



The Superintendent's Update

September 17, 2010

The PVHS Student Leadership "Task for the Week", should you choose to accept it, is:

"Write a little positive note to motivate, inspire, or thank someone you care about.

When you are done, sneak it into their bag, lunch, mailbox, car, etc. so they find it as a surprise."

NEWS FROM KELLY

Foremost in my mind, as well as in the minds of many in the Chico community, is the current state of the relationship between Chico Unified School District and CUTA. As we are all too aware, CUSD and CUTA have not been able to find a common ground in regards to the current contract negotiations. As a result, we are now involved in what is called Fact Finding. The parties engaged in a Fact Finding hearing on Monday, September 13. Both CUSD and CUTA are now waiting for a formal written decision from the State-mandated Fact Finding panel. The Fact Finding panel has 30 days (approximately October 13, 2010) from the date of the hearing to issue the report.

However, we do not have to wait for the Fact Finding report to find a resolution and I am very dedicated to using these 30 days in a positive and constructive way to reach an agreement with our employees.

CUSD would like to sign a new contract with its teachers now. As a result, I have directed our panel member, Ron Bennett, to work with the rest of the panel to get a mediated proposal that CUTA can accept and that CUSD and Butte County Office of Education can support in terms of economic viability. I have further expressed to Mr. Bennett my desire that this be accomplished as soon as possible. I am hopeful that CUTA is giving similar instructions to its panel member.

It is my belief—and I believe that of our community—that further strife in our education community does not benefit anyone. It is critical that we work towards a mediated agreement that both sides can accept so that we can all put our focus back where it belongs—educating the students of Chico.

Facts and Answers to Common Questions about the Budget and Negotiations

In the past couple of weeks, there have been many excellent questions asked by staff and community members and I remain committed to ensuring that accurate and factual information is accessible to the entire community. Most pertain to our budget and the status of negotiations with our bargaining units as this is front and center in everyone's thoughts and emotions.

We have published answers to the frequently asked questions on the District's website, <http://www.chicousd.org>, where you can find answers to many of the questions posed by staff, parents and community members. I have included answers to the most frequently asked questions that have been posed to the Board and the CUSD administration below.

FACT FINDING

Question: *How does Fact Finding work?*

Answer: An impartial three-person Fact Finding panel conducts a private hearing to review the arguments, evidence and proposals from both the teachers' union and CUSD. CUSD and the teachers' union each appoint one member to the Fact Finding panel. Then they mutually agree on a neutral,

independent Fact Finding panel chairperson from a list of qualified labor relations professionals supplied by the state.

After the panel has reviewed and considered all the arguments, evidence and proposals submitted at the hearing, the Fact Finding panel issues a Fact Finding report. The Fact Finding report identifies the conclusions of the Fact Finding panel and includes the panel's recommendations for a settlement.

Within thirty (30) days from the hearing, the Fact Finding panel will issue the report privately to the parties. CUSD must make the report public within ten (10) days, unless the parties reach a settlement.

Question: *Can negotiations continue while Fact Finding is underway?*

Answer: Yes. After the hearing, the Fact Finding process generally involves a series of back-and-forth settlement discussions (mediation sessions) involving the Fact Finding panel chairperson, CUSD and the union's panel members, and can involve both bargaining teams.

Question: *Does CUSD intend to continue negotiations?*

Answer: Yes. CUSD intends to use the next 30 days to see if we can reach an agreement with the teachers' union. CUSD would like to sign a new contract with its teachers now.

As a result, in addition to waiting for the formal written report, the District is putting pressure on its panel member to have the Fact Finding panel also recommend a solution to the District and the teachers now. We are hopeful that the teachers' union will give similar instructions to its panel member.

THE DISTRICT'S PROPOSAL

Question: *Has CUSD proposed a reduction in teacher salaries?*

Answer: Yes.

Question: *Why is a reduction in teacher salaries necessary?*

Answer: CUSD is facing an on-going structural deficit in excess of \$8.9 million. That means that on-going expenses (such as employee compensation) exceed on-going revenues (such as annual State funding per ADA). Ninety-four percent (94%) of unrestricted dollars are spent on employee compensation and CUTA is 67% of the salaries of the district. Because teacher salaries comprise the majority, any substantial reduction in on-going expenses must include a reduction in teacher salaries.

CUSD has already reached agreements for reductions in compensation with its other employee organizations (CUMA and CSEA).

Question: *Has CUSD proposed an 11% reduction in teacher salaries?*

Answer: No.

Question: *What is CUSD's proposal?*

Answer: In summary, CUSD has proposed:

1. A 3-day reduction in teacher work year with a corresponding reduction in teacher salaries of 1.64%; and
2. An additional reduction in teacher salaries by 3.77%; and
3. The elimination of automatic pay increases (step increments) for two years.

A full and complete version of CUSD's proposal to the teachers' union can be found on the CUSD website at www.chicousd.org

Question: *I understand that finances for the State and CUSD are extremely negative right now; but, does CUSD's proposal address what will happen if the fiscal situation improves?*

Answer: Yes. CUSD's proposal includes a formula for automatically restoring the proposed compensation reductions as CUSD's fiscal situation improves.

