

Comal ISD

The Ranger Reporter

Montelongo's Memorable Mentions

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Dear Parents and Students,

I would like to start off by saying hello and welcome to a new school year at Smithson Valley High School. With our first seven weeks of school under our Ranger belts, we feel that the school year has gotten off to a great start.

I would like to begin with stating that students and faculty are excited about our new additions to the SVHS campus. The campus is finally completed, and we are working on increasing college readiness on campus so that post-secondary education is an expectation for all students. We have the best students, great teachers, and sup-

portive parents. The future is bright at Smithson Valley High School.

As we move into the future, there are many great opportunities. The senior dining room is dedicated just to seniors and supervised by our senior counselor and College and Career coordinator. These individuals are there to answer any questions that will benefit our students and further promote their post high school education.

The focus for the 2011-12 school year is College and University Readiness. Getting every student accepted to some type of post secondary institution is an obtainable goal for all Rangers.

We will provide a quality education and safe environment for your child's learning. Our teachers welcome their student's everyday, engage them in activities that are meaningful, and have high expectations for all students. Thank you for allowing your child to attend Smithson Valley High School. We look forward to an outstanding school year and remember, "There's only one way ... That's the Ranger Way!"

Sincerely,
John Montelongo
Principal
Smithson Valley High School
john.montelongo@

PTSA President's Report

Hi Rangers!

I am very excited about the upcoming school year and hope you are too. I would like to thank the PTSA board, students and parents who helped with Registration this year by selling school store items, collecting memberships for PTSA, and giving directions at Registration and Fish Camp. Once again, Registration was successful by a team effort.

Parents, are you looking for a way to be involved at SVHS, but not sure where to begin? A great way to start is by joining PTSA! I would like to encourage you to join PTSA by filling out the membership form in The Ranger Reporter. You can mail this form back to the school, or drop it off in the office. Your membership money helps fund senior scholar-

ships, offer educational programs for parents and students, provide a staff luncheon the week before school begins, purchase awards for the student Reflections program, and so much more during the school year. Senior students, you must be a member of the SVHS PTSA by October to be eligible to apply for a scholarship that we offer in Spring 2012.

Another way you can help is by contributing to PTSA's Greenbacks Program or the No-Fundraiser Fundraiser. We will not ask you during the school year to sell wrapping paper, chocolates, or magazines. All you have to do is write out a check (or donate cash) in whatever amount you would like to give to SVHS PTSA. Your donation is tax deductible.

A volunteer form and a list of contacts

for all the committees within PTSA is included in this newsletter. We need your help and your student's help. We encourage you and your student to join PTSA and play an active role in our organization. We provide opportunities for your student to develop their leadership skills. All the things they do also count toward service hours.

Your board is full of enthusiastic and dedicated people who are ready to serve you. Please do not hesitate to contact us and let us know how you would like to help make SVHS a great place to be!

Anne Viera
PTSA President
anneviera@yahoo.com

Counselor Corner

SVHS hosted the Comal ISD College Fair, Wednesday, September 28th from 6:00-8:00pm. At least 70 colleges, universities, and vocational programs were on hand to answer questions. This was an excellent opportunity to gain valuable information.

Parents, please make sure you are checking your student's grades frequently. If you are having trouble with the portal ID, please contact your respective guidance counselor:

9th Grade – Mrs. Lauderdale

10th Grade – Mrs. Rostedt

11th Grade – Mrs. Pedroza

12th Grade – Mrs. Woodchick

Lead Counselor – Mrs. Murphy

College and Career Advisor – Mr. Hofer

Welcome Back Senior class of 2012 And Junior Class of 2013

SENIORS:

This year will be full of many activities and the school year will pass quickly. So, to help you keep organized in your preparation for transition away from high school, we are providing some important information.

WHAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING NOW...

If you have not already begun completing your Apply Texas Application, you may go to www.applytx.org to create an account and begin the application process. There are step-by-step instructions in the College and Career Center for your convenience.

You also might consider completing The Common Application, which can be found at www.commonapp.org. The Common Application can be used to apply to more than 450 colleges and universities across the United States as well as some international schools.

Ensure that you continue to work hard throughout the year as all colleges and universities expect a strong work ethic and often request a mid-year report to ensure students are maintaining their grades.

Request brochures and information packets from colleges and vocational programs that interest you and then schedule on-site or on-campus visits to ensure they are a good fit for you and you for them. Contact the admissions office for the schools you plan to visit to make arrangements.

Remember, you are allowed two (2) college visits throughout the year. College Day forms can be picked up in the Student Services office.

