



FFA is Life...Life is Scary

As we enter into the month of October, many things also approach. The end of 1st Quarter at LHS, harvest season, Halloween, college applications, and if you're a Freshman the FFA Creed. All of these things can be scary for any individual. However, the way an individual decides how to approach and handle these, and many other challenges in life, will determine ones personal accomplishment and overall character. Life can be scary, but we challenge you to embrace the opportunities before you.

IN THIS ISSUE

Public Speaking Opportunities

Page 2

Meet your Local Farmers

Page 3

Advisors Corner

Page 5

Drought Tolerant Plants

With the drought in California becoming more apparent, citizens are being asked to cut back their water usage more than ever. With landscaping being known as a source of high water consumption, homeowners are looking for new options to use less water in their landscape, but still keep the value of beautification for their homes that landscaping provides. Check out this month's featured drought tolerant plant by Helene Dondero on page 5 and consider making your yard drought tolerant.



FFA Opening & Closing Contest Postponed...

Due to recent fires in the Calaveras area, the FFA Opening & Closing Ceremonies Competition scheduled for September 30, 2015 was postponed. The Calaveras County Fair Grounds was chosen to host this competition, however it is being used currently as a Relocation Center and First Aid Medical Site. The Linden FFA Chapter keeps all family members affected by the fires in their thoughts, and hope for quick recoveries. Although no new date has been chosen, yet Linden FFA members will continue to work towards making sure they are prepared to compete.



HORTICULTURE GRANT RECEIVED FROM CANGC

BY MARC JARETT

This year, the Linden High School Horticulture club received a \$500 grant from San Joaquin Delta College and CANGC (California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers). This grant was applied for in September to help improve and develop the current Horticulture program here at the high school. This \$500 grant will be used by the Horticulture club to improve their plant yard and build new soil bins to hold soil made within the class. This will help students to continue to be successful with their plant projects and allow the Horticulture unit to come closer to running like a operational nursery. The Horticulture club is grateful for this grant and can't wait to expand their club even further.

Public Speaking Opportunities

By Scout Steinkamp

Scared of public speaking? Try to step out of your comfort zone and compete in a speaking competition. There is no better way to conquer your fear of speaking! Here are some competitions you can try.

Creed: A Freshman only competition, coached by Mr. Archer. For this competition you memorize the FFA Creed and recite it to a panel of judges and then answer questions regarding the Creed and the importance of Agriculture.

Impromptu: A Sophomore only competition also coached by Mr. Archer. Here you have the ability to learn about many different topics related to agriculture. You randomly draw a question to answer or a topic to discuss and have 1 minuet to prepare a response. You are allowed to speak for 30 seconds but no longer than 2 minutes.

Extemporaneous: A great way to learn about a wide range of popular topics in agriculture. This contest is available to all grade levels and is coached by Mrs. Dyk. She will help you learn how to write a 4-6 minute speech in 30 minutes on a topic that you select about agriculture.

Prepared: A great way to become an expert on one topic in the agriculture field. This contest is available to all grade levels and is also coached by Mrs. Dyk. You have several months to prepare and memorize a 6-8 minute speech. You become the expert of this topic and deliver your speech to a panel of judges.

Job Interview: A way to prepare you for the future job interviews. This contest is available to all grade levels and is coached by Mr. Lemos. This is like competing for a job. You must complete a Résumé, Letter of Introduction, Job Application and then a face-to-face job interview. Great way to gain experience talking to adults and preparing for the workplace.

*All are scary to think about, but will give you a lifetime of experience that's invaluable.



The Billigmeier family (Top left picture) , B&B Ranch (Both top right and bottom picture)

Meet Your Local Farmers... The Billigmeier and Billigmeier Ranch

BY ROSICELA OLIVARES

Over the weekend, I had the pleasure of interviewing Mike Billigmeier who is a 4th generation farmer for the B&B Ranch in Linden, CA. He is a graduate of UC Davis where he majored in Agriculture Economics. He currently lives in Linden with his wife and two young girls and operates the B&B Ranch. The ranch has been in operation for over 50 years starting in 1961 with Lois Boggiano's Nonno. Lois husband, Larry Billigmeier, later bought the business in 1974 from her father.

The B&B Ranch produces walnuts, cherries, pears, apples and peaches throughout the Linden area. While talking with Mr. Billigmeier, I asked how farming has changed over the years? He responded that farming in the 1960's was more mechanical then it is now. Today farming is more advanced but also involves more paperwork and documentation. Improvements with technology have also had positive changes and they have had more success with irrigation systems and testing of soil samples. However,

even with all of these improvements there are still challenges that have to be faced. Today Farms like the B&B Ranch face the drought, laws and regulations, and weather. They have overcome some of these problems by switching to drip irrigation, micro sprinklers and keeping up-to-date with the laws. His advice to young agriculturalists is "Do what you love to do. If you have a passion for something, go after it. Find a mentor who has had past experience with agriculture and get a good education."



