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November 2023

Clovis Unified School District — DEVELOPING STUDENTS IN MIND, BODY & SPIRIT Volume 26, No. 4

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BUILDING FOR TOMORROW

Work underway on new educational center in southeast area – phased opening scheduled to begin Fall 2025

Clovis Unified School District got out the hardhats and golden shovels for a groundbreaking celebration Oct. 17 that marked the official start of construction on the district's next comprehensive educational center. The Terry P. Bradley Educational Center will be home to the future Clovis South High School and a yet-to-be-named intermediate school that will have a phased opening starting Fall 2025.

Student performers and honored guests attended the event as did center namesake Terry P. Bradley, Ed.D., who served the district for 34 years in several business and financial roles that culminated in his superintendency from 2002 to 2009. His legacy of fiscal responsibility while still building first-class facilities and his dedication to doing what's best for students remain guiding principles throughout the district.

Bradley said he is humbled by the honor and excited knowing the center will be built and operated with Clovis Unified's vision of serving students and meeting the standards of excellence that were established by founding superintendent Floyd Buchanan, Ed.D.

Speakers at the ceremony gave Bradley credit for solidifying those standards into the district's ongoing culture and making them a vital part of all district decisions to put kids first.

"It's not just me. It's the thousands of people who work for Clovis Unified. They just named the facility after me," he said, noting it has always been the people who make the difference and positive impact on the lives of students.

Located in the burgeoning southeast corner of the district at the Highland and Clinton avenues alignment, the educational center will ease current overcrowding at schools in that area and provide space for expected future student enrollment growth. School attendance boundaries have yet to be developed, and public meetings and discussions on those will begin in January.

The Bradley Center will have a few new features among Clovis Unified schools, like putting its main support resources in one building – administration, nursing, library – that will serve both schools. It will also have the district's first sunken football field and gymnasium.

"This is an exciting time in Clovis Unified as we mark the beginning of an entirely new school area anchored by this center," said Assistant Superintendent of the Clovis South Area Stephanie Hanks. "It's also a wonderful tribute to Dr. Bradley, a district leader whose expertise with finances and facilities helped shape our district into what it is today. We will honor him in years to come by remaining focused on our core values of putting students first, valuing our employees and enhancing our community partnerships."



Clovis Unified officials including retired Superintendent Terry P. Bradley, Ed.D., top photo, pictured second from left, and current Superintendent Corrine Folmer, Ed.D., left, take part in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Terry P. Bradley Educational Center that is under construction in the district's southeast area near Highland and Clinton avenue alignments. Dr. Bradley, photo at left, who served in positions of business and finance prior to his superintendency, is credited for his fiscal responsibility while still building first-class facilities that would serve students. Pictured at right, a chair on the stage of the ceremony reserved for the late, founding Superintendent Floyd "Doc" Buchanan, Ed.D., that held Doc's hat paid tribute to his legacy of always putting children first. Below, a rendering shows the entryway of the new center.

Photos by Kendra Burt, Patti Lippert/CUSD Today



Name approved

It's official. Clovis Unified's next high school will be called Clovis South High School, following approval of the name by the Governing Board Sept. 20. The school will be part of the Terry P. Bradley Educational Center that will also be home to a new, yet-to-be-named intermediate school. The center is planned to open Fall 2025 for grades 7 to 9. An additional grade level will be added each year until it is complete. Attendance boundaries will be established next spring.

Get involved

Watch for future updates about the Terry P. Bradley Center timeline, community meetings, attendance boundary proposals, naming of the intermediate school, selection of mascots, school colors, and much more at cud.com.

Clovis Unified student Courtlin Pulliam spoke at a World War II remembrance ceremony as a guest of honor because of her school History Day project. The connections she made while researching her topic led to the invitation to come to France this Fall.

Photo special to CUSD Today.



Student project leads to invitation overseas

Kastner teen is guest of honor at World War II remembrance

Kastner Intermediate student Courtlin Pulliam was the guest of honor in France this fall at remembrance ceremonies of a World War II resistance movement that she had researched for her History Day project.

The unexpected once-in-a-lifetime experience was two years in the making when, then as a Fort Washington Elementary student, Courtlin selected Andrée de Jongh and the Comète Line as her project topic. De Jongh was a 24-year-old Belgian nurse who founded the Comète Line, a group that rescued Allied Air Force pilots who had been shot down in Nazi-occupied Belgium and France. Courtlin won 1st Place in the Fresno County History Day competition for her work

that involved extensive research and corresponding with relatives and members of the Comète Line Historical Society in Europe. The Society, which published Courtlin's project in their newsletter, stayed in touch with their American friend, and invited her to France to take part in several events this fall.

