

Tulare County
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news
galleryweek

October 23, 2024

Tulare County Red Ribbon Celebration takes place tomorrow



The annual Tulare County Red Ribbon Celebration is tomorrow, Thursday, October 24 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at Valley Strong Ballpark, located at 300 N. Giddings St. in Visalia.

The Tulare County Red Ribbon Celebration allows students and families to participate in safe, educational, and fun activities without the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs. In addition, the event will be a showcase of positive choices and opportunities for the youth of the Valley.

The first 250 students (with food vouchers) will receive a complimentary meal of a hot dog, chips, and soda. ESPES 2 GO and Don Gummy will also be at the event for those wanting to make food purchases.

During the event, attendees will be treated to performances by BMX Freestylers, Golden West High School and Redwood High School ProYouth afterschool dance teams, and music from HITZ 104.9. T-shirts will also be given away.

Thirty booths will be on-site, including the California Highway Patrol, CAL FIRE, Tulare County Sheriff's Office, Tulare Police Department, Galaxy Theatres, Tulare County Fire Department, Mending Fences, Community Services Employment Training (CSET), Porterville College, Tulare County Public Health, Visalia Unified School District, Family Services of Tulare County, and United Way.

The Red Ribbon Celebration is a partnership between the Tulare County Office of Education, the Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency, and a myriad of other county and city resources.

Students, educators meet to continue the work of Youth-Adult Equity

Last week, students and educators from Alpaugh High School, Monson-Sultana Joint Union School, Oroshi High School, and Pixley Middle School participated in the Youth-Adult Equity (YAE) project to learn ways to address issues affecting school climate. Students analyzed and discussed school climate data to better understand their school environments. Each school left



with clear action steps, ensuring that students and adults collaborate on addressing the issues they identified throughout the remainder of the school year.

Funded by a CalHOPE grant, YAE seeks to involve students and adults alike in shaping school climate. Recognizing that decisions Affecting school operations are often made without true input from students, families, and communities, YAE facilitates intergenerational sessions where students and adults work together to address inequitable practices in their schools, thus rethinking the educational hierarchy of adults teaching and students learning. During these sessions, students and adults work collaboratively to discover inequities in their schools and to develop plans to address them.

For information on the work of YAE, contact Jared Marr at jared.marr@tcoe.org.

California Friday Night Live Partnership hosts its largest Youth Summit



Over the weekend, nearly 1,000 young people from 43 California counties attended the annual Friday Night Live (FNL) Youth Summit in Anaheim. Created and run by the California Friday Night Live Partnership's (CFNLP) California Youth Council (CYC), the event was designed to inspire attendees to make positive changes in their communities.

The CYC is a group of 16 young people who have been elevated by their local FNL chapter to work with the CFNLP at the state level. Throughout the year, the council works on a number of initiatives and provides trainings for youth and adult partners across the state, but the FNL Youth Summit is their largest project. Council members worked alongside CFNLP staff to identify keynote speakers, finalize the event graphics, and vet the workshops that were chosen. CFNLP training coordinator Azulie Wilson shared that council members were also on stage throughout the event sharing their FNL experiences, introducing keynote speakers, and leading activities.

The event featured 26 workshops on a variety of issues, including social-emotional learning, tobacco use prevention, and vaping, cannabis education, general prevention

strategies for FNL work, inclusivity and belonging, underage gambling awareness, multi-media use, PSA development, and leadership skill-building. Wilson reported that 75% of the workshops were youth-led. The remainder were conducted by FNL partners, including California Highway Patrol, Leading to Change, University of California, Los Angeles, San Diego State University, and NICOS Chinese Health Coalition.

The event also features keynote presentations from Shaun Derik, a motivational speaker who spoke about the power of youth voice; Alphabet Rockers, Grammy Award-winning recording artists who work to create art and music focused on advocacy and social change; Dr. Roberto Rivera, who spoke on mental wellbeing; and David Garibaldi, a performance painter.

Now celebrating its 40th year, CFNLP is housed at the Tulare County Office of Education and active in 53 counties. The partnership is a statewide youth development program that provides young people with the opportunity to serve as active leaders and resources in their communities.

Community Schools team helps local district explore options for new community school



Last week, Pleasant View School brought together students, families, community members, staff, and administrators for an inspiring retreat at SCICON, TCOE's school of outdoor education. The gathering served as a platform for Pleasant View to share its

plans to apply for the California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) Cohort 4 Implementation Grant and transform their school into a community school.

As part of this transformation, Pleasant View hopes to identify a group of individuals – which it calls “ambassadors” – within the school and community to represent a diverse range of perspectives and experiences. Ambassadors will help identify needs and contribute to the development of strategies to address them.

With help from the TCOE Community Schools Team and Lisa Lemus, a Leadership Support Services administrator, attendees learned about the community schools strategy and the vital role that ambassadors will assume at Pleasant View.

In addition to learning about community schools, participants explored components of social-emotional learning, engaged in team-building activities, and enjoyed the beautiful fall weather outdoors.

At the conclusion of the event, attendees expressed their gratitude for the experience and, without being prompted, enthusiastically committed to becoming ambassadors. Pleasant View considers this retreat a success and looks forward to recreating the experience with ambassadors organizing and leading the next event.

For schools interested in becoming a community school, the opportunity to apply for the fourth and final round of state CCSPP funding will be made available the last week of October. Schools can receive awards of up to \$500,000 per year for five years with the possibility of a two-year extension. Interested schools can contact John Davis at john.davis@tcoe.org for more information and support in preparing the application.

Around the County

Porterville Unified School District celebrates 150 years of Citrus South Tule School

Porterville Unified School District celebrated the 150th anniversary of [Citrus South Tule School](#) with a ceremony that brought together former students, district staff, and community members.

Opened in 1874 as a one-room school, Citrus South Tule served families on the outskirts of Porterville and Springville until it lapsed to Porterville Unified School District (PUSD) in 2015 due to low enrollment. Under PUSD, Citrus South Tule became a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) campus featuring a [Future Ready Lab / Qualcomm® Thinkabit Lab™](#) and [Garner Holt AniMakerspace Lab](#).



Friday's ceremony showcased the remodeled schoolhouse as well as its impact on past and present students. PUSD's care for the campus meant that some former students could even see their names on the well-preserved, original chalkboard. On the other hand, students from nine of the district's 14 pathways participated in the event. Students from Monache High School's Environmental Science Academy shared how they designed a portion of the campus landscape. Students from Granite Hills High School's CODE pathway and Harmony Magnet Academy's Academy of Engineering talked about their experience with the AniMakerspace Lab and its impact.

Also unveiled at the event was a Legacy Wall that former students, community members, and partners donated to. PUSD Pathways said the black bricks are inspired by the black granite quarry next to the schoolhouse.



For more on Citrus South Tule's 150th anniversary,

visit pathways.portervilleschools.org/apps/pages/CST150.

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