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# Dress-code limits trouble students

## Changes made because of gangs

By Donna-Marie Sonnichsen

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How can students avoid wearing red and blue clothing when those are the school colors?

The new dress code at Tulare Western High School isn't sitting well with some students.

Red and blue are associated with two of the major gangs well entrenched in Tulare, according to the

local anti-gang police unit, and the Tulare Joint Union High School District is trying to address that among recent revisions to the dress code.

The revisions include a key clause that bans anything from clothing to notebooks that "by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark or any other attribute denotes membership in gangs," and is basically left open to the

schools to interpret, said TJUHSD Superintendent Dr. Sarah Koligian.

"In schools that have red and blue colors you have to apply common sense, and know there are times, like Spirit Day, when they will be worn," Koligian said, adding the clause is also meant to protect students, particularly ones who may be in danger by innocently wearing gang-affiliated colors.

### INFORMATION:

www2.tulare.k12.ca.us

A similar clause is also in the Visalia high schools dress code according to an Office of Education spokesman, but some teenagers say don't take things too far.

"I think it is going to be very hard to manage, especially with the school colors being red, white and blue. You have to find a medium where enough is

enough within the dress code. It's not wearing the colors; it's how you present yourself with the colors. I don't feel at risk at all," Western senior Cameron Yentes, 17, said.

"You don't want to push too far, like when we have days everyone wears red and blue in the school spirit," he added.

Fellow senior and Associated Student Body President Franchesca Rodriguez, 17, agreed.

"I'm not going to say no-

body wears red because they're in a gang. It happens everywhere. But to limit it at a red white and blue school where kids just want to wear it to show their school spirit? Out of all the schools here we're like amazing, just high in our spirit, so to tell us we can't wear red or we can't wear blue...what are we supposed to wear, black?" Rodriguez questioned.

See CODE, Page 3A

# Schools receive healthful donation



Officials are adding salad bars to school cafeterias throughout the county like this one in the Dinuba Unified School District. SUBMITTED.

## Some county schools to get salad bars

By Brian Maxey  
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Students at 28 Tulare County elementary schools will pile leafy greens and locally-sourced fruits onto their plates in a new way when they return to school campuses over the next few weeks.

The schools, spread across nine districts, will now serve fresh fruits and vegetables from crisp, new salad bars installed in cafeterias.

The addition of salad bars have grown in popularity in recent years as schools have revamped lunch menus to provide healthy options alongside cafeteria staples like chicken nuggets and deep-dish pizza.

The salad bars make it easier for schools to make fresh fruits and vegetables available to students or to schools who cannot afford the \$2,500 price tag, said Kathleen Nave, president of the California Table Grape Commission.

"We want to encourage [students] to eat as healthfully as possible," Nave said. "And having these salad bars communicates that message."

In March, the organization donated the 28 salad bars and will donate 5 more over the next two months as part of its participation in First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools" initiative.

The initiative, an offshoot of the first

See NUTRITION, Page 3A

### MARIJUANA ERADICATION

# Deputies remove over 4K plants

## Grow site found near SCICON

Sheriff's Department deputies removed more than 4,000 marijuana plants from an illegal marijuana grow site Tuesday, the fourth such effort in a 11-day stint.

The marijuana plants were located within a 1/2 mile radius in the Bear Creek area, above SCICON on federal land.

The Sheriff's Department said deputies also found a processing center, trash piles and chemicals.

Those tending the grow site had diverted water from Bear Creek using a complex watering service to irrigate the plants, the Sheriff's Department said. Deputies tore down the irrigation system, allowing water to return to streams and creeks.

The Sheriff's Department said additional work will be done to restore the site.

Last week, sheriff's personnel eradicated sites in Lindsay, Three Rivers and Eshom Towers.

While serving search warrants at homes in the 45000 block of South Fork Drive in Three Rivers and the 22000 block of Avenue 256 in Lindsay, sheriff's personnel made two arrests, located nearly 400 marijuana plants and seized 10 weapons.

The deputies arrested Enrique Ramos, 50, of Lindsay, and Pedro Alvarez, 47, of Three Rivers.

In a separate instance, deputies were flown into the Three Rivers Flume area after receiving reports

See POT, Page 3A

High: 100° Low: 66°

Pollen forecast today: 6.5



Saturday: 6.8

Sunday: 7.3

Predominant pollen: Juniper and grasses.

Source: Dr. A.M. Aminian

Bridge	3A	Opinion	4B
Local	2A	Choices	
Obituaries	2A	Movies	6
Sports	1B	Puzzles	16, 17
Weather	2A	Comics	15-17

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### IN BRIEF

#### Visalia man sentenced in carjacking case

A Visalia man authorities said stole a vehicle from a west Visalia gas station was sentenced to 18 years in prison Wednesday.

Lester Daniel Chavez, 37, will serve 85 percent of his sentence, about 15 years, 4 months, before he's eligible for parole, officials said.

According to the Tulare County District Attorney's Office, a 37-year-old man, whose name was withheld, pulled into the gas station and inadvertently left the keys inside the 2006 Toyota Corolla he was driving when he

went to pay for gasoline.

Chavez, according to the DA's office, walked up to the car, entered through the driver's seat and attempted to turn on the vehicle. The motorists ran up to the car and struggled with Chavez.

During the struggle, the vehicle's window was broken and the motorist let go of Chavez, who drove off from the gas station.

Visalia police officers arrested Chavez a short time later.

The carjacking was reported on Dec. 31.

#### Visalia man arrested in child abuse case

An unidentified Vi-

salia girl was reported in critical condition after suffering internal injuries consistent with shaken baby syndrome Wednesday, Visalia police said.

The 2½-month-old was taken to Kaweah Delta Medical Center after police, fire and ambulance personnel responded to a home in the 1400 block of East Meadowbrook Avenue.

Bryan Mark Hvass, 37, was arrested in connection with the infant's injuries. Hvass was booked into the Tulare County Main Jail on suspicion of felony child abuse.

See BRIEFS, Page 4A

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