During Courtlin's whirlwind weekend in France, she attended a memorial ceremony in Saint Jean de Luz and met a former member of the Comète Line resistance group (who was 15 during the war and smuggled messages hidden in bread past enemy forces). She also traveled to Anglet and met with the mayor, participated in a formal Comète Line Memorial ceremony and gave a speech alongside the Comète Line Association

► Please see *Courtlin*, Page 10



California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress

State scores provide insights into student learning, help to establish more strategies

In the wake of the state's release in October of the 2023 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) results, Clovis Unified educators are analyzing the data and using the information to shape classroom instruction on a student-by-student basis.

"While our Clovis Unified students continue to perform above the county and state averages, and we have seen some classrooms make great gains, we are not where we want to be as a district with respect to our overall districtwide CAASPP results," said Superintendent Corrine Folmer, Ed.D. of the district's overall results.

In English Language Arts (ELA), 66.18% of students in Clovis Unified scored at or above proficiency level (state average is 46.66% in ELA); and in math, 51.02% of students were at or above grade level proficiency (state average is 34.62% in math).

"There is no doubt that our team of incredible educators are working hard to overcome obstacles to learning, and we are using this

“Some of our schools saw student achievement grow by anywhere from 15-22% at certain grade levels.”

– Superintendent Corrine Folmer, Ed.D.

data to drill down to look student-by-student at how it can inform instruction in the current school year," Folmer said. "Some of our schools saw student achievement grow by anywhere from 15-22% at certain grade levels. We must now work together to replicate that level of achievement across every grade level and school in our district."

This fall, the district has been conducting school-by-school reviews of the data, and each school site leader is engaged in a process

► Please see *Scores*, Page 10

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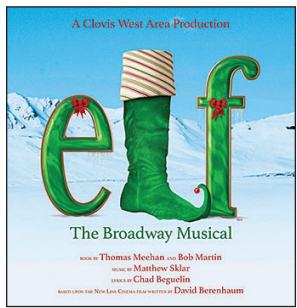
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► Announcements

Election change update

The Clovis Unified Governing Board trustee election process will be changing to shift elections from an at-large voter election, to one where a trustee for an area is voted on by residents of only that area. The board held five public hearings, which concluded in October, about the proposed change and trustee map, and the board's approved recommendation was directed to the Fresno County Committee on School District Organization for its review. The county entity voted Nov. 1 to approve the change and trustee map. The changes to Clovis Unified process will take effect beginning in the next board trustee election in November 2024. For updates, see cUSD.com.

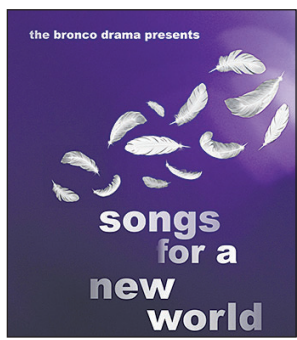
'Elf - The Musical' in November



Let the holiday season begin! Clovis West will be performing "Elf - The Musical" this month, putting to song and dance the beloved tale of Buddy, a young orphan who crawls into Santa's bag and mistakenly grows up believing he is an elf... even though he is much taller and is not any good at making toys!

The production is rated PG and will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 9-11 and 16-18, and at 2 p.m. Nov. 11 and 18, at the Mercedes Edwards Theatre, 902 Fifth St., Clovis. For information and tickets: www.cwhsdrama.weebly.com.

'Songs of a New World,' by CN



Clovis North's Bronco Drama will present "Songs for a New World," which shares unrelated stories that speak to hardship, resilience and choices made - from the deck of a Spanish sailing ship heading to a new land, to a poor young man dreaming of becoming a famous basketball player.

The show will be held at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 2 and 7-9, and at 2 p.m. Dec. 2 and 9 at Dan Pessano Theater, 2770 E. International Ave., Fresno. For information and tickets: thebroncodrama.com.

College financial aid window, workshops

Seniors planning on attending any college in the fall of 2024 should prepare to submit their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or CADAA (California Dream Act Application) online. Through the documents, students can learn if they are eligible for financial aid.

There are major changes and improvements coming to the 2024-25 FAFSA form. As a result, the new form will be available in December 2023 (and not on Oct. 1 as in years past). Changes to the FAFSA form for the 2024-25 school

Huskies host California's top justices

Two state judicial leaders recently visited Maple Creek Elementary to present the school's 2023 California Civic Award of Excellence: Supreme Court of California Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero and Presiding Justice of Court of Appeal Brad Hill of the Fifth Appellate District.