Question: *I have heard that the CUSD's fiscal situation has improved by millions of dollars. Why hasn't CUSD's proposal improved?*

Answer: CUSD, like other school districts, has received unexpected one-time funds from a variety of sources in 2010. One-time dollars, however, cannot be counted on as reliable future revenue and do not change the reality that on-going expenses exceed ongoing revenue by approximately \$8.9 Million.

This fact must be changed or CUSD cannot balance its budget and it will run out of money. While CUSD's current year financial picture has been greatly improved by the one-time dollars, its annual structural deficit remains constant at \$8.9 Million.

CUSD's current proposal to the teachers union addresses the long term financial circumstance and also includes a restoration provision to increase salaries as on-going dollars become available.

Question: *CUSD has the money to continue to pay teacher salaries for 2010/11, so why not worry about 2011/12 and 2012/13 when those years arrive?*

Answer: CUSD has been certified by the Butte County Office of Education to be a "District in Fiscal Distress," as defined by the Education Code. That means that CUSD's budget, as presently structured, does not ensure that future revenues will exceed future expenses. In this circumstance, the Butte County Office of Education holds broad powers to reject any action taken by CUSD that is inconsistent with balancing CUSD's budget.

If CUSD does not take corrective action now, procrastination until 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 will compound the problem. As a result, any agreement that CUSD and the teachers' union might reach (if it does not account for 2011/12 and 2012/13) may be rejected by the Butte County Office of Education.

Question: *How long did it take CUTA to respond to CUSD's initial proposal?*

Answer: Nearly 38 weeks. In October of 2009, CUSD presented CUTA with a detailed proposal. On July 28, 2010, CUTA presented CUSD with its first, and only, proposal.

Question: *How long did it take CUSD to respond to CUTA's initial proposal?*

Answer: About three weeks.

THE BUDGET

Question: *How come CUSD's budget projections did not project the additional millions of dollars in its ending balance for 2009/10?*

Answer: The State budget is in crisis and the State has reduced on-going funding for education by over 20%. CUSD has worked closely with an independent Fiscal Advisor appointed by the Butte County Office of Education to make accurate and prudent budget projections based on the best available data.

CUSD's budget projections, as they relate to reliable on-going revenue and expenses, have been accurate. However, unexpected and non-recurring one-time money have inflated CUSD's ending balance beyond its projections. This has happened to districts up and down the state.

Prudent fiscal planning does not allow CUSD (or any public agency) to rely on theoretical or unforeseeable gains or losses when formulating and balancing its budget. As a result, such gains or losses are only incorporated into the budget when they have actually been realized. This is the primary reason why budget projections made in May rarely, if ever, match up one-for-one with the numbers that are actually known a year later.

In 2009/10, CUSD received unexpected one-time monies that affected the ending balance. One-time money, while it helps with cash flow, does not decrease the on-going structural deficit in CUSD's budget.

Question: *What is the role of the Butte County Office of Education and its Fiscal Advisor in CUSD's budget process?*

Answer: The fiscal oversight powers of the County Office and the Fiscal Advisor are mandated by State law. That law is Education Code section 42127.6 and Government Code section 3540.2. The Butte County Office of Education's fiscal oversight powers include:

- First, if the County Office finds that a school district "*may* be unable to meet its financial obligations" (i.e., is a school district in fiscal distress), the County Office must take action to diagnose the fiscal health of the district.
- Second, if the County Office determines that the district "*will* be unable to meet its financial obligations," it is required to take more drastic steps designed to safeguard the fiscal integrity of the district. These measures include the power to "stay and rescind" any collectively bargained agreement entered into in 2010/11 that is determined to be inconsistent with the district's ability to meet its financial obligations.

CUSD is currently in the second phase of this process and the Fiscal Advisor has "stay and rescind" powers.

NEWS FROM EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Grant Resources: Looking for some funding to carry out a specific activity in your classroom or at your site? There are a few resources available to help you:

- 1) The Grants and Resource Development web page on the CUSD site @: www.chicousd.org/dna/grants includes links to funding sources and to tip sheets and other resources for writing grants.
- 2) District grantwriter support. While the district grant writer's ([Liz Metzger](#)) first priority is larger state and federal grants, she is also available on a limited basis to support teachers and sites build their own internal capacity to find and secure grants. One efficient way to work together would be for sites to develop "grant teams" which Liz could then consult with on sources for grants, tips for writing grants, or program planning. If you are interested in developing a site team, check with your principal, identify interested team members (certificated staff, classified staff, administration or parents), and then contact Liz Metzger at emetzger@chicousd.org, or at 891-3000 x144 to set up a workshop or consultation about your needs.
- 3) Grant info in the Weekly Update: Beginning with this issue, we will include links to several upcoming grant competitions that may be of interest to sites.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities: Here are links to a few grant competitions that are currently open. For more grant opportunities, visit the CUSD grants and resource development website, listed above.