1st General Meeting a Success!

BY ROYCE MCPHEE-BAYHA

Our first general meeting held on September 16th, was a major success for Linden FFA. We had just over 100 members attend with positive attitudes and willingness to participate in various activities during the meeting. The officer team was also excited to announce their "Hunger Games" Competition at the meeting to help increase membership involvement throughout the school year. We were able to cover a lot of business regarding future goals we have set for the chapter, and plans we have for the future. In fact one of the goals was to increase membership attendance of meetings to 20% of our membership. We exceeded this goal by 15% ! The officer team is greatly looking forward to our next meeting, and is welcoming as many FFA members to come and participate. We look forward to continued participation and hope to see our chapter grow in participation and recognition. See you on October 14th.

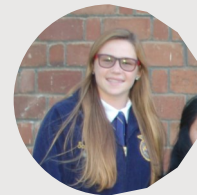
MEET THE OFFICERS



Reporter
Rosicela Olivares

"The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things."

- Ronald Reagan



Sentinel
Scout Steinkamp

"If you have the ability to respond, then it is your responsibility. Always try to serve others and thank those who help you."



Introducing
Gilbert Alexander Lemos

Mr. Lemos and family welcomed their new baby boy, Gilbert, on Wednesday September 23, 2015. We are happy that everyone is doing well and Congratulations to the Lemos Family.

Lavandula Multifida

Common Name: *Lavender*

Botanical Name: *Lavandula multifida*

Origin: *Europe*

Varieties Available: *Lavandula multifida Spanish Eyes, Lavandula multifida Blue Wonder, English Lavender, French Lavender*

Common Pest: *Aphids, Whiteflies, Spittle Bugs*

Diseases: *Phytophthora root rot, Pythium (lower fungus)*



Proper Care & Requirements:

Sunny planting location with good air circulation

Do not plant them next to your house where it is shady and damp

Humidity is not a friend of Lavender

This plant can withstand a good soaking rain but they need to be able to dry off afterward

The soil needs to be a light sandy mix which allows for good drainage

They prefer dry alkaline soils (pH 7.1) over acid ones

They are drought resistant because they dislike having watery soil

Fun Fact: *The scent of lavender deters mice, flies, mosquitoes and other pests from the area*





HERE BY THE OWL

Advisor’s Corner—Nobody puts YOU in a Corner

BY MR. ARCHER

As I pondered what to write out for the month of October, the word “corner” stuck-out as the title to this particular section of the FFA Newsletter. The reason I say that is because one of the most iconic phrases from one of the most popular movies of the late 1980’s popped into my head. If you’ve ever watched the movie, Dirty Dancing, then you’re familiar with the moment when Patrick Swayze shows back up at the vacation resort and walks over to his love interest, Jennifer Grey, and says, “Nobody puts Baby in a corner.” This phrase might sound strange as the focus of my article, but then I got to thinking about corners and why so many people, particularly students, put themselves “in corners.”

As I write this, I’m just starting the FFA Unit with my Ag Integrated Science class (primarily freshmen) and I’m thinking about all of the interesting history and fun facts I can share with them about the FFA, with a bit of a focus on our own Linden FFA Chapter. The thing that excites me the most are the opportunities that they’ll learn about over the next several weeks, as well as throughout the year, as ways they can get involved and perhaps change their lives through the many leadership development opportunities that are available.

The unfortunate thing about many students is that, I believe, they want to get involved and try something new, but their minds take over and they place themselves in a corner (their

comfort zone) and choose not to get involved. The reasons for this could be many including, FEAR (False Evidence Appearing Real) of Public Speaking (as an example), being judged by their friends for doing something different (especially in a sports driven world), and/or lack of initiative (being lazy). The reality is that the only way to overcome these issues of self-confidence is by doing exactly what this article is about – GETTING INVOLVED!

Whether it’s coming to an FFA Meeting, participating in a Career Development Event, attending a leadership conference, or joining a committee, I believe there is something for everyone who wants to improve themselves individually while at the same time making Linden FFA a stronger chapter. I’d be lying if I said that doing any of these things were easy because they’re not, but doing something worthwhile and to improve yourself is never easy.

As we start to wrap-up the first quarter, it’s time for you to make a decision to improve yourself and your high school experience. Whether it’s improving your studies (to get better grades), making new friends, or getting involved in more activities at LHS (FFA, etc.), the time is now for you start stepping out of your corner. Please know that as your FFA advisors we’re here to assist you in whatever capacity we can. After all, “if you see a turtle on top of a fence post, you can be sure that it didn’t get there by itself.”

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HIGHLIGHTS BOX

*Greenhand Leadership Conference
-October 8th @ Lodi High School*

*Chapter Meeting - October 14th
Multipurpose Room @ 6:30pm*

*Opening & Closing Ceremonies
Contest— TBA*