

Tulare County Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

Poetry Out Loud competition February 7

February 7, 6:00 p.m., 210 Café, 210 W. Center St., Visalia

On Friday, February 7, the Tulare County Poetry Out Loud competition will be held downtown to 210 Café, where the public is invited to enjoy coffee along with poetry recited by the top students in the county. Each year, Tulare County Poetry Out Loud gives one student a chance to advance to the state championship. This year, the top finishers from Central Valley Christian, Tulare Union, and Mission Oak high schools will vie for the opportunity to represent Tulare County at the California state finals in Sacramento, March 15-16.

The competition will begin at 6:00 p.m. on February 7 at 210 Café, located at 210 West Center in downtown Visalia. Two-time champion Gabrielle Trapse from Tulare Union High School will return to the competition on Friday.

Poetry Out Loud is the nation's largest youth poetry recitation competition, which promotes the development of public speaking skills, improved English-fluency and comprehension, and self-confidence. In California, over 40,000 students from 40 counties compete annually. Unlike other

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poetry competitions, there are no costumes, props, or sets allowed in Poetry Out Loud. Students must select their poems from an anthology of over 900 classic and contemporary poems, spanning a variety of cultures and genres. Participants recite their chosen poems, using only their voices to convey all of the emotion and energy of the printed word.

For more information on Poetry Out Loud, call Kate Stover at (559) 741-0809.

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