Money, money, money! Scholarships and grants are everywhere! Please make sure you are checking the College and Career website for scholarship and grant opportunities.

Very important: If you have not already done so, log on to www.pin.ed.gov or www.fafsa.ed.gov to apply for a PIN number. Both you and at least one parent will need to do this. The PIN number is used to electronically sign your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), which will be completed in early February. **DO NOT WAIT!**

Listen to the announcements and attend the college/university visits as they occur.

For more information and to find out how you can go to college, schedule a visit with Mr. Hofer in the College and Career Center.

JUNIORS:

Junior year marks the start of the college and career selection process. There is no better way to learn about a college, university, technical, or trade school than through a campus visit.

WHAT YOU CAN BE DOING NOW...

Start the school year off strong. If struggling, seek extra help and go to tutorials. Texas College admission is based on the end of the junior year transcript.

Double check your credits. Make sure you have the required core classes, fine art (1), PE (1), Health/Speech, technology (1), foreign language (at least 2).

Create or update your activities list/resume for college admissions. Anything from the summer before ninth grade is eligible to record. Think about volunteering in your community if you have not already done so.

Begin creating a list of colleges/careers that interest you. Research whether your careers require college degrees.

Request brochures from colleges and vocational programs (ex: TSTC) that you feel might be a good fit for you.

Contact the admissions office and plan a visit. This year juniors are allowed two excused absences for college visits (forms are in the Counseling office).

Many campuses have special events that cater to potential future students (ex: Texas State University Bobcat days are Oct 18th and Nov 19th, UTSA day is Nov 12th).

Visit the SVHS College and Career Center (CCC) to meet with Mr. Hofer for more college, scholarship, and vocational program resources.

The morning announcements and his website are also great resources reminding you of scholarship opportunities, important dates to remember, and upcoming college and career events on campus.

Cancer Awareness Week

October 10-14, 2011

Support Student Council's fundraiser with ALL Proceeds going to

The American Cancer Society

Wristbands will be for sale for \$1.00

Each band will be imprinted with the words:

"SVHS TACKLES CANCER 2011"

Student Council will sell colored bracelets representing various cancers:

Monday Oct. 10 - Pancreatic (purple) band

Tuesday Oct. 11 - Brain (grey) band

Wednesday Oct. 12- Lymphoma (green)

Thursday Oct. 13-Bone (yellow)

Friday Oct. 14-Breast (pink)

SVHS TACKLE CANCER T'S FOR SALE

May be purchased in the Cafeteria

S-XL: \$10 XXL: \$12

FFA is on Its Way

Submitted by Wayne Dietert

The Smithson Valley FFA is off and running for another year. We have a new slate of chapter officers who are ready and eager to make this a banner year. Officers for the 2011-2012 school year are; Taylor Walker pres. Bridget O'Brien VP, Will Tadlock Sec., Donnie Michalec Treas., Kayla Dietert Rep., Amber Burgess Sentinel, Kirsten Mauthe Parliamentarian, and Ashley Werner Student Advisor.

Students already have Steers, Lambs and Goats on feed for this show season and soon we will be adding Pigs, Chickens and Rabbits added to the list of projects on feed. Smithson Valley FFA students as a chapter earn upwards of \$500,000.00 per year on their projects that is used towards furthering their educations after High School. We exhibit animals all across the state of Texas and attend all Major Stock shows.

Currently, FFA members are training for Fall Leadership activities with competition coming up in November. Teams we will be entering include Parliamentary Procedure, Public Relations, Ag. Issues, Creed Speaking, FFA Quiz, Radio Broadcasting, and Job Interview.

Any students interested in joining the Smithson Valley FFA may contact one of the Ag. Science Teachers. Students in 3rd through 8th grade are considered Jr. FFA members and Students 9th through 12th grade are considered Sr. FFA members. Sr. members must be enrolled in at least one Ag. Class during the school year to be an active member. Membership dues are \$20.00 per member and parents may also join our Booster Club for \$10.00 per year.

Good Luck to ALL of our FFA members for 2011-2012.

SVHS NJROTC Off to Another Busy Year

Submitted by: Vincent Quidachay

Although the school year started for many of us on August 23rd, our NJROTC cadets started the year off by spending two weeks at Camp Swift in Bastrop, Texas as part of a 300 person Leadership Camp and Summer Mini Boot Camp. SVHS had 60 cadets participating with over 16 other schools in Texas.

In August, we held our Teams Camp followed by FISH Camp and an Adopt A Highway Cleanup project. In September, our cadets performed several Color Guards to include one for our football team, and four for September 11th. On September 10th, our entire battalion led off the Bulverde Jubilee Parade, then our Color Guard performed at a ceremony at Bulverde

United Methodist Church.

