

Tulare County
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news
galleryweek

April 10, 2024

39th annual Poetry & Prose is the event's largest



TCOE's 39th annual Poetry & Prose ON-STAGE event is back and bigger than ever! Nearly 2,000 students from 117 schools in Tulare, Kings, and Fresno counties will conduct 840 performances over a six-day span.

Today was the first day of sessions for the oral interpretation program. The event will occur again on April 11, 12, 16, 18, and 19 at the TCOE administration building. The public is welcome to attend.

Sessions will be held:

Thursday, April 11 – 9:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

Friday, April 12 – 9:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 16 – 9:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 18 – 9:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Friday, April 19 – 9:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Poetry & Prose was created to bolster students' confidence, creativity, performance, and language skills. Students, grades K-8, prepare poems or dramatic readings and perform either individually or in small groups in English or Spanish. The poems can be from poets such as popular children's writers Shel Silverstein or Jack Prelutsky, or written by the students themselves.

Judges provide positive and instructional critiques as they evaluate each performance. There are nine areas which students are judged on, which include memorization and accuracy, posture and eye contact, voice quality, meaningful gestures and expressions, and more. The judges' sheets are later given to teachers so they can be reviewed with their students.

Afterwards, a select number of students are chosen to perform their poems in front of the entire crowd before personalized achievement certificates honoring the students' performances are handed out.

Photo above:

~ A student performs during the 38th annual Poetry & Prose ON-STAGE in 2023. This year's event spans April 10, 11, 12, 16, 18, and 19 at the TCOE administration building in Visalia.

Students enjoy Stars in the Hills prom in Porterville

On Saturday, over 100 high school students and young adults attended the 19th Annual Stars in the Hills prom at Granite Hills High School in Porterville. The event is a treasured tradition for students with special needs from the Porterville area. This year, students and young adults attended from Granite Hills High School, Monache High School, Porterville High School, Strathmore High School, Summit Collegiate High School, and the Community Based Instruction classrooms operated by the Tulare County Office of Education.

The Porterville Breakfast Rotary and students in Interact Clubs from Porterville's high schools organize the event. Dozens of community volunteers and businesses also work each year to collect donated dresses and shoes, help with alterations, and arrange the flowers, food, entertainment, and decorations to create a magical evening for attendees. John Hasson of Tux-N-Tails Visalia provided the tuxedos and suits. Kaylor Landscaping provided the lighting for the outdoor venue on the Granite Hills High School campus, known as the Pyramid. Other supporters included Porterville Military Academy cadets, Imperial Ambulance, and Simplot Growers Solutions.



Members of the Barn Theater, and local hairdressers and manicurists volunteered their time Saturday morning to ensure the girls had their hair and nails done, and the boys received haircuts. The Promoting Self Worth adult program provided a party bus to transport the students to the event, while first responders from Porterville city police and fire departments and CalFire greeted the guests. Students received corsages and boutonnieres, as well as keepsakes from Monache's PIVET Club. Adrian Cloyd returned as DJ for the event.

During the event, students graduating from their programs were crowned as kings and queens.

“Porterville Breakfast Rotary looked for a way to make our community a better place in 2004,” said Janice Castle, a member of club. “We discovered that intellectually- and developmentally-disabled students did not attend the high school proms and were missing out on one of life's memory milestones. We decided to fill that need and create a prom environment that would be enticing to them – a place where they are the ‘stars,’ and where their families and teachers are included, along with their favorite foods, music, and of course, all their friends. It’s been a tremendous success. We will continue to give back and make a difference in our community.”

Around the County

Exeter FFA places first in state competition



The National FFA Agriscience Fair recognizes students who gain real-world, hands-on experiences in agricultural enterprises. Students use scientific principles and emerging technologies to solve complex problems related to agriculture, food, and natural resources. The agriscience fair is for middle and high school students. Participation begins at the local level and progresses to state and national levels. There are six categories and six divisions that students can compete in.

This year, Exeter FFA had two middle school students complete an agriscience project that tested different cleaning methods on greenhouse emitters. These students completed a research paper, conducted an experiment, collected data, and reported their findings. Clarisa Alvarado and Julia Cibrian placed first in their division of Environmental Service Systems at the California State FFA Leadership Conference. They were additionally recognized as the top project out of all middle school projects submitted. They will be submitting their project for national consideration later this spring in hopes of competing at the National FFA Convention in October.

Photo above:

~ Clarisa Alvarado (l) and Julia Cibrian (r) of Wilson Middle School in Exeter pose with awards they received at the California State FFA Leadership Conference. Their

agriscience project was selected as the top project in the Environmental Service Systems category and best overall for all middle school entries.

Redwood senior chosen for prestigious Edison Scholars award



Adam Hacker, a senior at Redwood High School in Visalia, was recently chosen to receive a \$50,000 scholarship from Southern California Edison through the Edison Scholars Program. According to their website (<https://energized.edison.com/2024-edison-scholars>), the Edison Scholars Program recognizes students who want to be makers of tomorrow — the dreamers, inventors, guardians, and pioneers — those who dare to be great. Each year, the utility company provides \$50,000 scholarships to 30 seniors statewide.

In a video application on the website, Hacker describes his quest to advance his computer science studies while in high school. To gain exposure to the classes he sought, Hacker had to complete the prerequisites for dual enrollment at College of the Sequoias. By pursuing a degree in computer science, he hopes to develop new educational opportunities utilizing AI and virtual reality, making it easier for high school students in the Central Valley to pursue STEM-related studies.

Hacker received early acceptance to the University of California, Berkeley, where he plans to study electrical engineering and computer science. He is the first member of his family to attend college.

Editor: [Robert Herman](#), Communications Director

Contributors: Nayirah Dosu, Marlene Moreno, Jennifer Fisher, Brook Killingsworth,
Jonathan Zaino

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