

Tulare County
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news
galleryweek

April 6, 2022

SCICON Barbecue & Wildflower Festival set for Sunday, April 10

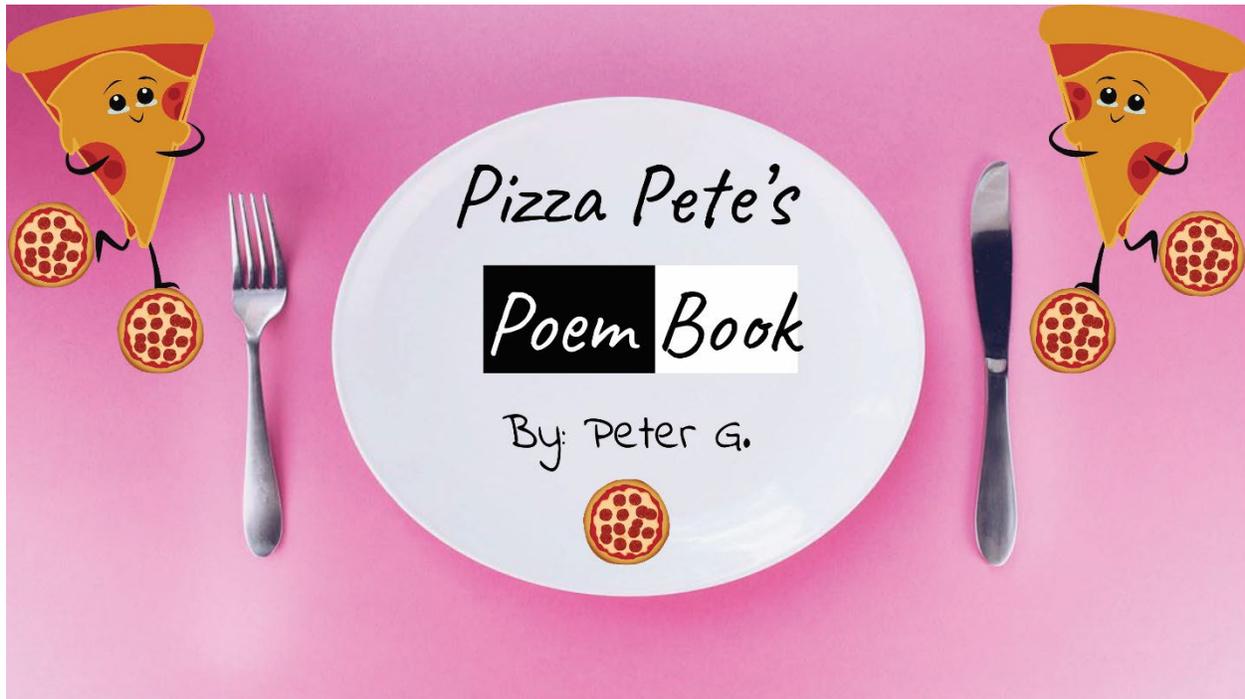


The 60th Annual SCICON Barbecue & Wildflower Festival will be held Sunday, April 10, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. There is no charge to visit the campus or enjoy the numerous activities, including wildflower walks and student entertainment. Visitors can also enjoy tours of the museum and raptor center.

“We are looking forward to having the community back in person for this annual tradition,” said Tim Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools. “We look forward to showing off several improvements to the campus, including the new Rotary outdoor dining area and canopy, which will support our future solar project. Other improvements include the development of a new trail, a new aquatic area with easy access for all students, and the addition of new telescopes at both villages.”

Tickets for the barbecue luncheon are available for \$15 per person for adults, \$10 for seniors over 60, \$10 for current military personnel, and \$10 for children under 12. For more information, visit www.tcoe.org/SCICON, or call (559) 539-2642.

Young Authors Faire now online



Peter, a seventh-grade student at Rockford School in Porterville, adores pizza. Like history's great poets who have written about love, nature, history, and faith, Peter pours his heart into seven works about the baked, cheesy pie. Peter uses acrostic, haiku, cinquain, and free-verse style poems in "Pizza Pete's Poem Book" – one of nearly 50 books in the annual Young Authors' Faire (YAF).

Every year, the Tulare County Office of Education invites students to participate in YAF. The event offers budding writers in grades K-8 an opportunity to showcase their writing and illustration work at the county level and be recognized in a variety of genres. In recent years, the books submitted to the event have been published online.

This year, nearly 100 students from 10 schools developed 48 imaginative books. To enjoy these detailed and well-composed stories, click on the Virtual Book Gallery link at www.tcoe.org/YoungAuthorsFaire.

April celebrates impact of Friday Night Live



April is California Friday Night Live Month. This month celebrates the positive impact the statewide Friday Night Live (FNL) program has had on youth in California for nearly 40 years.

Through FNL programs, youth have been encouraged to advocate for themselves around issues affecting their lives — issues including traffic safety, the availability of drugs and alcohol, and teen gambling.