The Huskies' Civic Leadership students led a presentation to the justices during the visit. Maple Creek Elementary teachers also spoke about the civic learning programs and lessons happening on campus, including the Positivity Project and the Collaborative Mentoring program.

"This award represents all of your hard work, and that starts with each of you as an individual but working collectively with your classmates," said Chief Justice Guerrero as she congratulated students and presented a plaque



to Principal Gina Kismet.

Kismet praised her entire team. "This award has to do with our students and all of the good work that they do, and it has to do with our wonderful teachers and advisors who pour themselves into these programs, find things



they like, build them up, and launch them."

Maple Creek was announced earlier this year as the only elementary school in California to receive the 2023 Civic Award of Excellence. Congratulations Huskies, on this exceptional honor.

year includes expanded eligibility for federal student aid and a more streamlined application process.

As a senior student, what can you do in the meantime? Make sure to create your StudentAid.gov account and record your username and password so you can access and submit the 2024-25 FAFSA form when it becomes available.

Because of the FAFSA form release delay this year, the Cal Grant deadline has been extended this school year to April 2, 2024 (not March 2).

FAFSA is not just for low-income students and should be completed by all students planning to attend a community college for either a career certificate or transfer degree and by all students planning to attend a four-year university. The application will also be used for college scholarship information and many student athletes are asked to complete the application. Starting last year, applying for the FAFSA is mandatory for all seniors, however, students/parents can also choose to complete a FAFSA waiver form. Contact your high school counselor for more information.

Clovis Unified high schools will be holding workshops to assist families in completing the FAFSA. They are: Buchanan High, Dec. 18, Jan. 31, March 20; Clovis East High, Dec. 12, Jan. 16 and March 19; Clovis High, Jan. 29, Feb. 26 and March 13; Clovis North High, March 4; and Clovis West High, Dec. 18, Jan. 17 and 29, Feb. 5 and 13, and March 18.

Links, information and workshop dates/times are available through the CUSD high school counseling centers' websites. The FAFSA online application can be found when available at <https://studentaid.gov>.

CUSD holiday closures

Clovis Unified schools will be closed Nov. 10 for Veterans Day; the week of Nov. 20 through 24 for Thanksgiving Break; and Dec. 22 through Jan. 8 for Winter Break.

The CUSD District Office at Herndon and Sunnyside avenues will be closed Nov. 25 and 26, Dec. 25, 26 and Jan. 1.

Parent Academy workshops

Clovis Unified Supplemental Service's Parent Academy hosts free, monthly Parent Night workshops for parents to learn about the many district resources and programs available to help their child. Upcoming meetings and topics include:

- Nov. 7 - "Social Emotional Supports & Suicide Prevention"
- Jan. 18 - "Newcomer Family Night"
- Feb. 20 - "Understanding Interventions, 504's and IEP's"
- March 19 - "Family Safety Night" (held at Weldon Elementary)
- April 11 - "Building Readers at Home"

Workshops are held at the CUSD Professional Learning Center, 326 N. Clovis Ave., in Clovis, with free dinner and childcare at 5:30 p.m., and the workshop at 6 p.m. Topics were selected based on parent feedback and requests. To register for a Parent Night or to find out more about the Parent Academy, visit: cUSD.com/ParentAcademy.

Student leadership conferences underway at Clovis Unified

Clovis Unified has opportunities for students to participate in student leadership conferences each year. The district partners with the community in creating these cultural events where students can learn about themselves and one another.

Conferences include keynote speakers and professionals in the community discussing their experiences, answering questions, and providing information about college and careers.

Upcoming conferences are:

- CUSD Asian Student Success Conference, Nov. 29, at the Reagan Educational Center
- CUSD Transition Student Conference, Jan. 23, at the Mercedes Edwards Theatre and Clovis Veterans Memorial District. Transition Program students only.
- Fresno County Superintendent of Schools African American High School Student Leadership Conference, Feb. 6, Fresno Convention Center
- CUSD African American Student Leadership Middle School Conference, Feb. 23, at the Clovis North Educational Center. Open to Central Valley Intermediate Schools.
- CUSD Latino High School Student Success Conference, March 4, Clovis North Educational Center
- CUSD Officer Jesus Ceron Latino Student Success Middle School Conference, March 22, at Kastner Intermediate

Clovis Unified's leadership conferences are open to all students regardless of race and ethnicity.

"Knowing each other's culture and diversity is important and can lead to better understanding between students and our community," CUSD Coordinator of Community Relations Saul Salinas, Ed.D., said.

"It's also vital students learn about paths to success as they consider their futures after high school. The conferences

also provide leadership exposure for students wanting to make a positive impact on their campuses and communities."

More information and signups are available through the district's intermediate and high schools counseling offices.