On Sunday, we performed Color Guards at Hope Arise Methodist Church and then the Knights of Columbus in New Braunfels.

September ended with our Welcome Aboard Barbecue, coupled with another Adopt A Highway cleanup, and then with our battalion marching in the Comal Fair Days Parade.

In October, we will hold our Hill Country Challenge Drill Meet on the SVHS Campus. 12 schools from around Texas will compete for a state qualifying bid, and our cadets will run the show. Please come and support our students.

SV Teacher, Navy Reservist and now Author!

Congratulations to Senior Chief Petty Officer Carl Arbogast

Mr. Carl Arbogast teaches Biology and Environmental Systems here at Smithson Valley High School. His new book *The Sand Squids*, available on both Amazon and Barnes and Nobles.com, provides an intimate look inside the military and its inner workings during a time of war and a clash of

cultures.

Mr. Arbogast received a bronze star for the unique contribution his Navy unit made to the Army's mission in 2004.

He was the senior member of a group of Navy reservists mobilized to Iraq to take the place of twice as many full-time soldiers.

This was the first time a group of Navy reservists were mobilized to replace Army soldiers in an Iraq war zone.

With only half the manpower as the soldiers they replaced, and reporting to an

Army chain of command - these "Sand Squids" found themselves in very unfamiliar circumstances.

"The Sand Squids," derived from the journal Mr Arbogast kept of this significant event is "delivered with candor, a sense of humor and, refreshingly, no political motives - it provides a fascinating view of how common sense CAN prevail throughout a barrage of extreme circumstances."

We thank Mr. Arbogast for his distinguished service and wish him much success with the new book.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Submitted by Robert Teuton

The purpose of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes is to present to athletes and coaches, and all whom they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships, and in the fellowship of the church. We meet every Friday morning at 7:45 in the old main gym. We also have a big event on Oct. 12 at 7:00 P.M. called Fields of Faith, taking place in Ranger Stadium. Everyone is welcome.

Smithson Valley HS Theatre Department Presents "The Diviners"

by Jim Leonard, Jr. Directed by Charley Nichols, Theatre Arts Director.

Opening Night: October 22, 2011 at 7pm
Sunday Matinee: October 23, 2011 at 2pm
Closing Night: October 24, 2011 at 7pm

Ticket Prices:
Adults: \$5
Students: \$2

One of the most compelling aspects of "The Diviners" is that all 11 characters are good people. They all have the best of intentions. This is not a play with an inherent villain, and it certainly is not about good versus bad. It is a play about a search. Every character in the play is searching for something: a preacher, a recipe for a successful farm, a search for a mother, a search for redemption. Amidst all the stories in the play, C.C. Showers is looking for a place where he fits in and can decide his own fate. Through Buddy, he sees an opportunity to redeem himself of the guilt he feels for leaving the ministry.

We are currently in arguably the most difficult economic time since the Great De-

pression. Because of this, many of us today find ourselves in a similar situation as some of the characters in "The Diviners," in the midst of a search. We oftentimes, when faced with a difficult economic situation, re-evaluate that which is important to us. For some, that search is for how to make more with less. For some, it is a search to reconnect with family. For some, that search is for meaning or for purpose. But regardless of the focus, we all are looking for something. It is a noble struggle. "The Diviners," however, leaves us with the reminder that, sometimes, tragic things happen to good people, no matter how noble or true our intentions may be.

Spanish Club

Submitted by Kelly Day

On October 6th, the Smithson Valley Spanish Club made its first visit of the year to St. Jude's Ranch for Children.

Each visit lasts about an hour, during which time club members play games with the kids or help them with homework. Visiting St. Jude's is a longstanding tradition that is near and dear to all our members' hearts, and we look forward to kicking off the school year with a great visit.

Additional activities that the group will be participating in include operation of a booth at Fall Festival, an appreciation dinner in November and a small celebration of Dia de los Muertos. Any student can join the Spanish club by speaking with Senior Stewart in room A128 (next to the nurse's office). Dues are \$5 for the year. Students

SHAC = SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Are you interested in your child's health and all things related to that in CISD??? We need your input and energy!! Try one meeting and see what it's all about!! Everyone is welcomed – parents, grandparents, community members, students, health professionals!!

