



## Valley High instructor chosen to represent school district

Linda McKnight, a Valley High School teacher, has been nominated as the Teacher of the Year for the Delano Joint Union High School District. She and other nominees from Kern County recognized in Bakersfield March 9.

McKnight teaches United States history, personal finance, entrepreneurship, computer literature, news production, and a dual enrollment College and Career Success class.

"You have got to enjoy what you do. I enjoy working with young people. For a teacher to be successful, that teacher must have patience. Everyone can learn, but it may not happen the same day or happen in the same way. I see the at-risk student as a diamond in the rough, and I have to make the diamond shine."

For 38 years she has worked with at-risk students. She started with a federal government program as a business instructor in Florida before starting her work at Delano High.

From 1991 to 2017 she worked as a Workforce Investment Act instructor, providing career awareness training for the district to over 1000 students.

In addition to delivering course work, she has coordinated field trips

to various colleges/universities, career fairs, and businesses including the IRS office in Fresno.

For many years she helped write narratives for the district WIA grants. Such funding allowed district students to participate in paid part-time employment and to receive labor market skills. She estimated the grants to the district totalled well over \$200,000.

McKnight said she enjoys classes that will impact "my students' futures."

Using a grant from then Paramount Farms, she had a health class develop a kids' boot camp for the DJUJHSD State Pre-school students, using the theme, "Playing for Life." Students were taught how to form and work on committees, how to set up budgets for the program, how to order supplies, develop mini lesson plans for the boot camp activities, learn how to advertise and market the program through T-shirts, flyers, and parent brochures, and closing with the actual event, setting up activities, monitoring and engaging pre-schoolers to participate, awarding prizes, and explaining to parents the importance of creating some type of daily physical activity with their children.

"Mrs. McKnight is the consummate professional, thorough, hardworking, and most importantly, passionate about teaching and reaching at-risk students," Jesus Gonzalez, Assistant Superintendent, said of the nominee. "Her purpose has always been to be THE difference for students whose options have narrowed and Valley High School to be their last opportunity to graduate and escape the trappings of poverty and under-employment. She has been both a positive and incredible resource for not only students, but her peers and professionals in our district and our schools, a shining light of hope for our community."

Outside of school she is vice-president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and was program chairman coordinating and monitoring community service projects for the sorority. She is also a director of the Bakersfield Ivy Legacy Foundation and a leader of prayer ministry for St. Peter RCCM Church.

**"I see the at-risk student as a diamond in the rough, and I have to make the diamond shine."**  
**> Mrs. Linda McKnight**





## Cesar Chavez soccer repeats as section Division V champs

### Tripleheader hoops slated at DHS

Tripleheader basketball games at Delano High are sponsored Fridays, March 9 and 16, by Trap and Rotare boys basketball and cheerleaders of Delano High.

March 9 games match DHS cheer and Future Business Leaders of America at 6 p.m. Delano and Kennedy choir teams play at 7 and staff teams at 8.

The following Friday, March 16, will be match-ups at DHS with Chavez cheerleaders, choir, and staff taking on DHS teams.

Tickets are \$3 in advance and \$4 at the door.

Cesar Chavez Titan soccer boys for the second straight year are central section Division V champions.

Chavez as the No. 3 seed turned back No. 2 Garces, 1-0, and then bested Mendota, the No. 4 seed, 4-1, in the section finals. Mendota previously had eliminated the No. 1 seed. Francisco Herrera scored a goal and notched three assists and Christian Andrade added a goal and as assist for the Titans.

Despite dominating the game from the start, the Titans (14-7-4) were tied with the Aztecs until three minutes remained in the half.

At the close of the match Titan Genaro Sanchez dropped to his knee to pray, recalling the death of his grandfather early in the soccer season.

Early in the second half within a six-minute span, Carlos Macias and Oscar Diaz scored for CCHS. The four goals scored by Chavez was a season high allowed by Mendota.