Inaugural district Native American event conference held

Clovis Unified held its first Native American Student Success Conference Nov. 1 that opened with a traditional ceremonial Native American Song as a cultural offering to Native Americans.

The event was created through the efforts of the Clovis Unified Native American Advisory Committee, which is composed of staff, parents and students. They wanted to provide an opportunity for all the district's Native American students to come together while celebrating their culture.

"The primary goal is for our Native American students to learn about the importance of education, perseverance, and goals through a Native lens," said Robyn Snyder, Director of Supplemental Services who helped with planning.

About 100 CUSD students attended from intermediate and high schools. They heard from keynote speaker

Kenneth Shirley, an Emmy-winning filmmaker and founder of Indigenous Enterprise, LLC, who was joined by fellow filmmaker Lionel Thundercloud. Two breakout sessions were held with local community partners and mentors, and there was a drum circle led by Delaine Bill, Cultural Support Specialist for the Fresno American Indian Health Project and member of the Mono/Wukchumni tribe.

Planners called the first conference a success and said its primary goal was to provide inspiration for students to pursue goals beyond high school and equip students with useful tools to help them along their journey.

It will become part of the district's annual student leadership conferences that also include the Asian American, African American and Latino Student Success Conferences held throughout the school year.



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CUSD Athletic Hall of Fame welcomes Olympian, pro-players

■ Six individuals, two teams inducted for standout athletics

A Bronze Medal Olympian who played in Major League Baseball, two professional soccer players and a tri-sport athlete who went on to be a Fresno State football star and later a college coach were among the 2023 Class of Inductees for the Clovis Unified Athletic Hall of Fame. Six individual athletes and two Clovis Unified teams were chosen from among hundreds of nominations profiling highly accomplished district athletes.


The inductees were first celebrated at their hometown football games Friday night Oct. 27 conducting the pre-game coin toss, and then they were honored at the Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Oct. 28 at the Shaghoian Concert Hall with on-stage interviews and video profiles of each legendary athlete.

“Each inductee is an example of hard work paying off. They’ve made incredible contributions to Clovis Unified, their professional careers, and their communities,” said Assistant Superintendent Steve France who oversees the event. “Their stories are a testimony to the incredible caliber of our district’s schools and athletics programs. We are proud to honor them and be a part of their outstanding accomplishments.”

The following are the honorees.

■ Carlo Prandini, Ph.D. – Doc Buchanan Award

Carlo Prandini, Ph.D. was hired by Doc Buchanan personally in 1978 to be a track coach and teacher at Clovis High, and it was easy to see that the two shared the idea of students being the best they could be. This was also the idea that fueled Prandini throughout his career. Under his teaching, Clovis High’s track teams won seven league championships, numerous league and section individual championships, two individual state championships, and one national individual championship. While working in Clovis Unified in multiple positions from athletic director to deputy superintendent, Prandini

2023 CLOVIS UNIFIED ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

- Jason Donald - Baseball, Buchanan High
- Elise Krieghoff - Basketball, Soccer, Buchanan High
- Jack Mattox - Football, Basketball, Track, Clovis High
- Chad McCarty - Soccer, Clovis High
- James Patrick - Baseball Coach, Clovis High
- Stephen Tirapelle - Wrestling Coach, Clovis High
- 1974, 1975, 1976 & 1978 Clovis High Girls Tennis Teams
- 1991 Clovis High Football Team
- Carlo Prandini, Ph.D., Doc Buchanan Award

Learn more at: cusd.com/AthleticHallOfFame.

played a vital role in making Clovis Unified the hub of multiple State CIF Championship meets, including cross country, track and field, and swim and dive.

■ Jack Maddox – Football, Basketball & Track

Three-sport athlete making Cougar history. Along with basketball and track, Jack Mattox played football during his time at Clovis High School. He later became the first Cougar to play the sport professionally, in 1959 with the Dallas Cowboys and the Denver Broncos in 1961. After retiring from football, he had a 25-year career as a teacher and coach at Fresno City College.



■ James Patrick – Baseball Coach

Highly decorated baseball coach with a trophy case full of individual and team honors. At Clovis High, Patrick coached football from 1984-2004 and baseball from 1985-2019. During that time, he was dubbed USA Today’s

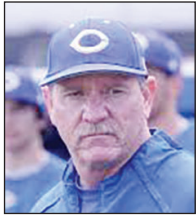


Photo special to CUSD Today by Kenny Gilman. CUSD Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Jack Maddox, who played three sports for Clovis High in the 1950s and went on to play in the NFL, shares memories during the ceremony as he is interviewed by emcee George Takata. View videos: CUSD.com/AthleticHallOfFame.