Meeting Dates for Comal ISD SHAC (School Health Advisory Council) 2011-2012

September 20, 2011 – 12:00 - CHS – Cougar Room
November 15, 2011 – 12:00 – SVH Library Conference Room
February 21, 2012 – 12:00 – CHS – Cougar Room
April 10, 2012 – 12:00 – SVHS – Library Conference Room

CISD Food Service is supplying lunch! We will need to know if you are coming, please email Rene (rene.schafer@comalisd.org) or call

Family Summit Nov. 5 at CHS.

Submitted by Jamie Ezell

Comal ISD will be holding a Family Summit, "Empowering Children with Healthy Lifestyles" on Saturday, Nov. 5th at Canyon High School. The entire district is invited to attend. Doors will open at 9:30 with the beginning of the photo/audio exhibit titled, "Children of Children". There will be breakout sessions for middle/high school students and parents. Child care and lunch are available free of charge and Exhibitors from the community will be available to share information with parents and students. Please watch our blog for more information, <http://wp.comalisd.org/parentinvolvement/category/events/>

Nurse's Office Notes *Submitted by: Courtney Nesloney, RN*

ATTENTION, STUDENTS AND PARENTS! Be advised that students are NOT allowed to carry any medications, over the counter or prescription, unless written authorization has been received through the nurses' office as stated in the Comal ISD Student Handbook.

This includes inhalers, ibuprofen, etc.

When students have immunizations come due, letters will be mailed home to let parents

When students have immunizations come due, letters will be mailed home to let parents know.

You can find more information about immunization schedules by visiting the SV School Nurse Website at http://www.comalisd.org/Schools/SVHS/SVHS_School_Nurses.asp If you have any questions, please call (830) 885-1116 or (830) 885-1024.

SV Robotics Club Competes at St Mary's

Submitted by Kelly Day

The Smithson Valley Science Club has begun constructing a robot that will compete in the annual SA BEST robotics competition. This year students from Spring Branch Middle School are also helping with the construction and programming of the project. The competition takes place October 15th at St. Mary's University. Anyone and everyone is invited to attend and cheer on the proud SVHS/SBMS team.



Order your SVHS yearbook
at jostensyearbooks.com

Qualify for the 3400 or 3800 Club and Earn Great Rewards!!!

How? Simply by scoring high on your TAKS testing and your SAT!!!

TAKS (Math) + SAT (Math & Verbal) = 3400 = Free Prom Ticket!

or

TAKS (Math) + SAT (Math & Verbal) = 3800 = Free Prom Ticket & Yearbook!

Email Mr. Wunderlich at corbee.wunderlich@comalisd.org with questions.

*December SAT is final try

SUPPORT SVHS

Please Contribute What You Can to the **SVHS GREENACKS CAMPAIGN**

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES WANTED!!!

Send word of
announcements
and achievements to:
Betty Abolafia-
Rosenzweig at

mbnarr@gmail.com

SEE OUR GREAT NEW T'S AND HATS SHOP THE PTSA STORE!!!

Lunchtime in the Rotunda
1st Thursday of the month
Starting 10-6

Football Games
9-23, 10-14 and 10-28
Volleyball Games
9-27, 10-4 and 10-24

Aside from the old favorites students and parents have been loving our new Nike fitted SV hats, women's bella fitted T's, and the new slogans on our standard T's.

Your SVHS PTSA needs your help in order to provide programs to the SVHS students and staff such as Senior Scholarships, Staff Appreciation, classroom equipment purchases, and other programs such as Shattered Dreams, 411 on Dating, and Red Ribbon Week (drug awareness/prevention), and campus improvements throughout the school year.

Since we are all so busy, we will not ask you to sell candy, popcorn, candles, cookie dough, or wrapping paper.

Instead, we are conducting our annual **GREENBACK FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN**, where we simply ask you to contribute whatever amount you feel comfortable donating to help your PTSA. Unlike most other fundraisers, 100% of your donation will be used for requests made by SVHS teachers and administration throughout the 2011-2012 school year, to benefit **ALL** SVHS students. Furthermore, your donations are completely tax deductible and we will provide you with a letter acknowledging your donation

for you to use when you complete your tax return.

We humbly ask you to dig deep in your purses and pockets for any amount you are able and willing to donate.

Checks should be made out to SVHS PTSA and mailed to 14001 Hwy 46 West, Spring Branch, TX 78070.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to those parents who have already donated generously either at Registration or Open House.

To date we have raised \$2000 of our \$5000 goal.