Chavez coach Tony Mendez has now won two section titles at Chavez after previously winning one section championship at Delano.

As presstime they were awaiting word of whom they would face in the Southern California regionals.

### Delano Softball Starts with Win

In a season-opening scrimmage the Delano Lady Tiger softball varsity edged host Corcoran 6-4.

Jocelyn Valdez pitched the five-inning distance for DHS. Outfielder Jordan Villanueva pounded two hits, including a solo inside-the-park home run, and drove in three runs.

Bianca Casillas, Viviana Gonzalez, and Savannah Ramirez also tagged DHS hits.

On Feb. 22 DHS is scheduled at Kennedy with JV and varsity teams Monday, Feb. 26, at Strathmore. Varsity plays in the March 1-3 North High Classic with freshmen at the Shafter tournament March 1-3. DHS softball beat Cesar Chavez 8-0 at DHS March 5.

### Chavez girls hoops beaten by free shots

Cesar Chavez High girls basketball, seeded No. 13, lost to No. 4 Reedley-Immanuel, 57-43, in the Division III girls' basketball playoffs.

The game was decided at the free throw line where host Immanuel connect 26 free shots including 15 by K. Gutierrez.

### Dinuba free throws gain win over DHS

Delano High boys basketball closed the season with a spirited effort but a sour feeling after losing 83-81 at higher ranked Dinuba in the first round of the section Division IV playoffs.

Dinuba led early before Delano forged ahead 37-32 at half and 61-44 entering the fourth quarter.

Despite Dinuba's more aggressive defensive play and full-court press in the second half, at one point Delano had 10 fouls and Dinuba just three.

When Delano's league scoring champion, Angel Gonzalez, fouled out with 5:17 left in regulation, DHS trailed 73-70. The game remained close, but it took a regulation play buzzer-beater corner 3-point basket by Juan Nunez to pull DHS into a 73-73 tie and force overtime.

The teams remained close and the game was tied until a winning Dinuba lay-up with 4 seconds left in overtime.

Gonzalez canned 19 points to head Delano. Nunez had four 3-pointers among his 18 points, Gabe Ulloa added 14, and Gerardo Carranza canned 13 before fouling out in overtime.

Jose Magana sank 31 points including six 3-pointers for Dinuba which rimmed 22 of 33 free shots to Delano's 10 of 15.

## March

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

2 Read Across America

11 Daylight Savings Time

13 School Board Meeting

14 PLC Late Start

23 Minimum Day

26-30 Spring Break

## Kennedy starts spring sports

February has been the start of Robert F. Kennedy baseball, softball, and track.

Baseball boys were scheduled Feb. 20 at Riverdale with JV and varsity teams entered Feb. 26 through March 3 in the Strathmore Tournament.

Kennedy teams were home Feb. 27 with Orange Cove, March 2 to Summit Charter, March 7 to Foothill and March 8 to Granite Hills.

Softballers started Feb. 20 at Riverdale, play at Delano on Thursday, Feb. 22 and traveled March 1 to Farmersville. Kennedy hosted Foothill March 7 and JV's play March 9 and 10 at the Wasco Tournament.

Tracksters were to compete in the McFarland Invitational Feb. 22. Kennedy will host a city scrimmage Feb. 27. and traveled to the Bearcat Relays in Paso Robles March 3. The T-bird spikers travels to Visalia Pioneer Relays March 10.

The first South Sequoia League power meet will be hosted by Cesar Chavez on Wednesday, March 14. The Redwood Invitational is March 16.

## Chavez baseball starts with youth

A young baseball team is greeting Cesar Chavez High's longtime head coach, Scott Neal.

Two seniors, Eric Barraza and Jonathon Ozuna, were members of the 2016 Titan team that won the section Division V championship.