- 1) Lowe's Toolbox for Education: The Toolbox for Education Grant Program, offered by Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, provides grants of \$2,000 to \$5,000 to public K-12 schools and school parent-teacher groups associated with public schools throughout the U.S. that develop projects that encourage parent involvement and build stronger community spirit. Preference is given to funding requests that have a permanent impact such as facility enhancement (both indoor and outdoor) as well as landscaping/clean up projects. This year the program is seeking ways to provide the tools that help educators and parent groups through these challenging times efficiently and with the greatest impact. Therefore, basic needs will take priority.

Deadlines: October 15, 2010 and February 18, 2011.

Link: www.toolboxforeducation.com

- 2) United States Soccer Foundation: The mission of the United States Soccer Foundation is to enhance, assist, and grow the sport of soccer in the United States. Through Annual Program and Field Grants, the Foundation provides support to community organizations, schools, municipalities, and other groups throughout the country that offer soccer opportunities. Grants are intended to help pay for field development, uniforms, player equipment, travel costs, facility rental, registration costs, and training for players, coaches, and referees. The highest priority will be given to projects in economically disadvantaged urban areas encompassing populations of 50,000 or more. In addition, the Foundation is especially interested in organizations that incorporate a youth development element such as anti-violence, anti-drugs, healthy lifestyles, etc. into their soccer programs.

Deadline: Online applications will be accepted from October 1 through October 29, 2010.

Link: <http://www.ussoccerfoundation.org/site/c.iplQKXOvFoG/b.5474307/k.C62E/Grants.htm>

- 3) Youth Garden Grants: For schools and community organizations with child-centered garden programs. Priorities to programs emphasizing
 - a. educational focus or curricular/program integration,

- b. nutrition or plant-to-food connections,
- c. environmental awareness/education,
- d. entrepreneurship,
- e. social aspects of gardening such as leadership development, team building, community support, or service-learning.

Applicants must plan to garden with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18 years. Previous Youth Garden Grant winners who wish to reapply may do so, but must wait one year (e.g., if you won in 2010, you can apply again in 2012) and have significantly expanded their garden programs. This year, 100 grants are available, with five programs receiving gift cards valued at \$1000 (a \$500 gift card to Home Depot and a \$500 gift card to the Gardening with Kids catalog, and educational materials from the National Gardening Association. Ninety-five programs will receive a \$500 gift card to Home Depot and educational materials from NGA.

Deadline: November 1, 2010

Link: www.kidsgardening.org/ygg.asp

- 4) Office Depot Foundation Grants: The Foundation has a three-part funding focus. Two could apply to our schools:

- Making a Difference in Children's Lives - to support activities that serve, teach and inspire children, youth and families;
- Building Communities - to support civic organizations and activities that serve the needs of our community

Grant amounts will be a minimum of \$50 and a maximum of \$3,000 (very limited). The majority of grants issued are in the vicinity of \$1,000 and are supported by in-kind donations when inventory allows.

Deadline: November 15, 2010

Link: www.officedepotfoundation.com/funding.asp

For other funding opportunities, check here:

<http://slfundingopportunities.blogspot.com/>

Book in Common: This year, the Chico Unified School District will partner with again CSUC, Butte College, the Butte County Library, and others for the third annual community-wide book-in-common. The book-in-common project is designed to unite the community around a book, and provide the opportunity to address themes that are relevant to us all.

This year's book is *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba. It is the author's true story of growing up in Malawi amidst the worst drought and famine that African nation had experienced for fifty years. In 2002, at the age of 14, William was forced to quit school because his family couldn't pay the tuition. With sheer determination, inventiveness, and guidance from old science textbooks, he built a working windmill out of tractor parts, scrap metal, and eucalyptus trees. This windmill brought electricity and water to his family compound. Because only 2% of the country had electricity at the time, this naturally attracted a great deal of interest and offers for help. It also allowed him to return to school.

The Superintendent's Update

Page 7 of 13

For more information about community events and resources around the Book in Common, visit the CSUC Book-in-Common website at www.csuchico.edu/bic. We will provide more information in the next few weeks about opportunities for CUSD teachers, parents, and students to become involved.

Windmill Building Competition: The next major book-in-common event coming up is a windmill-building competition, sponsored by Chico State and the Gateway Science Museum. On Saturday, October 9, teams of 3-5 participants will work together to build "art windmills." They must be made of recycled or found materials, and have blades that will turn in the wind. Prizes will be given in four categories: most functional, most artistic, most whimsical, and best junior prize (for teams where at least two participants are twelve or younger). Prizes of \$100 will be awarded to the winners in each category; the prize money will go to a local non-profit of the team's choice. Registration is due by September 30; for more information or to register, go to: <http://www.csuchico.edu/fye/bic/index.shtml>

Alternative Education FVHS/AFC/CAL Enrollment:

School	ENROLLMENT						
	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	Total
Fair View			8	38	72	133	251
AFC	14	10	10	19	20	10	83
CAL	16	14					30

Suspensions/Expulsions:

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Susp		2	2		4	2	3	4	10	6	12	11	4	60
5-day								1	2	4	6	5	1	19
PendE														4
Exp											1			1

NEWS FROM BUSINESS SERVICES

Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) Update: The district has finally received a substantial portion of MAA reimbursements. On Monday, September 13, a check in the amount of \$1,005,546.62 representing MAA Quarters 1, 2, and 3 from 2008-09 arrived. These dollars were issued by Glenn County Office of Education as the local educational consortium for the north state. Our agreement with Butte County now requires us to pay BCOE a portion for the work they do to collect and report the data. We are calculating the "net" MAA proceeds after expenses for having the MAA program and identifying next steps.

