

Weird weather, and ... what happened to our expressway?

Raindrops keep fallin' on my head, but **what's the deal** with that in August in Gilroy? Low 70s and light rain. It's been a **weird-weather** summer and here in newsroom central we've been getting a steady stream of earthquake reports from **New Zealand** from the United States Geological Survey folks, and I hope it doesn't mean anything. Just in case, remember it's never too late to set up that home **quake preparedness kit** ...



The Word
Mark E. Derry

editor@garlic.com

Reminder #2: Online, there's the **handy dandy** Dispatch reference for contacting your elected representatives. All the info is in "Contact Your Officials" under the Opinion section **drop-down menu** in case, for example, you want to tell your legislator in Sacratomato what a great job she's been doing ... can you feel the **sarcasm** dripping off the page? Imagine putting together a budget that deals with a **\$26 billion** state deficit and **falling** to make a single systemic change. This fits the **definition of insanity**: Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

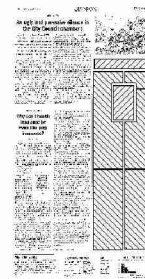
Yes, it appears clear that there were some bad results related to some of the **peppersteak sandwiches** at the **Garlic Festival** - though my whole family devoured what we found to be tasty **peppersteak morsels** and all were, thankfully, fine. A few others

were not so fortunate. It's befuddling post-fest, of course, to try and figure out exactly what went wrong. The **good news** is that it wasn't more widespread and that **Fest Direct Brian Bowe** and those responsible at **Gourmet Alley** have been very attentive to and up front about the concerns. That bodes well for what's sure to be **increased sandwich scrutiny** next year, though it's worth noting the county health department has year in and year out **heaped praise** on the Garlic Fest.

Next **school year** almost here. Classes start on **Aug. 20**, a Thursday, and I can never understand why school doesn't start on a Monday. But I digress ... it's strange to think that **two Gilroy high schools** will square off against one another on a football field even though it's only a **JV game**. Big crowd likely for the first-ever **Gilroy High School Mustangs vs. Christopher High School Panthers** under the **Friday night lights** ... at least I hope it's under the lights.

Lights are certainly not needed for the **garlish** (short for **disturbingly vivid**) paint job on the **SuperSave Market** at the corner of First Street and Church Avenue. Aren't there some **enforceable standards** in the "sign" ordinance that have been violated? Hope so. That **paint job** is bad enough to cause an auto accident.

And who in the **world**, for Gilroy's sake, forgot that **Santa Teresa Boulevard** was supposed to be an **expressway**, for garlic's sake? Geez, **one single car** - making a **right hand turn** no less - on Santa Teresa out of Eagle Ridge on



Ballybunlon Drive trips the light to stop "expressway" traffic. Same story on **Club Drive** and ditto on the street coming out of **Village Green**. Heck, it's like running a stoplight gauntlet. **Halting** traffic like that isn't only poor planning that frustrates motorists, it's about as "**Brown**" as you can get with **multiple cars** stopping and starting and **waiting** because of one lone vehicle ...

Wonder how those traffic patrols **MayorAI** adamantly insisted upon for **Eagle Ridge** are going with all the cuts to the **police department** budget and the **rancor** between the PD and **MayorAI**? Not so frequent, I imagine.

Not too difficult to imagine that the **vaunted GHS wrestling team** will likely get a decent, instead of **bacteria** infested, practice room now that a former Olympic wrestler and CCS champion is the new principal at Gilroy High. Spotted **Marco Sanchez** having lunch with a friend and mentor at **Carnitas Michoacan** downtown, so it's clear he already knows where some of the **best food** in Gilroy is, not to mention the **friendliest**

staff. The wrestling room at GHS is despicable and hopefully Sanchez can wrestle away a **few bucks** for clean, new digs.

BTW, **dig** the new process for hiring a principal that **Superintendent Debbie Flores** and the Board instituted. Flores and a small committee did the work, and she made the call. That's so much better than a **42-member community group** ... know why they call them stakeholders? 'Cause they're all ready to drive a **stake** through the heart of the process. OK, that may be a little harsh ...

But I'm a **softie** for a good idea that helps people become **self sufficient** and taps into **creativity** as well. Such is the case with the **Art of Possibility Studios**. It's the only art brand exclusively representing **physically disabled artists** in a **for-profit** model. The sample, hand-crafted notepad by painter **Ketra Oberlander** that came in the mail is beautifully done. I'd suggest browsing for a beautiful gift at **aopstudios.com**. And, ahem ... to incoming Garlic Festival President **Mr. Greg Bozzo**, it would also be a wonderful community gesture to **strongly consider** a couple of these talented disabled **artists** for a booth at next year's festival.

Mark Derry is the editor of the Dispatch. Reach him at editor@garlic.com