Baseball Coach of the Year two years in a row (1997 and 1998), CalHi Sports’s 1998 California Coach of the Year and 2010-2019 California Coach of the Decade and the American Baseball Coaches Association’s 2014 National Coach of the Year. In 2005, he was inducted into the California Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame.

■ Stephen Tirapelle – Wrestling Coach

National, state, and local coaching legend. From 1995-2018, Tirapelle coached a total of 63 Clovis High State wrestling finalists, 33 of whom were CIF State individual champions. His 2015 team still holds the CIF State Championship record score of 276.5 points. With these accomplishments come accolades, like the title of 2013 National High School Coach of the Year as well as his induction into the California Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2014 and the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2021.



■ Chad McCarty – Soccer

Soccer star with stops including Major League Soccer and the Sydney Olympics. McCarty earned the title of The Fresno Bee’s Player of the Year while at Clovis High as well as



contributing to the very first boys soccer CIF Valley Championship win in the school’s history in 1995. Professionally, he played for the Tampa Bay Mutiny and the Columbus Crew Juniors, the latter team winning the U.S. Open Cup during his time there. McCarty was also an endorsed Nike athlete, a member of the United States national team and competed in the Sydney Olympics in 2000 (taking 4th place).



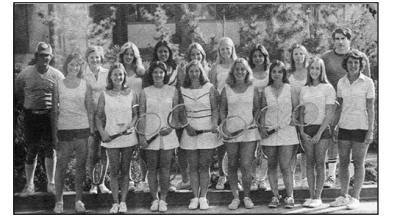
■ Jason Donald – Baseball

Buchanan High grad with a stellar baseball resume. His achievements as a Bear included the titles of BHS Athlete of the Year, TRAC Player of the Year, The Fresno Bee Player of the Year and CIF Player of the Year, all awarded in 2003. After high school, Donald played for the Philadelphia

Phillies and the Cleveland Indians, and he also played in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, where Team USA earned a Bronze Medal! On the Olympic team, Donald led in batting average (.381) and slugging percentage (.571).

■ Elise Krieghoff – Soccer

Krieghoff was a 4-year starter in soccer and a 3-time CIF Central Section champion, racking up 100 goals and 37 assists while at Buchanan. During her college career, she became the 2013 Big West Conference’s Offensive Player of the Year, the conference’s record holder for most player of the week honors (with eight), Cal Poly’s Female Athlete of the Year recipient and Cal Poly’s all-time leader in single-season goals (21), career goals (52) and game-winning goals (seven). Professionally, Krieghoff played for the Boston Breakers in 2016 and the Valerenga Damer in Norway in 2017.



■ 1974, 1975, 1976 & 1978 Clovis High Girls Tennis Teams

North Yosemite League Champions, Two-time NYL Co-Champions, & CIF Section Champions



■ 1991 Clovis High Football Team

CIF Valley Championship (Undeclared Season), One of Only Two Undeclared Teams in Clovis High School Football History, Scored the Most Points of Any Team in 100+ Year History of CIF Football, Ranked No. 2 in State and No. 16 in Nation.

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High School Seniors: What's Next to Enroll in Fall 2024 Classes?

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Complete your orientation starting December 1st at scccd.edu/orientation or log in to your Student Portal. Don't wait – the earlier you complete orientation, the earlier you can register for classes!



Scan the QR code on December 1 to complete your Online Orientation!

January - April: Academic Advising Begins

Check with your high school counselor to see when advising will take place on your campus. Clovis Community College, Fresno City, Reedley College, and Madera Community College counselors will be available to help you plan your first semester of college courses!

There's still time to apply for Summer/Fall 2024



?? Questions? ??

Visit www.cloviscollege.edu/outreach for links to live Zoom help, YouTube videos, or to make an appointment with an Outreach Specialist.

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CCCCO Student Success Metrics per 100 students, 2021-22 academic year



Editor's note: "Around the District" is a regular feature of CUSD Today that highlights positive activities and accomplishments of students and schools throughout the district.

Delicious reading at TK

Temperance-Kutner Elementary held a restaurant style "Book Sampling," that allowed students in second through sixth grades to have a taste of different genres of books, like this one pictured for nature and the outdoors. Students rotated through different themes, discussed with their peers what they were discovering, and wrote reflections about what they tried. Students and teachers alike had fun feasting on the literary buffet.



Panthers learn about City Hall

Local government officials made a special visit to Dry Creek Elementary recently to teach second graders all about their jobs and the inner workings of city government.