Since the beginning of the MAA agreement with employees the district has seen a substantial growth in the number of people participating in MAA reporting. Prior to the agreement with employees, about 55 people participated each quarter and funds earned each quarter averaged just under \$50,000. Beginning with the first quarter of 2008-09, participation increased to 335 people participating and funds earned on each quarter averaged over \$300,000 per quarter. The quality and quantity of the reporting both improved.

Under the terms of the employee agreements, 50% of the net MAA proceeds are divided between CUTA, CSEA and CUMA based on FTE in June 2008. Then each group determines distribution for their pool of the funds. Union leadership has been notified that the check has arrived. While regulations prevent using the reimbursement to pay only the people who did the reporting, the monies can be used in other across-the-board types of compensation.

Payroll: CSEA Unit Members – As communicated via Memorandum last month from Bob Feaster, September payroll will reflect the first month that the agreed upon furlough deduction for CSEA unit members from payroll will occur. The furlough deductions will be spread evenly from the September 2010 through June 2011 payroll periods.

Categorical: School sites will be receiving their new 2010/11 categorical budgets this week.

CalSTRS Individual Interviews and Workshops: The Butte County Office of Education (BCOE) will host two workshops. The first is called the Fundamentals Workshop on November 16, 2010, and the second is a Retirement Workshop on March 15, 2011. In addition the following dates are available at the BCOE for individual interviews with CalSTRS Benefits Counselors: Nov. 17-19, Feb. 16-18, March 16-18, and May 25-28. To schedule an appointment or register for a workshop call 530-225-0203.

Free Health Screenings and Flu Shot Clinics: Butte County Schools Special Programs JPA is once again sponsoring free health screenings and flu shots at the Chico Unified School District Office Large Conference room for medical plan members and their dependents. The dates and times are:

- October 11, 2010, 3:00pm – 6:00pm (Flu Shot Only)
- October 12, 2010, 6:30am – 9:00am (Health Screening and Flu Shot)

For additional Butte County locations and to make your reservation please contact Cathy Ramirez at 532-5838 or email Cathy at cramirez@bcoe.org.

Measure A Phase 2 Permanent Classrooms at Chico High School: The new classroom building project continues to move along according to schedule. On the outside, the parking area to the west of the building is complete and concrete sidewalks are almost done. On the inside, the lighting has been installed, the T-bar grid ceiling tiles are being placed and the fire sprinkler heads will soon follow. The flooring in the classrooms has been laid and the epoxy flooring is now completed in the science labs. The air conditioning system is up and running on the south side of the building and the north side will be fired up and tested next week. In the coming days we will see more concrete work on the fire access lane and light pole bases while more finishing touches are added to the interior. In mid-September the furniture will be delivered and put into place.



Bob Michael, CUSD Construction Manager and the crew from Modern Building Company have been hard at work inspecting installed work and making adjustments as needed. The interiors of the classrooms are nearly completed and the student furniture is being put in place. Since this building is part of the District's commitment to the Collaboration for High Performing Schools (CHPS) there are several steps to commissioning the new energy efficient "green" building. Some of the steps include air quality testing, sound attenuation testing, and energy efficiency testing, to ensure we are meeting the high performance goals.

The exterior concrete is now complete and the landscaping crews are starting to install the irrigation systems. The contractors are currently working on the dramatic stained concrete floor in the common area that is surrounded by the

high glass walls. This project is coming along nicely and we are looking forward to showing off the features of this highly efficient building.

Dog-gone Good Chili: Last Saturday, the Chico Elks Lodge #423 presented the second annual Dog Parade Contest and Chili Cook-Off fundraiser. The Dog Parade Contest categories included: cutest pug, best kisser, most talented, prettiest female, handsomest male, cutest puppy, best costume, and best ball/Frisbee catcher. The Chili Cook-Off contest categories consisted of: judge's choice, people's choice, and best decorated booth. There were also children's art displays, exhibits, music, silent art auction, food, and prize raffles. This year in an effort to support this event, the CUSD M/O and Facilities staff banded together and entered the chili cook-off competition. The kitchen opened at 8:00 a.m. and the cooking began. The chili was ready to sample by 11:00 a.m. There were eight competitors with most being restaurants in the Chico area. When the day was over, the chili was gone, and the judging complete. M/O/Facilities was awarded first place in the peoples choice category. The clincher for winning the first place trophy had to have been the combination of an old family recipe for chili and an added garnish of Cheetos served with every sample. All and all it was a great day. The parking lot was full; the dogs looked great and got along extremely well and the weather was perfect. The pictures tell it all. The proceeds were to benefit participating Chico Unified School District schools, The North Valley Animal Disaster Group, and Habitat for Humanity.



