

# news galleryweek

June 23, 2021

## Annual *Pursuing Victory With Honor* Scholarship awarded to four Tulare County scholar athletes

The CHARACTER COUNTS! program is pleased to announce the names of four Tulare County scholar athletes chosen to receive the annual *Pursuing Victory With Honor* (PVWH) Scholarships. The scholarship program, now in its ninth year, awards four Tulare County seniors \$500 each for their academic achievements and for their exemplary character on and off the field.

### Maya Bivens

Maya Bivens is a graduate of Mt. Whitney High School where she played volleyball and softball. Bivens' high school volleyball coach, Tori Johnson, had a large impact on her life and helped Bivens to become the confident, strong leader she is today. The volleyball programs she has played for have also changed her life forever. Bivens spends most of her time on the softball field playing for Mt. Whitney or her travel ball team, Cal A's. She will continue playing softball at Menlo College. Bivens plans to either work in the financial department of a professional sports team or pursue her lifelong dream of owning her own restaurant.



### Chloe Ross

Chloe Ross is a graduate of Granite Hills High School where she played volleyball and swam. Ross will attend Oregon State in the fall and is working toward a future in politics that was inspired by her family. Ross' great-grandfather was a World War II veteran and a Pearl Harbor survivor. Her great-grandmother worked for Military Intelligence as a spy during World War II. Ross, who loves to bake and read, was also inspired to serve her community by one of her role models, her older sister. In the future, Ross plans to work with political campaigns on policy decisions and the enactment of new legislation. She also hopes to get involved in diplomatic work overseas.



### Riley Carpenter

Riley Carpenter is a graduate of Exeter High School where she played water polo and swam. In high school, Carpenter's 10th- and 11th-grade English teacher impacted her life personally and academically. Her teacher pushed her to be a better student and person. In turn, Carpenter became a better writer and proud of her work. Her improvements helped her get into her dream school and earn the PVWH scholarship. Carpenter is attending Colorado State and plans on becoming a veterinarian. She loves animals, and when she is not enjoying the outdoors with friends and family, she is spending time with her dog. Carpenter's love for animals is also guiding her toward the Army, where she wants to work with military animals and service animals of current and past service members. Once out of the Army, she hopes to start her own practice.



## Joseph Machado

Joseph Machado is a graduate of Tulare Western High School where he played water polo and swam. Machado, who loves to watch action and adventure movies, grew up with his grandfather Eddie Sanchez as his role model. Sanchez didn't grow up with much and dropped out of high school but went on to run his own dairy farm. Sanchez also served in the Korean War, defeated pancreatic cancer, and lived five years after his diagnosis despite being only given six months to live. Machado's grandfather taught him to always do his best and treat others respectfully regardless of the hand he was dealt. In high school, Machado's physics teacher, Anthony Porchia, taught him that despite the difficulty and rigor, with enough effort and willingness to learn, any obstacle can be overcome. Next year, Machado will attend Stanford University. After graduation, he plans to attend medical school and become an ophthalmologist. Machado hopes to return to the Central Valley and open a practice.



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## Around the County

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### Strathmore girls basketball make history



Strathmore High School girls basketball left their mark in the history books on Saturday when they became just the second team in Tulare County history to win a state regional championship. It is the county's first regional championship since Woodlake last won in 1987, according to Central Section historian Bob Barnett.

To claim the title, No. 2 Strathmore defeated No. 5 Fallbrook 63-54 in the CIF Southern California Regional Division 5-AA championship. There were no official state champions this season due to the northern region not having state playoffs.

Senior Jazmine Soto led Strathmore with a game-high 42 points, nine rebounds and eight steals. Teammate Sherrie Chapa also had nine rebounds, as well as nine points.

Soto is the county and Central Section's all-time leading scorer – for boys and girls – with 3,331 career points. According to Cal-Hi Sports, Soto is also tied for sixth on the state's all-time girls scoring list and is 16th in state history with 689 career steals.

On the season, Soto averaged a section-best 30.9 points per game for the third year in a row. That feat has only been completed once before by Jackie White of San Joaquin Memorial, according to Barnett.

This season, Strathmore head coach Richard Miranda also became just the 13th coach in Central Section history to win at least 300 games.

Strathmore finished with a record of 21-6. The team won the East Sequoia League and Central Section Division V championships prior to the regional championship game.

*Photos above:*

*~ Strathmore High School girls basketball won the CIF Southern California Regional Division 5-AA championship on Saturday.*

*~ Strathmore High School's Jazmine Soto shoots a free throw during the CIF Southern California Regional Division 5-AA championship game on Saturday.*



## Exeter, Redwood are co-Valley champions for track and field



The boys track and field teams from Exeter High School and Redwood High School finished their respective seasons as co-Central Section Division II champions. The teams competed in the championship meet at Clovis' Veterans Memorial Stadium on Saturday.

Tulare County did not have an individual section champion, but Redwood's Dominick McCormack placed second in the boys high jump with a mark of 6-feet, 3-inches. Exeter's Liam Gair also placed second in the boys 400-meter run with a time of 49.32 seconds.



*Photos above:*

*~ Exeter High School boys track and field finished as co-Central Section Division II championships at the Valley meet on Saturday.*

*~ Redwood High School boys track and field finished as co-Central Section Division II championships at the Valley meet on Saturday.*

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*Around the County* is a regular feature of TCOE's *News Gallery Week*. To be considered for this section, Tulare County districts are encouraged to share major student, school, and district achievements and high-resolution photography with Rob Herman, communications director, at [robh@tcoe.org](mailto:robh@tcoe.org).

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## Distance Learning Resources

- [Arts All Around Us](#)
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