Clovis City Council Member Matt Basgall and Assistant City Manager Andy Hausler explained the vital roles and responsibilities of city government officials. They talked about the significance of building economic development, ensuring city safety, providing a pleasant place to live, and creating job opportunities within the community. Students learned how the city's infrastructure – like roads, water and sewer services – plays a pivotal role in their everyday lives.

The excitement continued as Clovis Fire Department's Captain Josh Snow demonstrated crucial duties carried out by the fire department. Students marveled at the equipment he brought to share with them. A special highlight of the assembly was Clovis Police Department's Officer Richard Cressall and his trusty K-9 companion, Jester. Officer Cressall explained how Jester has been expertly trained to assist the Clovis Police Department.

"The school assembly served as an invaluable learning experience, allowing the second-grade students to connect classroom lessons to real-life applications," said the school's Guidance Instructional Specialist Misty Sedehi.

CHS artist wins trip

Clovis High student artist Isabella Avery is headed to New York City! She was selected as the grand prize winner in the Fresno County Office of Education's annual "One Voice – The Spirit of 9/12" art contest and won a trip to visit the National 9/11 Memorial in NYC. The contest both honors the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, and celebrates the unifying spirit of the following days when Americans came together to help each other.



Isabella was also awarded a scholarship as a top-three finalist in the contest.

"The powerful imagery she has composed embodies the legacy of national pride we strive to share with our students, especially as we remember and honor the lives lost during 9/11," said Clovis High art teacher Samantha Orozco.

Other Clovis Unified finalists in the contest included: Allison Chung, Alta Sierra Intermediate, Art; Giselle Rubio, Emily Abaya, Evelina Taylor, Arantxa Chavarria, JoAnna Fenn and Izaiah Martinez, Clark Intermediate, Art; Kendall Metzler, Jameson Tadlock, Kai Katoch, John Svigos, Charlotte Coon, Brinkley O'Brien, Kyle Clapp, Carly Gilbert and Carson Cummings, Alta Sierra Intermediate, Poetry.

CN physics student earns Gold Medal

Congratulations to Clovis North High student Zian Shi, who won a gold medal for the U.S. Physics Team at the 2023 International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) in Tokyo, Japan! He, along with four other students from across the



Score for Riverview preschooler

One of the youngest Riverview Elementary School Rams was a special guest at a Fresno State football game! Preschooler Avery Torres was Valley Children's Hospital's Fresno State "Kid's Captain" at the game against Kent State. Avery was born with a heart defect and underwent a 10-hour open-heart surgery at just four months old. She is now a happy, thriving preschooler who represented both Valley Children's Hospital and Clovis Unified at the big game.

As a guest of honor, Avery met former Bulldog quarterback David Carr, carried the game ball when it was delivered to the field, talked to coaches and players, and enjoyed the game from the Valley Children's suite. "It was quite a remarkable night for this CUSD kiddo!" said her mother (and Red Bank Elementary principal) Amanda Torres.

country, competed against 89 other nations. The U.S. Physics Team finished with four gold medals and a silver medal.

Zian, a junior at Clovis North, said he began learning about physics in eighth grade and it just "clicked." In his biography for the event he writes, "It wasn't a sharp, distinct click of a metronome, but rather the long, continued note of a violin bow. Physics just flowed naturally. Conclusions, results, and models seemed obvious and intuitive, not just a bunch of equations."



He is a part of the Broncos Science Bowl, Competitive Programming Club, Experimental Science Club and Math Circle.

Buchanan wins Emmys

Buchanan High broadcasting students are adding more Emmys to their trophy case. The Bears won 11 awards from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences 2022-2023 Regional Student Television Production Awards for Excellence. Three are the highest honor, a Pillar of Excellence – including for the school's student-produced news show, "Buchanan News Network" or "BNN" – and have been advanced into the upcoming national competition.

"Receiving this level of recognition for my work means the world to me," said BNN student producer Jillian Leslie. "Being a part of this production has allowed me to further develop my videography skills while also gaining significant experience in communication and teamwork."

Buchanan's video program has taken home a total of 30 NATAS Emmys for various projects, including this year's honors. Teacher Dan Pearce said Buchanan keeps winning for one reason: "It's the students. Period. I am amazed at the creativity that these students have, year after year."