At an early practice, Cameron Popoy and Ozuna were candidates for catcher; Barraza, Juan Casas, and Tim Ruiz are likely pitchers, Barraza or Kobe Ronk will play at first, Rudy Gonzalez or Ramon Lopez at second, Casas or Lopez at third, and Ruiz at shortstop. Contending for outfield spots are Ozuna, Chris Perez-Leon (also at second), Jose Lopez, and Dominic Dominguez.

## Nava champion for DHS wrestling

In the East Yosemite League wrestling tournament, Delano High's Angel Nava at 115 pounds became a league champion for the second straight year.

Claiming third places for Delano were Kevin Lema, Salvador Salas, and Allen Sandoval. Ivan Zapata placed fifth.

At the JV level, Michael Dela Cruz and Irvin Ayon were both champions for Delano.

At the state championships March 2-3 in Bakersfield, Nava was pinned with 45 seconds left in his match by a Downy wrestler and then lost 5-1 to a Chico wrestler.



## Tiger baseball takes Terrio Classic

The Delano Tiger baseball team had its National Division championship game in the Terrio Classic moved to Monday, March 5, due to rain.

The Tigers won four straight games to reach the finals, winning all four by four or more runs to earn the finals spot against Wasco where they beat them 3-0.

# Sports

## calendar

### DHS

March 8: Golf at Granite Hills  
 March 8: Track at Kern Inv. at Liberty for frosh-sophs  
 March 8: JV/V baseball at Ridgeview; Freshmen here  
 March 9: Boys golf at Tulare Union  
 March 9: Varsity track at Kern Inv. (Liberty)  
 March 9-10: JV baseball at Wasco Tournament  
 March 9/10: JV softball at Wasco JV Tourn.  
 March 12: Boys tennis hosts Tulare Western  
 March 12: Baseball hosts RFK  
 March 14: Boys tennis at Tulare Union  
 March 14: Track hosts Monache  
 March 14: Boys golf at Monache  
 March 14: Baseball at Tulare Western  
 March 16: Boys golf at Porterville  
 March 16: Baseball hosts Tulare Union  
 March 16-17: Boys tennis at Lynch cup  
 March 16/17: Varsity softball at Mira Monte Tournament  
 March 17: Varsity track at Taft Track Inv.

### CCHS

March 8: boys golf at Bak. Christian  
 March 8: Boys tennis at McFarland  
 March 8/9/10: Varsity softball at Bakersfield High tournament  
 March 9-10: JV softball at Wasco Tournament  
 March 12: All baseball at Mira Monte  
 March 12: All softball hosts Mira Monte  
 March 13: V/JV softball hosts Washington Union  
 March 13: Boys tennis hosts Wasco  
 March 14: Track hosts league, 2pm  
 March 15: Golf at Delano, 2pm  
 March 15/16/17: JV softball at Shafter Tournament  
 March 16-17: Boys tennis at Lynch cup  
 March 16: JV/V baseball at Corcoran  
 March 20: Softball and baseball at Kennedy  
 March 20: Boys tennis at Arvin  
 March 22: V/JV baseball hosts Bak. Christian  
 March 22: V/JV softball hosts Bak. Christian

### RFKHS

March 8: JV/V baseball hosts Granite Hills  
 March 8: Boys tennis hosts Shafter  
 March 9-10: JV Softball at Wasco Tournament  
 March 10: Varsity track at Pioneer Relays  
 March 12: JV/V baseball at Delano  
 March 13: Boys tennis at Bak. Christian  
 March 14: JV/V baseball and JV/V softball hosts Frazier Mtn.  
 March 14: Track at SSL Power #1  
 March 15: Varsity baseball and softball at Laton  
 March 15: JV track at McFarland JV Invit.  
 March 15: Varsity boys tennis hosts Taft  
 March 15: Boys golf at SSL #3  
 March 16-17: Varsity softball at Mira Monte Tournament  
 March 16-17: Boys tennis at Lynch Cup  
 March 16: Varsity track at Redwood Invitational  
 March 20: Boys tennis at Wasco  
 March 20: JV/V baseball and F/JV/V softball hosts Chavez  
 March 21: JV/V baseball hosts Arvin

## Kennedy welcomes visiting committee

Robert F. Kennedy High School had a WASC visit that kicked-off on Sunday, Feb. 25. WASC stands for Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Schools have visits at varying times from outside administrators, teachers, and students—usually a group of five—that evaluates the school on how it is serving its students and community.