In 1996, the Tulare County Office of Education competed for and won the state contract to house the California Friday Night Live Partnership (CFNLP) here in Tulare County. From its office in Visalia, the partnership now supports prevention and intervention programs, like CHOICES, in 50 counties in California. Within those 50 counties are nearly 600 chapters in schools, community centers, local agencies, and nonprofit organizations.



In response to the COVID pandemic, the CFNLP started a monthly, virtual FNL Statewide Meeting to maintain connections and let youth and advisors know they are

part of a larger effort in the state. At these meetings, there are guest speakers and highlights from different FNL chapters across the state. This month's meeting will focus on FNL Month, as well as the third annual FNL Advocacy Day on April 22. FNL Advocacy Day is a day devoted to shining a light on FNL programs and current youth-led campaigns throughout the state.

For more information on Friday Night Live, visit www.fridaynightlive.org.

To see the impact of FNL programs on students, click [here](#) to watch a video from students in Riverside County.

Photo above:

~ Students perform for judges during the Friday Night Live Lip Sync Battle in 2018.

Elementary students compete in annual Science Olympiad



The annual Science Olympiad for elementary students wrapped up on Saturday with 13 teams competing in their "build events."

Students launched rockets, floated barges, tested the strength of bridges made from pasta noodles, and catapulted gummy bears. In all, nearly 200 students participated in nine build events.

Prior to the build event competitions, teams took 10 online academic tests involving short response, multiple choice, identification, and drawing. The results from the online tests were combined with the build events scores to determine the winners.

In the 2022 Science Olympiad Division A (grades 3-6), the winners were:

1st (TIE) - Cutler Elementary (Cutler) and Sundale Union (Tulare)

2nd - Oak Grove School (Visalia)

3rd - Golden Valley Elementary (Orosi)

4th - Hurley Elementary (Visalia)

5th - Annie R. Mitchell Elementary (Visalia)



Photos above:

~ Elementary students from 12 Tulare County schools competed in the "build events" portion of the annual Science Olympiad on April 2 at TCOE's Mooney Administration Building.

Career technical competition and event for foster youth held April 1



On the morning of April 1, hundreds of high school students visited the College of the Sequoias (COS) in Visalia for two events that shared a common resource fair.

Over 450 students from 20 Kings and Tulare county high schools competed in the annual Tulare-Kings College & Career EXPO. The EXPO featured 19 career technical and academic competitions – from website design and a business plan pitch to a social media challenge and a culinary competition, where students made eggs Benedict. Competition results are now available at www.tkccc.org/EXPO.

EXPO is a collaboration between the COS Career Technical Education Programs, Tulare County Office of Education's College and Career, Kings County Office of Education, and high school districts in Visalia and Tulare.

Also that morning, foster and homeless youth attended the 15th annual Access to Higher Education event. Organized by TCOE's Foster & Homeless Youth Services, Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency, and College of the Sequoias, Access to High Education was attended by 40 youth and 30 staff members.



Daniel Longoria, a certified drug and alcohol counselor and gang interventionist, was the Access to Higher Education keynote speaker. Longoria explained to the audience, which included 60 additional students at Tulare County Juvenile Detention Facility and community schools watching virtually, that he spent his adolescent years incarcerated. His inspirational speech celebrated the people in his young life that helped him have a second chance, which led to his work in prevention/intervention services.

After Longoria's presentation, students at the Access to Higher Education event toured the COS library and Learning Resource Center, and visited the NextUp, EOPS, and financial aid office to learn about available services.



Following the EXPO competitions and the Access to Higher Education presentations, all students enjoyed an outdoor resource fair which featured booths staffed by a variety of COS programs, community organizations, and other universities.

Photos above:

~ Lindsay High School's Orlando Garcia participates in the Automotive Technology competition at the annual Tulare-Kings College & Career EXPO. Garcia won first place in the competition.

~ Keynote speaker Daniel Longoria addresses the audience at the 15th annual Access to Higher Education event.

~ High school students visit the Porterville College table at the outdoor resource fair that followed the EXPO and Access to Higher Education events at the College of the Sequoias.

Around the County

Dinuba breaks ground for new high school



Community members, district administration, and trustees of the Dinuba Unified School District broke ground yesterday on the site of the new Dinuba High School. The 66-acre campus, located at the corner of Alta and Kamm Avenues, will be built in two phases. The first phase, beginning construction this summer, will include two-story classroom wings, gym, student union with cafeteria and library/media center, a visual and performing arts wing, and career technical education buildings for the school's

Medical Academy, Engineering and Construction Management Academy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Pathway, and Automobile Systems Diagnostic, Service and Repairs program.



Future phases of the new Dinuba High School will include an agriculture farm, performing arts building, aquatics complex, baseball/softball competition complex, soccer fields, stadium, and tennis courts.

The current Dinuba High School building was completed in 1939.

Photos above:

~ Dinuba Unified School District board members and administrators pose for photos at the groundbreaking of the new Dinuba High School. The school will be located at the corner of Alta and Kamm Avenues.

~ A rendering of the front of the new Dinuba High School. The new high school is set to open for the 2024-2025 school year.

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To receive the News Gallery Week, sign up [here](#), or contact Jennifer Fisher at jenniferf@tcoe.org or (559) 733-6172.