulare County Office of Education administration building, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd. in Visalia.

The public is welcome to attend. This year, elementary, middle and high school students from 14 Tulare County schools will bring 129 projects to the competition.

National History Day is a theme-based research program that showcases original presentations by students in grades 4-12 pertaining to historical issues, ideas, people and events. Students may choose any topic in local, national or world history and explore its significance relative to the annual theme, which for 2017 is *Taking a Stand in History*.

Students compete in three grade categories: 4-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Students in grades 4-5 compete in the two-dimensional category only. Students in the two upper-grade categories present findings through one of the following categories: historical paper, exhibit, performance, documentary or historical website. Except for the historical paper category, students may collaborate in groups of up to five students, or they may work

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individually. At the event, presentations are evaluated by local historians and educators who look for a balance of perspectives in the project.

National History Day – Tulare County provides students with special learning experiences that extend beyond the projects they have prepared. This year, local agri-businessman Ed Boersma will speak on his family's efforts to smuggle Jews to safety during WWII in his native country, the Netherlands. Born in 1934 in the small town of Nieuw Amsterdam, Ed and his family immigrated to the United States in December 1947. The family settled in Bellflower, California. Ed graduated from CSU Long Beach in 1960 and began a ten-year teaching career. Ed now lives in Visalia and has been self-employed for many years in enterprises closely related to agriculture.

During the presentation of awards, event coordinator Gay Atmajian will also announce the winners of scholarships to support the students as they move to the state competition May 6-7 at William Jessup University in Rocklin, California.

“Students involved in History Day do a phenomenal job of preparing for the competition,” said County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “Each year, they produce awesome videos, exhibits, reenactments and websites on important aspects of local, state, national or world history.”

For more information, contact Gay Atmajian at (559) 651-0501, or at www.tcoe.org/historyday.

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