

news galleryweek

December 4, 2019

SCICON and Circle J to hold annual bird count event December 14



For 120 years, the National Audubon Society has conducted annual Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) involving thousands of volunteers across the United States, Canada, and several other countries in the Western Hemisphere. CBCs are early-winter bird censuses conducted between December 14 and January 5 each year and led by community science organizations. The surveys are conducted within 15-mile diameter circles established by the Audubon Society. In Tulare County, two active circles exist – one at the Kaweah Oaks Preserve and one in Springville.

The SCICON outdoor education program and its Circle J-Norris Ranch field study site both fall within the Springville survey area. Employees and community members who want to participate in the CBC being held at SCICON and Circle J are encouraged to make a reservation with Nancy Bruce at circlej@ocsnet.net or by calling (559) 539-2263. The Christmas Bird Count will begin at SCICON from 8:00 a.m. until noon, followed by a count at Circle J-Norris Ranch from 1:00 until 4:30 p.m.

Dance classes offered through Theatre Company beginning in January



Beginning January 6, the Theatre Company will launch a series of small group dance classes for students in grades 6-12. The classes will offer instruction by McKenna Friend-Hoffman in a range of styles often used in musical theatre and will emphasize proper dance technique.

Three separate classes will be offered depending on students' experience levels, ranging from limited dance experience to intermediate dance experience. Additionally, a class for boys only will be available. Each class will be held twice per month at a cost of \$15 per class.

For registration and scholarship information, call the Theatre Company office at (559) 651-1482.

Farm Bureau provides grants for school gardens



Tuesday morning, the Tulare County Farm Bureau held its annual Superintendents Breakfast in partnership with TCOE. The event was hosted at the Spartan Market at Strathmore High School, which is part of the school's new Emerging Agriculture Technology (EAT) Pathway program.



Following the event, EAT Pathway teacher Matt Shearer and student leaders guided teachers and administrators on a tour of their program. Visitors were able to tour two greenhouses – one of which contained an aquaponics system which could raise fish and grow and fertilize tomato plants at the same time. Another feature of the program was a CropBox – a shipping container outfitted with an irrigation and lighting system that allows students to grow greens and herbs in a protected environment.

During the event, the Farm Bureau awarded 16 annual garden grants to schools throughout the county. The grants were given in two amounts – \$500 to new applicants and \$250 for renewing schools. In total, \$5,250 was given to elementary and middle schools through the program that has benefitted schools for more than 20 years. “The Farm Bureau’s garden grant program is providing thousands of young Tulare County students a way to explore agriculture and related career options,” said Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire. “We appreciate the Porterville Unified School District and Strathmore High School for hosting the breakfast. It was rewarding to see their students excited and so knowledgeable about what they are learning in the EAT Pathway.”



Applications for the Farm Bureau’s School Garden Grants Program are due annually on November 1. The Farm Bureau, in partnership with College of the Sequoias, hosts two annual

workshops for teachers who want to learn more about school gardens and educational resources. For information about upcoming school garden workshops or the grant program, call the Farm Bureau at (559) 732-8301, or visit www.tulcofb.org.

Photos above:

~ The Tulare County Farm Bureau distributed \$5,250 in grants to a total of 16 new and renewing school gardens this year.

~ Matt Shearer, teacher at Strathmore High School's Emerging Agriculture Technology Pathway, gave a tour of one of the program's greenhouses.

~ Strathmore student pathway leaders explained the features of a CropBox which they use to grow lettuce and other greens.

Holiday Tea and annual Toy Drive set for this month



Employees are invited to celebrate the holidays at the annual Holiday Tea, hosted this year by External Business Services. The tea will be held from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. on December 19 in the Redwood Conference Center. Employees are asked to bring a toy to the event suitable for children ages 0-5.

Employees who are unable to attend the Holiday Tea and want to contribute to the annual TCOE Toy Drive are encouraged to drop their donations in the Toys for Tots boxes located at the TCOE Administration Building (6200 S. Mooney Blvd.), the TCOE Liberty Center (11535 Avenue 264) and at the Educational Resource Services, Early Childhood Education, or Connections for Quality Care Programs at the TCOE Doe Avenue Complex (7000 Doe Ave.). All toys collected by December 11 will be given to children served by the Early Childhood Education Home Base Program. Toys received between December 12 and December 19 will be given to Toys for Tots for distribution within the community.

UPHS to hold annual Winter Concert December 10 at COS



University Preparatory High School (UPHS) will hold its annual Winter Concert in the College of the Sequoias Theater in Visalia, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. Students in all choir and guitar classes will perform, as well as those in the school's popular handbell ensemble. For more information on attending the Winter Concert, call UPHS at (559) 730-2529.

Coming Up!

- **November 4 - December 23**
A Holiday in the City
(annual exhibition of holiday porcelain buildings and figurines)
TCOE Administration Building Lobby, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia
- **November 12 - December 30**
Student Art Exhibition
TCOE Administration Building Lobby, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia
[More information.](#)
- **December 10**
University Preparatory High School Winter Concert
7:00 - 9:00pm, COS Theater, 915 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia
For more information, call UPHS at (559) 730-2529.
- **December 12**
University Preparatory High School Information Night
6:00 - 7:00pm, COS Visalia campus, Yokut Room 9, 915 S. Mooney Blvd.
[More information.](#)
- **December 14**
SCICON and Circle J Christmas Bird Count

8:00am - 12:00pm @ SCICON; 1:00 - 4:30pm @ Circle J-Norris Ranch, Springville
[More information.](#)

- **December 19**

Holiday Tea and Toy Drive

2:00 - 4:00pm, TCOE Redwood Conference Center, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia

For more information, contact Danika Curlee at danikac@tcoe.org (559) 737-4237.

View more events at tcoe.org/CalendarofEvents.

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