Maintenance & Operations: The California Code of Regulations Title 19 requires that all decorative materials such as drapes, hangings, curtains, drops or any other material that would tend to increase the fire and panic hazard in school facilities must be made from a nonflammable material or treated and maintained in a flame retardant condition. Materials may be treated with a flame retardant solution that is approved by the California State Fire Marshal. (CCR Title 19 sec. 3.08)

The City of Chico Fire Inspector has developed a process in which he believes will help identify like items listed that have been treated with the flame retardant product. The process is simply a document that lists items that have been treated and signed by the individual that did the treating. Thanks to the Ed Services Department this process has been distributed district wide. M/O has already received copies of lists from Sierra View and Citrus Elementary schools; thank you Sierra View and Citrus for your positive and quick response toward developing your lists.

The Fire Inspector will be scheduling inspections very soon. He will be checking in the offices at each site and asking to see the lists of treated items. If you are working on your own list and need the fire retardant product, it is available in the warehouse, under catalog # 70550.

Nutrition Services is Proud to Participate in Farm to School Week During the Week of September 20-24



American farmers feed our nation and the world, but they are all local to somewhere. We are getting to know our local farmers. Working with the Sierra Cascade Nutrition & Activity Consortium (SCNAC) and celebrating Farm To School Week we will be featuring some local produce on our salad and garden bars, including:

- **Bryan Howard** of **Howard's Natural Produce** here in Chico - **Beautiful apples** will be featured district wide on Wednesday, September 22 on our Elementary Garden Bars, Secondary Salad Bars and some Secondary regular serving lines.
- **Matthew Martin** of **Pyramid Farms** here in Chico - **Cherry Tomatoes** will be featured on Thursday, September 23 and Matthew will serve his **Whole Tomatoes** Tuesday-Friday as an ingredient in our fresh made sandwiches and wraps at the Secondary Sites.

The Nutrition Services Department is working toward fostering the viability and growth of small and mid-size local farms and ranches, and they want to create new opportunities for farmers and ranchers by promoting locally produced foods. They also want to build the infrastructure necessary to support a local food system, and they will need local partners to do that. Local and regional food systems mean fresh food, vibrant communities, a strong connection between cities and the countryside, and support for this and the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

Students benefit from a closer connection with their food and agriculture. Research on nutrition education methods increasingly suggests that there is a link between long-term healthy eating behaviors and experiential learning that begins early in life. The more a child is involved with food - either through gardening, farming, cooking or other "real life" food experiences -- the more likely it is that he or she will adopt healthy eating behaviors as a lifelong practice. Purchasing local food affords schools a tremendous opportunity to generate and reinforce these kinds of learning experiences.

The SCNAC put together a video of **Bryan Howard's** farm through their Farmer of the Month (FOTM) Video Project, a seven-minute educational video that helps students understand how their food travels from the farm to the table. The video features Bryan Howard of Howard's Natural Produce, from Chico, CA and features the journey of an apple from his organic apple farm all the way to the farmers' market. This video hopes to introduce students and teachers to local farmers via a virtual fieldtrip of how fruits and vegetables are harvested and sold. This virtual fieldtrip will help build support for local farmers and will help children and families learn about the farming industry and local people that grow our food. We encourage you to share local farmers' stories with your students as a way to enhance existing *Harvest of the Month* activities. The video can be accessed online at <http://www.youtube.com/user/scnac1>. Please read **Bryan Howard's** story (attached) to your class and take time to show the FOTM video.

There are many things that you, as an educator, can do to enhance your students' knowledge of the farming industry. Some ideas are:

- Write thank you letters to your local farmers.
- Find Chico, 95926 on a map and track the miles the produce would have to travel to get to your school.
- Challenge students to investigate local apple growers and farms.
- Have students interview and document their parents' favorite apple stories, memories and recipes!
- Encourage students to identify apples in the books they read.

- Ask students to note during their next trip to the grocery store where the apple displays are located. Are they in the front, back or on the side? How many varieties do they have available?
- Map the origin of the apple and the various geographical regions in California where apples grow.
- List the top five varieties of apples commercially produced in California and the counties that grow them.

[Matthew Martin](#) of Pyramid Farms here in Chico, sells veggies year round at the Chico Certified Farmers' Market on Saturday. His farm has 8-1/2 acres of certified organic fruits and vegetables (over 40 different kinds!). If you were to visit Pyramid Farms this spring you would find carrots, beets, and onions growing. We are lucky to feature Matthew's tomatoes next week. Matthew has been farming for 20 years, it started as a hobby gone wild. He loves "yummy food" which is why he loves being a farmer. The secret to his delicious produce is that it is all about happy soil and lots of love. It is hard to put into words. The key to being a successful farmer is loving what you do. If you do not love it, you are not going to grow good vegetables. You have to be ready to work long hours - farming is a lifestyle, not just a job. "*Happy soil makes sweet carrots and growing organically keeps my soil happy,*" says Martin. Pyramid Farms also has chickens and goats that they keep for eggs, cheese, and milk. You can find Matthew Martin's produce at the Chico & Grass Valley Certified Farmers' Markets and also at Chico Natural Foods and S & S Produce.

