

Tulare County  
Office of Education

*Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools*

news  
galleryweek

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## Redwood High School repeats as Tulare County Mock Trial champions



Redwood High School is once again the champions of Tulare County Mock Trial!

Redwood Silver Team defeated Golden West High School in the finals held Tuesday at the Granite Hills High School Legal Justice Center in Porterville. This year, Redwood (Visalia) entered two teams in the annual competition.

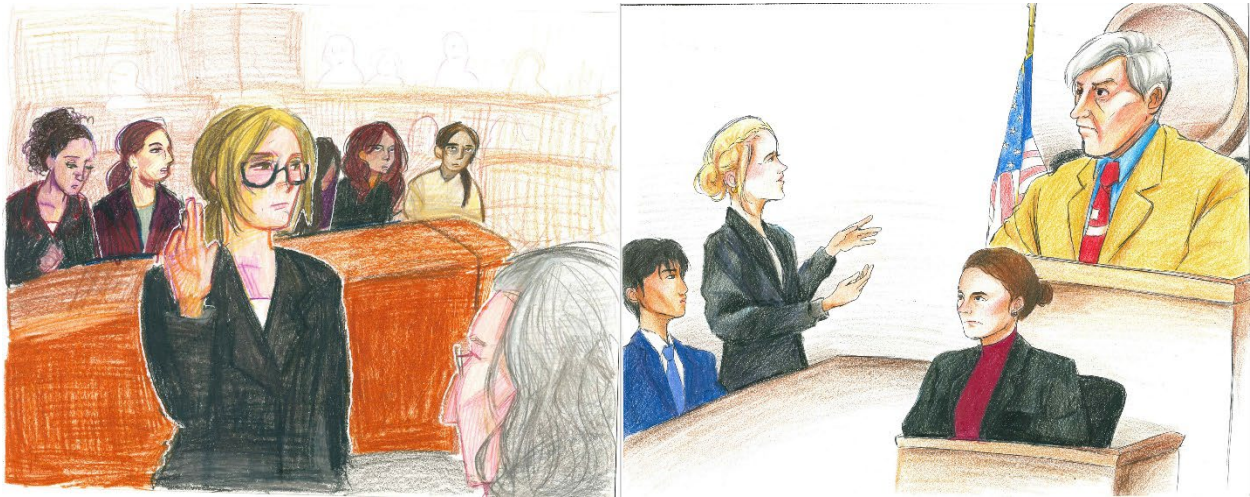
Redwood's winning team was comprised of Pricilla Andrew, Gurmun Bains, Esther Calderon, Alina Cervantes-Lopez, Camila Chavez, McKenzie Chavez, Thai Dinh, Amelia Fultz, Morgan Kane, Yong Lee, Susana Perez, Emma Prouty, Indira Renkema, Hector Robledo, Michael Rodriguez, Briana Romo, Haliegh Sasin, Chloe Seals, Evan Silva, Elsa Wendt, and Isabelle Wu.

Redwood was coached by Tina Moran and Paul Freeborn, with assistance from attorney coaches Andre Gaston, Peter Park, Josh Fox, Sara Allen, Edward Cobian Pinto, Zackery Michaelson, and Doug Fulmer.

This year's case was *People v. Gold*, and for the finals Redwood acted as the defense while Golden West was the prosecution. *People v. Gold* is the trial of Logan Gold, assistant campaign manager to their spouse, Harper Dorais, who is a candidate for city council in the rural mountain town of Emerald Bend, California. Gold is charged with the kidnapping of Taylor Alexander, a rival candidate to Dorais in the city council election.

Also announced as winners following the Mock Trial Finals were the winners of the courtroom artists competition and the courtroom journalist competition.

In the courtroom artists competition, the winning artists advancing to the state competition are Wen He and Isabelle Wu of Redwood High School.



The winning courtroom journalist advancing to the state competition is [Trinity Elliot](#) of Exeter Union High School.

The state competition will be held March 14-16 in Los Angeles.

For the complete list of winners and their winning works, visit [tcoe.org/MockTrial/Results](http://tcoe.org/MockTrial/Results).

Photos above:

~ Redwood High School poses for pictures after winning the Tulare County Mock Trial competition on Tuesday, February 11.

~ Winning courtroom artist pieces by Wen He (left) and Isabelle Wu (right) of Redwood High School (Visalia).

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## School Safety Program to host first School Safety Symposium March 5



Registration is now open for TCOE's first School Safety Symposium. Scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, the full-day conference will feature a number of nationally known speakers on the subject of school safety.

The conference will begin with a keynote presentation from Kristina Anderson, founder and executive director of the Koshka Foundation for Safe Schools. She started the non-profit after surviving the 2007 Virginia Tech school tragedy, where she was shot three times. Anderson is also co-founder of LiveSafe, a mobile technology communication platform for sharing safety-related information. It is used by over 100 college campuses, as well as corporations and hospitals.

In the afternoon, attendees will hear from Nicole Hockley, co-founder and co-CEO of Sandy Hook Promise. In the aftermath of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, which claimed the life of her youngest son, Dylan, Hockley created Sandy Hook Promise Foundation to educate and empower youth and adults to prevent violence in schools, homes, and communities. Under her leadership, the research-driven Know The Signs violence prevention programs were created and are now available to schools at no cost. More than 31 million have participated in these life-saving programs in

34,000+ schools and youth organizations nationwide. As a result, countless acts of violence have been averted – including at least 16 planned school attacks.