PTSA Executive Board

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1st VP
2ndVP
3rdVP
Secretary
Treasurer
Parliamentarian
Historian
Council Delegate
Membership
Membership
Directory
PTSA Store
Volunteers
Greenbacks
Newsletter
Environmental
Scholarship
Hospitality
Staff Appreciation
Staff Appreciation
Programs
Reflections
Reflections
Legislative Delegate

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Nancy Pappas
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Jessica Johnson
Pam Beaufait
Terry Estep
Maria Klaus
Molly Beaufait
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Rudy and Isabella Gallardo
Laurie Chubb
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Kelly Vizzone
Robin Dallenbach
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Suzanne Johnson
Julie Whitaker
Austin Johnson
Sally Bratton
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anneviera@yahoo.com
azop@gvtc.com
Gallardo.heather@yahoo.com
johnson4@gvtc.com
pambeau@gvtc.com
jstep5@gvtc.com
Mariaklaus@yahoo.com
pambeau@gvtc.com
Shirley.koop@yahoo.com
jennifermorgan@hotmail.com

mmulkey@gvtc.com
rudy.heather8@yahoo.com
Chubbster5@juno.com
phicks826@yahoo.com
mbnarr@gmail.com
Dylan.klaus@yahoo.com
kvsaa@gvtc.com
capstickdr.@aol.com
cathywest@generalortho.com
johnson4@gvtc.com
rockinw@gvtc.com
johnson4@gvtc.com
sally.bratton@comalisd.org
azop@gvtc.com

NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE 2011-2012 TOURNAMENT DATES

Sept 17	TFA La Vernia HS, La Vernia	Nov 12	TFA Central Texas Novice, TBA, San Antonio
Sept 30/Oct 1	TFA MacArthur, San Antonio	Dec 2 & 3	TOC/TFA University of Texas at Austin National Tournament, Austin**
Oct 21 & 22	TFA Reagan HS, San Antonio	Dec 9 & 10	TFA Warren, San Antonio
Oct 28 & 29	TOC/TFA St. Mary's Hall, San Antonio		
Nov 5	TFA Stevens, San Antonio		

SVHS RANGER BLUE NEEDS YOUR GREEN!!

Your SVHS PTSA needs funds in order to provide programs like: Senior Scholarships, Staff Appreciation, Newsletter and many other activities that positively impact YOUR student! We are asking for your kind and generous donation which is **TAX DEDUCTIBLE!**

TOP FIVE REASONS TO DONATE



One Fundraiser - One Purpose
Please help us reach our goal of \$7000.00!
Thank You for Your Support!

SVHS PTSA-Just Say No to Fundraisers Donation Campaign

Personal Contributor

Presidential Donation Level: \$100 or above
 Silver Star Donation Level: \$50 to \$99
 Gun's Up Donation Level: \$25 to \$49
 Ranger Blue Donation Level: \$ up to \$25

SVHS PTSA Corporate Sponsor:

\$150 & above
 Corporate Level Sponsors will receive recognition in the PTSA Newsletter, at PTA meetings, Recognition in SVHS PTSA Directory and Honorary Ranger Plaque.

Please complete this form and mail it with your donation to SVHS PTSA, 14001 Hwy. 46 West, Spring Branch, TX 78070, or bring it to Open House and drop it off with the PTSA volunteers.

Please make your check payable to "SVHS PTSA".

Personal Contributor's Name: _____ Amount \$ _____

Corporate Sponsor's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Donation Amount \$ _____

Total Donation Amount \$ _____

SVHS PTSA 2011-2012 Membership Form

PTSA Dues
\$7.50 each

Primary Member Name: _____ \$7.50

Cell phone: _____ Email: _____

(Please indicate type of member (circle one) **Parent Faculty Student Other**)

Spouse Name: _____ (member - yes/no) \$7.50

Cell phone: _____ Email: _____ (Please indi-

cate type of member (circle one) **Parent Faculty Student Other**

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Student Members - SVHS Students may also join PTSA.

- Benefits:
- * opportunities for Service Hours
 - * opportunity to apply for PTSA Scholarships as Senior
 - * opportunities for Board positions

Name: _____ Email: _____ Volunteer _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Volunteer _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Volunteer _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Volunteer _____

Lifetime Member Dues: \$2.25 (Must be awarded)

Lifetime Member _____ Location _____

**Student Directories are published by the SVHS PTSA as a service to our members.
(If joined by Sept. 30, 2011)**

____ Yes, I want one for \$5.00!

Your Tax Deductible Greenback Donation is SVHS PTSA's primary fundraiser. Your donation will support the many programs and activities that benefit our students, parents and staff. Thank you for supporting our PTSA!

____ Yes, I want to make a cash donation in the amount of \$ _____!

(PTSA Office Use Only)

\$ _____ PTSA Memberships + \$ _____ Directory + \$ _____ Greenback Donation + \$ _____ School Store =
\$ _____ total