We are so excited to participate in this event and feel very fortunate to have made connections with some local farmers who seem very eager, accommodating and pleased to work with us. So come on by your cafeteria during Farm To School Week, September 20-24 and check out what the National School Lunch Program at CUSD has to offer. Thank you [SCNAC](#), [Bryan White](#) and [Matthew Martin](#) for working with us, we look forward to featuring your beautiful produce and fostering relationships for the future.

For more information on *Harvest of the Month*, visit www.harvestofthemonth.com.

For more information on Farmer of the Month, visit www.scnac.org.

NEWS FROM & ABOUT EMPLOYEES ♥

With Sadness:

- Our thoughts and condolences go out to the family of Chico High Health Assistant, Valorie Vaughn, as well as to the entire Chico High staff and student body. Ms. Vaughn was well known on the Chico High campus and popular with staff and students. She will be greatly missed. Some CHS students have put together a candlelight vigil for Val for next Wednesday, September 22, at 7:30pm in front of the gym. Flowers will be provided by the Quinn Mendez's Floral Design class and some students from Sue Delgado's choir will sing. Some students will also read essays and poems from Laura Carey's creative writing class. Val was much loved by many CHS students and was for many a second mom. The memorial service for Val will be this Saturday, September 18, 11:00 a.m. at St. Johns Episcopal Church on Floral Avenue.
- Our thoughts and condolences also go out to Ginger Picchi, whose son Jon Raven passed Tuesday evening. Many of us had the privilege of working with Ginger during her time in Chico Unified where she served as Assistant Principal at both Chico Junior and Pleasant Valley High School. Cards can be sent to Ginger at 16 Via Morrow Court, Chico, 95928.

NEWS FROM SCHOOL SITES

Art Studio 2: There will be an art show of work by Pleasant Valley High School's Art Studio 2 class during the month of October at Has Beans Internet Cafe & Galleria, 501 Main St. Chico, CA. The show will feature paintings with a coffee shop theme. A reception will be held October 6, 5:00-6:30 p.m. All are invited. For more information, contact Reta Rickmers at (530) 891-3050.

CHS Creative Writing: [Laura Carey](#), CHS English teacher, overheard her students state that they were able to answer more questions on the STAR test because of Creative Writing and the literary magazine, where they learned genre, editing, technique, punctuation, sentence structure, grammar, style, metaphor and other figures of speech, by being responsible for it, not just by studying it. They also learn more business-related skills, and they learn to respect themselves and others. Follow the link @ http://www.chicoer.com/columnists/ci_15970660 to see what CHS Junior [Gabby Luu](#) has to say about her Creative Writing class. Imagine how proud Laura is that Gabby finds her fellow students to be the most supportive people she has ever known.

Outlaw Ticket Fundraiser – And The Winners Are: Sierra View Elementary and Bidwell Jr. High received checks at the Outlaws game. The checks were the percentage of earnings that we brought in with the Outlaw ticket fundraiser that we held in the spring last year. Sierra View received \$1000 from Enloe Medical Center as a 3rd place winner. Bidwell came in 2nd and Chico Country Day was the grand prize winner.

CUUSD IN THE NEWS

Enterprise Record

[Letter: School funding missed the boat](#)

[CUUSD reviews charter school petition](#)

[Boys and Girls Club scrambles to make after-school program work](#)

[Letter: You missed some big news](#)

[Correction for September 8](#)

[Teachers' union takes first step toward job action](#)

[Letter: Herger does little for education](#)

[Letter: Arts center should be free to students](#)

[Things heat up between Chico school district, teachers' union](#)

[Letter: Change needed on Chico school board](#)

[Unions, Green School on CUUSD agenda](#)

[Green School faculty sees red at CUUSD board meeting](#)

Chico News & Review

[More complaints out of Chico High](#)

[Strike talk looms over rally](#)

[Candidates line up for a tough job](#)

KRCRTV.COM

[Teachers' Vote May Authorize Strike](#)

[Chico Teachers Union To Rally Monday](#)

KHSL

[Teachers Prepared to Settle or Strike](#)

KPAY

[CUUSD Prepares For Possible Teachers Strike](#)



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**CSU Chico
Center for Nutrition &
Physical Activity**

Media Alert

Local farmers and Chico Unified School District partner to feed local children

Chico, September 16, 2010

What: Two Chico farmers are partnering with the Chico Unified School District (CUSD) to bring locally grown fresh and nutritious fruits and vegetables into the school lunch program to celebrate National Farm to School Week (**September 20th-24th**). Farm to School programs link local farms with schools and they offer a strategy for addressing childhood obesity while supporting family farms.

