

Tulare County  
Office of Education

*Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools*

news  
galleryweek

May 31, 2023

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## Graduations continue this week with four ceremonies



Graduation season is in full swing. This morning, 31 young adults graduated from Special Services AcCEL Programs in Visalia and North County areas, including the Community Based Instruction Programs in Visalia, Exeter, and Dinuba. Their teachers shared that many of the graduates, who complete AcCEL programs at 22 years of age, are transitioning to community-serving adult programs.

Tomorrow, La Sierra Charter School and University Preparatory High School (UPHS) will hold evening graduation ceremonies. The charter schools have senior classes of 37 and 57 respectively.

Among them are four seniors selected to be part of the annual ABC30 “Honored Scholars” program. Each year, the station invites schools from throughout the Valley to submit the names of two outstanding students from their senior classes. The seniors from UPHS are Daniel Mota and Thalia See. Christopher Castaneda and Michelle Barranco represent La Sierra Charter School in the program.



“Daniel and Thalia embody the attributes of the UPHS Crest - Academics, Leadership, and Service,” said Helen Millorn-Feller, Ed.D., the school’s learning director. “Each came to UPHS for the opportunity to take college classes as a high school student. This year especially, they have served as role models to the younger students as they are known for being kind and helpful.”

**Thalia See** finishes UPHS as a salutatorian, completing over 45 college credits at College of the Sequoias. She will continue at the College of the Sequoias this fall to finish all her prerequisites and then plans to transfer to Fresno State to earn her bachelor’s degree in nursing.

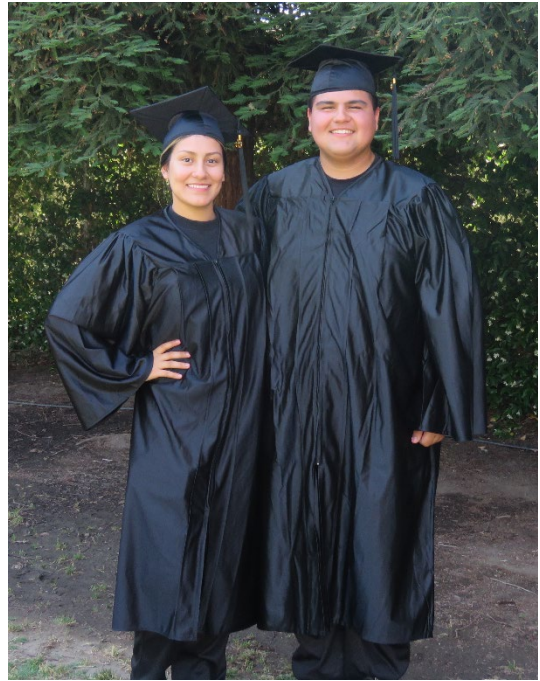
**Daniel Mota** finishes as a UPHS salutatorian, having earned two associate’s degrees from College of the Sequoias – one in liberal arts education and the other in Spanish. He will be attending Fresno Pacific University in the fall to study software engineering.

Additionally, five other UPHS seniors have obtained at least one associate’s degree from College of the Sequoias. Those seniors are **Austraya Guerrero** (three associate’s degrees), **Savannah Gasca**, **Sophia Llaneta**, **Isabella Valles-Lizarraga**, and **Tavii Garcia**. All UPHS seniors will be attending college in the fall with one taking a gap year.



La Sierra Charter School will graduate 37 seniors tomorrow – 25 from the La Sierra Military Academy (LSMA) and 12 from the Independent Study Program.

An ABC30 Honored Scholar, **Christopher Castaneda**, “exemplifies what it means to be a La Sierra Military Academy cadet,” said his principal, Jose Bedolla. During his four years at LSMA, Castaneda has been honored for his GPA, attendance, and has received the CHARACTER COUNTS! Award on multiple occasions. Castaneda also earned the rank of captain and was the 31<sup>st</sup> Regimental Commander of LSMA as part of the California Cadet Corps. As a leader, Captain Castaneda was a basic training boot camp instructor for multiple summers.



**Michelle Barranco** has been at the top of her class all four years at LSMA, excelling in all areas of study, earning countless GPA awards, perfect attendance, and multiple CHARACTER COUNTS! Awards. Cadet Barranco holds the position of communication officer at LSMA. She will be attending College of the Sequoias in the fall, majoring in administration of justice.

### **2023 Tulare County Office of Education and Charter School Graduation and Promotion Ceremonies**

Thursday, June 1, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.

La Sierra Military Academy Junior High School Graduation, 1735 E. Houston, Visalia

Thursday, June 1, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

University Preparatory High School Graduation, Fox Theatre, 308 W. Main St., Visalia

Thursday, June 1, 2003 @ 7:00 p.m.

La Sierra Military Academy High School and Independent Study Graduation, 1735 E. Houston, Visalia

Friday, June 2, 2023 @ 3:00 p.m.

Court/Community School Graduation, TCOE's Redwood Conference Center, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia

Tuesday, June 6, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.

Tulare AcCEL Programs Graduations, City of Tulare Parks and Recreation Building, 830 S. Blackstone St., Tulare

Photos above:

~ Graduates and their family and friends gathered for photos and snacks after the Visalia/North County AcCEL graduation ceremony Wednesday.

~ (l-r) UPHS senior Thalia See and Daniel Mota were included in ABC30's "Honored Scholars" program this year. The spots that feature Central Valley graduates will begin running on the station in late June.

~ Six University Preparatory High School (UPHS) seniors earned one or more associate's degree through the school's dual enrollment program with the College of the Sequoias.

~ (l-r) La Sierra Military Academy seniors Michelle Barranco and Christopher Castaneda were also included in the ABC30 "Honored Scholars" program.

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## Around the County

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### Tulare Western's Jose Soto places second at state



Tulare Western High School's Jose Soto was Tulare County's lone state medalist at Saturday's CIF State Track and Field Championships in Clovis. Soto placed second in shot put with a throw of 60 feet and 7.25 inches – a Tulare Western school record.

Prior to his second-place finish at state, Soto took first in the West Yosemite League, Central Section Division II, and Central Section Masters Championship meets.

At the Central Section Masters championship, El Diamante's Jazper Malone also won a Masters title. Malone placed first in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 39.27 seconds.

For more track and field results, visit [athletic.net](http://athletic.net).

Photo above:

*Tulare Western High School's Jose Soto points after being awarded second place in boys shot put at the CIF State Track and Field Championships Saturday in Clovis. Photo by Fresno Sports Magazine*

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## Woodlake baseball wins Central Section Championship



Last Saturday, Woodlake High School baseball won the Central Section Division VI Championship with a 7-0 win over No. 8 Orange Cove at Valley Strong Ballpark in Visalia. It's the program's first section championship since 1982.

Seeded sixth in the Division VI tournament, Woodlake began its run for a title with a 6-1 win over No. 11 Riverdale and 9-2 win over No. 3 Mendota in the first and second rounds, respectively. In the semifinals, Woodlake defeated No. 2 Kern Valley 6-5.

Earning the sixth seed again for the CIF Southern California Regional Division V Championship tournament, Woodlake's season came to an end Tuesday in the first round of the tournament with an 11-0 loss to No. 3 Ganesha (19-0) of Pomona.

Woodlake finished the season with a 20-9 overall record.

Photo above:

*Woodlake High School baseball team celebrates after defeating Orange Cove 7-0 to win the CIF Central Section Division VI Championship Saturday at Valley Strong Ballpark in Visalia.*

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