A full day of meetings was planned for Feb. 26, 27, and 28. They spoke to staff, administrators, students, and parents during the week. The committee closed the visit with an oral report to the staff on how the school was performing and to make any necessary recommendations.

A detailed written report will be provided the school at a later date.

## DJUHS has an App!

Delano Joint Union High School District is pleased to announce our new mobile app designed specifically to keep our families better informed and connected to what's going on in our schools. The new DJUHS mobile app is available for both Apple and Android devices. The app will deliver real time school news to a smart-device for fast, up-to-date access. The app will feature:

- > The latest district and school news
- > Push notifications about breaking news, closures, weather, events, and more
- > Photos from school events

> Maps with school locations, phone numbers, and staff information

The app is FREE and available for download today:

1. From a smart-device, go to the iTunes App Store® or Google Play®
2. Search Delano Joint Union High SD
3. Then select the "Delano Joint Union High SD" app for free download

The new DJUHS mobile app is just a few taps away. Download it today!



## Kennedy cheerleaders take 11th

Robert F. Kennedy cheerleaders at the United Spirit Association Nationals in Anaheim Feb. 23-25 placed 11th among 25 teams in the small varsity show cheer novice division with a score of 90.20. From left to right are Karen Gutierrez, Adriana Rodriguez, Anjelise

Gutierrez, Shyann Walker, Destiny Zermeno, Alyssa Manansala, Aubrey Jasso, Leslie Huerta, Ashley Maldonado, Clarissa Hernandez, Shireanna Colbourne, and Destiney Kerchner. Coach of the squad is Mrs. Natalie Fragoso.

## Enrollment listed

Enrollment figures for the three Delano public high schools as of late February were:

Cesar Chavez: 1,488

Delano: 1,388

Robert F. Kennedy: 1,199

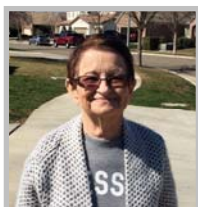
# >> around djuhsd

#Why I love Delano Joint Union High School District...



**Richard Lauricio**  
IT Department

"I love the staff and enjoy using my technical skills to assist faculty and students."



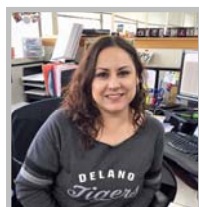
**Tari Sue (French) Cotta**  
DHS c/o 1965

"The fond memories of going to the football games and being involved in all the clubs I was in."



**Martin Amezcua**  
CCHS c/o 2015

"The great environment. The school is very pumped up and they have good academics."



**Rebecca Ordenez**  
Accounts Receivables

"We are a family and we care about each other."



**Angel Villalobos**  
RFKHS Teacher

"I don't only feel like an employee but also feel like I'm part of a family."

This newsletter of the Delano Joint Union High School District will be issued bi-monthly. Distribution is planned at Delano, Chavez, and Kennedy high schools as well as at several local businesses in Delano and in Earlimart. It can also be found digitally on the district website under the 'newsroom' tab. Rosemarie Dao posts articles on the district website and may be reached at [rdao@djuhsd.org](mailto:rdao@djuhsd.org). Writer Gary Girard may be reached at 661-725-8803 or 661-364-7806. Please contact the district office should you have any questions.

### Non-Discrimination Policy

The Delano Joint Union High School District is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education. School programs and activities shall be free from discrimination based on gender, sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation or the perception of one or more of such characteristics. (BP 0410).