Why: Farm to School programs are a good model for:

- Promoting healthy eating habits in children and reducing their risk for obesity
- Opening up new markets and increased revenues for farmers
- Increasing school lunch participation and thereby revenues for the school

Who: **Tanya Harter, the Interim Director of Nutrition Services at CUSD** has worked with a handful of farmers over the last few years to bring local produce into school meals. The Nutrition Services Department is working toward fostering the growth of small and mid-size farms and ranches, and wants to create new opportunities for farmers and ranchers by promoting locally produced foods. They are interested in working with local partners to build the infrastructure necessary to support a local food system.

http://www.chicousd.org/_dept/business/nutrition_services/index.html

Bryan Howard of Howard's Natural Produce is a third generation farmer from Chico, CA. He has partnered in the past with the Center for Nutrition and Activity Promotion, providing thousands of apples for the Harvest of the Month program. Bryan has been featured in a Farm to School video viewed by students throughout the North State. <http://www.youtube.com/user/scnac1#p/a/f/0/6vtUiB6BvVU>

Matthew Martin of Pyramid Farms has been farming for over 20 years and sells vegetables year round at the Chico Certified Farmers' Market. Matthew is famous for his carrots and says, "Happy soil makes sweet carrots and growing organically keeps my soil happy." <http://www.pyramidfarms.com>

The Center for Nutrition & Activity Promotion (CNAP) provides the Harvest of the Month (HOTM) program and monthly fruit and vegetable tastings to over 35,000 area school children. CNAP used student surveys and observations of cafeteria lunch selections to assess changes in fruit and vegetable patterns and found that participation in the HOTM program increased students' selections of fruit and vegetables from school garden bars. HOTM students were observed selecting approximately 20% more fruits and vegetables from school garden bars by the end of the year. www.scnac.org

Photo & Interview Opportunities: Elementary students will be harvesting and eating vegetables in the school garden at McManus Elementary School: 988 East Avenue from **11:00-12:30** on **September 22nd and 23rd**. K-12 students at all sites will be tasting local produce on salad bars between 11:00-12:30 daily, students and staff are available for photos and interviews.

When: September 22: Local organic apples district-wide on all garden and salad bars, during lunch 11:00am-12:30pm **AND September 23:** Local organic cherry tomatoes on all garden and salad bars; more local tomatoes as ingredients in CUSD's fresh made sandwiches and wraps Tuesday through Thursday 11:00am-12:30pm

Where: All Chico Unified K-12 school sites will be participating in Farm to School garden bars featuring local produce.

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The mission of the Center for Nutrition and Activity Promotion at California State University Chico is to create innovative partnerships so that Californians in the north state are enabled to adopt healthy eating and physical activity patterns as part of a healthy lifestyle. For more information, please visit www.csuchico.edu/cnap or call 898-5308.



September Farmer of the Month

Each month we learn about local farmers who grow the Harvest of the Month.

We'd like to introduce you to Bryan Howard, the farmer who grew the delicious apples you are tasting this month!



Bryan has been driving tractors since he was a little boy

MEET THE FARMER

- WHO: Bryan Howard
WHERE: Howard's Natural Produce, Chico, CA
WHAT: 10 acres of organic apples
90 acres of walnuts & almonds



Bryan and his dad working side by side sorting and packing apples.

THE FARMER'S STORY

Bryan Howard grew up on the ranch where he now makes his living growing walnuts, almonds, and apples. The ranch is just a bit north of Chico, and east of the Sacramento river. It has been owned by Bryan's family since 1870 when his great-great-great grandfather bought the property with money that he won in a poker game! While some land was lost over time, the family held on to about 100 acres of it.

Bryan says that the family started growing apples when his father tasted his first "Gala" apple and thought it was the most delicious apple he'd ever had. He still sells those apples along with Fuji, Granny Smiths and Ginger Gold. He gets help on the ranch from his wife Sue, their three kids, his father and step mom, and one other employee.

THE FARMER’S STORY CONTINUED...

Bryan said his favorite thing about working on a farm is that he gets to be his own boss, the work is different every day, and he loves to be outside. To be a good farmer, Bryan says “you have to be good at everything, and not afraid to do it all yourself”.

He loves selling his apples at the Chico and Red Bluff Farmers’ Markets because he gets to visit with friends and customers that he’s known for many years. Every time he goes to the market, his apples sell out!

Bryan says his family never eats a perfect apple! Those go to the market or stores. Blemished apples don’t look good to most people but his family knows they’re all delicious, especially right off the tree!



Bryan’s dad’s dog Penny likes to supervise the apple harvest and loves to play fetch with rocks around the orchard.



Packing apples in August.

LOCAL APPLES

Apple season in Chico begins in August with early varieties like the Galas, and can go all the way into November. With the help of cold storage, Bryan can keep his apples fresh and sell them until March. This family farm has very rich soil because nitrogen-producing clover is also grown in the orchard. Chico’s hot weather can be a challenge for apples. Because of the heat, they don’t turn very red here, but they have more sugar than apples grown in colder climates.