Buchanan's entries that earned a Pillar of Excellence for the Western Region – including California, Oregon, Nevada and Hawaii – will be entered into NATAS' national awards event with winners to be announced this fall. The winning projects are:

Pillar of Excellence:
 ■ Newscast – "BNN 2023," Jillian Leslie, producer; Taylor Brunzell, Megan Hoopes, anchors; Bono Bioco, Russell Bowman, Jacob Menz, Hayden Stockdale, Nathan Gettman, editor/camera operators; Adam Smart, Makayla Wyckoff, editors

■ Video Essay – "Coffee Cave," Brunzell, director
 ■ Audio/Sound – "Purgatory," Brunzell, sound designer

Certificate of Merit

- Audio/Sound – "John – Shortfilm," Bioco, audio/sound
- Commercial – "The Healthy Vibe Commercial," Noreen Marquez, Leslie, producers
- Commercial – "Sprinkles Donuts commercial" Luke D'Mello, producer
- Editor – "Purgatory," Brunzell, editor
- Non-Fiction – Short Form – "Bear Spotlight - The Pianist," Levi Hull, photographer/editor
- Photographer – "Excalibur - Breast Cancer Warrior," Braden Estes, director of photography; Levi Hull, camera operator
- Photographer – "John – Shortfilm," Bioco, Stockdale, photographers
- Video Essay – "Where Ice Cream and Community Meet," Grace Persons.

Nation's best at History Day

Clovis North High student Surabhi Khanna won a 2023 National History Day championship in Maryland, the only entrant from California to earn a top prize!



Surabhi took home first place in the Senior Individual Performance category for her piece titled, "Deeds, Not Words: How Emmeline Pankhurst Expanded the Frontier of Women's Rights."

Surabhi told local media she came up with her idea after learning about Pankhurst, who was born in the 1800s and was a British political activist who was among the first to lead a suffragette movement in the United Kingdom. "I knew I could be passionate about her and portray her character," she said. Surabhi learned all she could about Pankhurst to then create her 10-minute performance that displayed her research.

The road to the prestigious competition began in the fall, with more than 600,000 students across the United States researching and developing projects to then compete at county and state levels; the select few state winners then advanced to National History Day, which this year had roughly 1,500 participants.

Other students from Clovis Unified who placed in National History Day and received an Honorable Mention in Junior Group Performance are Alta Sierra Intermediate students Michelle Acosta, Arna Banerjee, Kaylee Kirk and Megan McGinthy. Their piece was titled, "The Women's Army Corps: How Females WACKed Their Way Through an Age-Old Military and Gender Frontier."

CHS paints Cedarwood

When Cedarwood Elementary students returned to school



this year, they were greeted by a beautiful mural outside the library painted by five Clovis High art students.

The school's library had a blank wall surrounding an outdoor patio that sat empty, and librarian Tanya Hamrich dreamed of adding bright storybook characters to the wall for her students to enjoy. She coordinated with the high school artists to create a final design for the wall and they painted it in a span of a few months.

"For me, the mural was a good experience," said Clovis High artist Zach Walton. "I learned how to both create a large-scale artwork and plan a group composition. I looked forward to working on it each day, and it will forever be a positive memory for me."

National mock trial star

Clovis North student Nathan Gonos earned second place in the Courtroom Journalism Contest at the 2023 National Mock Trial Championships. This contest has students experience the courtroom from a reporter's perspective. Participants observe one round of the mock trial competition, then report on the case by writing and submitting an article for judging within a limited number of hours.

Nathan had a great season: his county-level article submission earned him a spot at the state-level Mock Trial Championship tournament. He went on to earn the top Mock Trial Journalist in California for 2023. As a first-place finisher, he progressed to the national-level championships and earned second place.

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STUDENTS HELPING STUDENTS

200 CUSD peer counselors meet at annual summit

Peer counselors – students who volunteer to be trained and then serve as a confidential resource for other students facing challenges – are on every Clovis Unified intermediate and high school campus, and recently they all gathered at the annual CUSD Peer Counseling Summit.

“Most teens will talk to a friend or a peer who they can trust. Peer Counselors are not to fix anyone’s problem or to give advice. Peer Counselors listen, support and help guide the counselee to possible options to whatever they are going through in a safe nonjudgmental environment,” said Derrick Davis, Wellness Teacher on Special Assignment.

The students are each part of their school’s Peer Counseling program and have been trained in intercommunication skills that they use to provide peer support to students on their campus. They create an environment where students can discuss concerns, feelings and thoughts, and where the peer counselors can help with campus resources and referrals if needed. Everything is confidential unless a student wants to do harm to self or others.

Davis shared an example of a student who was feeling pressure to excel academically and who was also struggling with tension at home because of their parents’ difficult relationship. They met



with a peer counselor and felt supported and connected, and the peer counselor helped the student find additional support on campus. “They would check in with that peer counselor periodically and knew they could tell them anything and they would not judge them but support them,” Davis said.