The conference will feature breakout sessions with presentations conducted by members of Sandy Hook Promise, TCOE's School Safety Program, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Tulare County District Attorney and Tulare County Probation departments, retired Aztec High School (New Mexico) superintendent Kirk Carpenter, and Association of Threat Assessment Professionals president Dave Okada.

For more information and to register, visit [tcoe.org/SchoolSafetySymposium](http://tcoe.org/SchoolSafetySymposium).  
Registration closes February 28.

Photo above:

~ (l-r) Kristen Anderson and Nicole Hockley are two of the keynote speakers at the first annual School Safety Symposium.

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## Poetry Live! held, two champions crowned



On Friday, students wowed an audience at the annual Poetry Live! competition. Students competed in two separate county finals at the Arts Consortium in Visalia — Poetry Out Loud and Poet's Own Voice.

Those in the Poetry Out Loud event recited poems they chose from the national organization's vast collection of historic and modern works. Yarezly Navarro of Mission Oak High School in Tulare was declared the winner of Poetry Out Loud. She will advance to the state championship in Sacramento. In second place was Carlos Avila of Tulare Union High School. Emilia Covarrubias of Monache High School in Porterville placed third.

Those in the Poet's Own Voice event recited their own works for a chance to be named Tulare County Youth Poet Laureate. Caydince Huston of Summit Collegiate High School won the competition and was crowned Youth Poet Laureate. Victorya Hunt placed second with Alexea Rojo Andrade in third. Both students also attend Summit Collegiate High School in Porterville.

Poetry Live! is a partnership with the Arts Consortium.

For information on starting a Poet's Own Voice (grades 6-12), Poetry Live (grades 9-12), or Poetry Live Junior (grades 6-8) competition at your school, visit [tcoe.org/PoetryLive](http://tcoe.org/PoetryLive) or contact Paula Terrill at [paula.terrell@tcoe.org](mailto:paula.terrell@tcoe.org).

Photo above:

~ The winners in the annual Poetry Live! Competition are (l-r) Yarezly Navarro (Poetry Out Loud champion) and Caydince Huston (Poet's Own Voice champion and Tulare County Junior Poet Laureate).

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## Visalia students recognized for Pursuing Victory with Honor in winter sports



In partnership with the Downtown Visalia Kiwanis, TCOE's CHARACTER COUNTS! Program celebrated this winter's Pursuing Victory with Honor (PVWH) student-athletes at a lunch on Tuesday. The Downtown Visalia Kiwanis recognizes student-athletes, nominated by their coaches, each season for their sportsmanship. The awards included a certificate, patch, and lawn sign that reads "An Athlete of Character Lives Here."

Below is a list of the Pursuing Victory with Honor award winners along with snippets (edited for brevity) from their coaches.

### **Central Valley Christian High School**

**Ally Lane** – girls basketball: Ally leads by example, always giving her best effort and encouraging those around her. While she is an amazing basketball player on the court, she is an even better person off of it. Her dedication, humility and respect for others makes it such a joy to coach her.

**Jay Lemstra** – boys soccer: Jay has always demonstrated a positive attitude on and off the field. He is a leader and an example for his teammates and is the first one cheering for every single one of them. He can adapt to whatever position we need him in with a positive attitude and strong work ethic.

### **El Diamante High School**

**Kaylee Rivera** – girls basketball: Kaylee Rivera is very hard working on the court and in the classroom. Kaylee not only pushes herself but her teammates to be the best they can be on the court, in the classroom, and in the community. We are proud to have Kaylee as a student-athlete in our program.

**Daniel Berrocales** – boys wrestling: Daniel is a leader on and off the mat. He is someone you can rely on to help his teammates. He is a positive role model for others. Always one of the first to practice and one of the last ones to leave. Daniel is a leader and has an exemplary attitude.

### **Golden West High School**

**Estrella Sanchez** – girls soccer: Estrella Sanchez is a disciplined, dependable, and selfless athlete. Her resilience and consistency make her a reliable teammate. Her commitment to the team earns her the respect and admiration of those around her. She's the kind of athlete every coach and team wants. She is a true professional in attitude and effort.

**Matthew Caballero** – boys soccer: Beside being an excellent soccer player, he is an impressive young man who treats both peers and coaches with respect. Furthermore, he is a hardworking, humble individual who plays soccer with intensity but under

complete emotional control. He is an excellent role model for the younger players in the program.

### **Mt. Whitney High School**

**Isabella Brensel** – girls wrestling: Her dedication, relentless work ethic, and passion for the sport have propelled her to new heights, earning the respect of both her teammates and coaches. Beyond her athletic accomplishments, Isabella is a true leader. Her ability to uplift those around her and inspire others through her actions makes her a valued teammate and role model.

**Isaac Woods** – boys wrestling: As a four-year varsity wrestler, Isaac has consistently demonstrated leadership, respect, and responsibility, serving as a role model for his teammates. He competes with determination and always pursues victory with honor, embodying the core values of the sport. His work ethic and leadership have left a lasting impact on the program, inspiring those around him.

### **Redwood High School**

**Ruby Beal** – girls soccer: Ruby Beal is a coach's dream. She is an incredibly tough and hard-working individual, but more importantly she is also a compassionate and caring teammate. She is universally loved by the girls that have had the privilege of playing with her. They know in Ruby they have someone who will always have their backs.

**Johnny Benitez** – boys wrestling: What sets Johnny Benitez apart from the rest is his respect for others. He treats his fellow athletes, coaches, and opponents with the utmost respect. This quality not only makes him a pleasure to work with but also sets a positive example for his peers. His ability to handle challenges gracefully is a testament to his character.

For complete descriptions of the student-athletes as submitted by their coaches, click [here](#).

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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.