WHERE CAN YOU BUY THESE APPLES?

Chico	Red Bluff
Tuesday Enloe Medical Center Farmers’ Market	Saturday morning (Red Bluff River Park)
Saturday morning Chico Certified Farmers’ Market	Wednesday evening (downtown Red Bluff)
Thursday night Farmers’ Market	

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?

1. How many years has Bryan’s family owned their farm?
2. Which kinds of apples are grown on Bryan’s family farm?



For more information on **Harvest of the Month**, visit www.harvestofthemonth.com. For more information on **Farmer of the Month**, visit www.scnac.org. For food stamp information, call 877-847-3663. Funded by the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, an equal opportunity provider and employer.

CHICO HIGH SCHOOL FFA PUMPKIN PATCH - FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Open Every Wednesday, 2pm - 5:30pm & Weekends 10am - 4pm in October

Come join us! - Traditional Pumpkin Patch with a variety of other crops, Harvest Games, Face Painting, Antique Tractor Exhibit.



Prices:
Pumpkins
 S \$3-5, M \$6-8, L \$10-12, XL \$15, GIANT: \$20-25
 Sunflowers & Zinnias \$5-10/bunch
 Gourds .50¢ - \$1
 Squash \$2
 Cranberry Bean prices vary



Come support your local Chico High FFA!

CHICO HIGH SCHOOL FFA PUMPKIN PATCH @ HENSHAW FARMS

Sponsors: Seed donated by Seeds by Design
 Airplanter Tractor Use donated by Steen Henriksen
 Pipe Donated by Pete Petersen
 Advice and Equipment donated by Friends of Agriculture



All of the proceeds benefit the students of the Chico FFA and Chico High School Ag Program



Located on the corner of Gynn and Henshaw Avenues in Chico, just off of W. East Ave

Drop the Drugs



HAVE UNNEEDED OR EXPIRED MEDICATION IN YOUR HOME?

Help protect your family, community and environment. Empty your unwanted or expired medication into a plastic bag and drop it off, no questions asked. Law enforcement will properly dispose of it.

NO needles/sharps or pill bottles/containers accepted.

**Saturday, September 25
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Enloe Medical Center's Cohasset Campus
560 Cohasset Road (at Rio Lindo Ave.), Chico**

DID YOU KNOW? Every day more than 2,000 12 to 17 year olds try a prescription painkiller non-medically for the first time, and 71 percent of kids 12 and older who abuse these drugs say they get them from a relative or friend.

The Drop the Drugs Campaign is supported by the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration; Butte County Meth Strike Force members; Gridley Guardians; hospitals and police departments in Chico, Gridley, Oroville and Paradise; the Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force; local community substance abuse prevention coalitions; Butte College; CSU, Chico; and local media. For info on proper disposal of pharmaceuticals, visit www.recyclebutte.net.



ENLOE
MEDICAL CENTER



FREE

Health Screenings and Flu Shot Clinics

The Butte Schools Self-Funded Programs JPA promotes healthy lifestyles for its members and their families. Our health screenings (**FREE** to members and covered dependents) provide information to assess your risk of heart disease, colon and prostate cancer as well as your wellness in general. **FREE** seasonal flu shots (H1N1 now included) are also available.

Health Screenings Include ...

- Height and weight
- Blood pressure and pulse
- Body density / fat %
- Complete metabolic, lipid and hemogram blood panel
- Colon cancer (stool occult) test
- Prostate cancer test
- All results are confidential (information is not provided to your supervisor or your district)

Seasonal flu shots are also available ...

Influenza can lead to pneumonia and can be dangerous for people with heart or breathing conditions. Who should be vaccinated?

- Anyone 50 or older
- Anyone with long-term health problems, weakened immune system, muscle or nerve disorders or on long-term aspirin treatment
- Anyone who lives with or cares for people at high risk for influenza-related complications
- *NO vaccination for people allergic to eggs or those with an allergic reaction to prior vaccination or other severe allergies.*
- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Check with your doctor.

Costs ...

Screenings are **FREE** for BSSP medical plan members and their dependents. Shots are **FREE** for all district employees and their dependents

Prostate test is \$26 for members / dependents under age 50.

Screenings are available to non-member district employees

- \$55 screenings
- \$10 colon cancer test
- \$26 prostate test

Be Prepared!

The blood panel requires a 12-hour fast. **Do not eat or drink anything but water for 12-hours prior to your appointment.** Your upper arm is needed for blood pressure, blood draw, body fat analysis and the flu shot. Please dress accordingly!

October 11	3:00-6:00 p.m. <i>(flu shots, only)</i>	Chico Unified District Office large conference room
October 12	6:30-9:00 a.m.	Chico Unified District Office large conference room
October 21	6:30-9:00 a.m.	Butte College Allied Health room 239
October 26	6:30-9:00 a.m.	Paradise Unified District Office board room
November 9	6:30-9:00 a.m.	Butte County Office of Education board room

****APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED****

Contact Cathy Ramirez at 532-5838 or cramirez@bcoe.org to schedule your appointment.