In addition to one-on-one sessions, Davis said peer counselors create community and school wide events to bring awareness around mental health, suicide prevention, healthy relationships, drug prevention and more. Peer counselors have run Kids Day events, Anti-Bully events, Toys for Tots, blankets for the hospital, paintings for children with cancer, letters for US troops and the Veterans Hospital, New Student luncheons, ap-



Above: CUSD peer counseling students listen to anti-bullying speaker “Mr. Peace” at the recent summit. Left: Clovis West student Kylie Ivanoff signs “I love you” during an activity about encouraging one another.

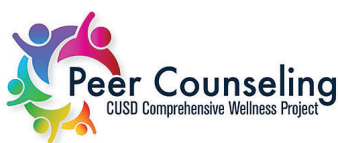
Photos by Kendra Burt/CUSD Today

preciation luncheons for classified staff, Red Ribbon Week activities, mental health activities and passing out green ribbons for every student, and many more.

At the conference, seven seniors were recognized for serving as a peer counselor for four or more years: Lilliana Garcia, Clovis East High, 6 years; Sukhmann Sidhu, Clovis East, 4 years; Riley Strunk and Solomon

Williams, Clovis West High, 4 years; Gianna Hamel, Clovis North High, 4 years; and Sydney Harrison and Juan Garcia, Clovis High, 4 years.

More information about peer counseling is available on CUSD intermediate and high school campuses. Learn more about Clovis Unified’s Comprehensive Wellness Project at cusd.com/ComprehensiveWellnessProject.



Fall rally for fun!



Fall rallies filled Clovis Unified campuses, like this one at Cole Elementary. The Bulldogs had fun building school spirit, with teachers and students dressing in their best spirit wear for their “Red vs. Blue Color War Rally,” making signs and joining in energetic activities.



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Scores: CUSD student scores top area districts

FROM PAGE ONE
 recalled "Principal Grade Level Expectations" or PGLE, in which individualized plans are created to promote student-by-student growth toward mastery of grade level standards. This same level of analysis is happening at every level of the district including the individual teacher-student level, where teachers work with their site leadership to create individualized intervention plans for every student who did not achieve at or above their grade level standard. That work informs the day-to-day instruction delivered by teachers in the classroom.

During the pandemic, state testing was halted, and when it returned in Spring 2022, there was a decrease in scores statewide. That

provided a new baseline reflecting the impacts of learning loss during the pandemic. State testing was conducted again in Spring 2023, and these recent results show that across the state, students have been slow to rebound to pre-pandemic levels of academic achievement.

Clovis Unified's results are second highest for both math and ELA for school districts testing more than 20,000 students, and the highest of any school district with a socio-economically disadvantaged population of more than 40%.

Among the tools being used by the district's team to ebb the pandemic's impact have been restoring classroom behavior expectations; re-developing interpersonal relationships between stu-

2023 CAASPP Results		
Percent of students meeting/exceeding state standards on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress tests		
	ELA	Math
Clovis Unified	66.18%	51.02%
State Average	46.66%	34.62%
Fresno County Average	43.14%	30.40%
Central Unified	41.29%	26.59%
Fresno Unified	33.20%	23.31%
Madera Unified	31.03%	17.46%
Sanger Unified	47.60%	34.54%

Source: California Department of Education

dents and their peers, and between students and their teachers that equates to success in the classroom; and facing the decreases in attendance rates and the impact time away from the classroom has on students' learning.

"We are focused this year

on improving academic success for every one of our students," Folmer said, "and these results will help us focus in on ways to better support our students."

Learn more or find individual school results: <https://caaspp-elpac.ets.org/caaspp/>.

Courtlin:

FROM PAGE ONE
 President, the mayor of Anglet and the US Consul from Bordeaux. During the ceremony, Courtlin was presented with a letter written by Andrée de Jongh and an original photo of her.

"Courtlin's magnificent relationship with this piece of history permeates us and roots us in our convictions and our actions," said Anglet Mayor Claude Olive during his speech at the memorial ceremony.

Courtlin also joined a 21-kilometer hike over the Pyrenees Mountains, following the path the pilots and their guides followed to escape. The group visited a memorial site for Jim Burch, the only American pilot to die on the Comète Line, and Courtlin placed a poppy wreath and American flag on the me-

morial. To complete the trip, Courtlin went to Spain and visited the children and grandchildren of a man whose family hid escaping pilots in their home during the war to help the resistance effort. They joined a celebration with music and singing, where Courtlin was presented with a book about the Comète Line.

"The most unexpected part of this whole experience is this whole week," said Courtlin. "Two years ago, I never pictured myself now being in France giving a speech, laying flowers on memorials, or meeting people this involved in the Comète Line. It was really cool to meet everyone that was so passionate, and also to see the efforts that they put in to keeping the Comète Line alive."

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