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FREE

## Spinetta Debuts Library Fundraiser for Upcountry Schools

Charles Spinetta, owner of Charles Spinetta Winery, announced that his 2014 library fundraiser will benefit two local elementary schools. The program focuses on the Upcountry this year, so the libraries at Pioneer Elementary School and Pine Grove Elementary School will take up Spinetta's challenge during the next few weeks. "Kids in elementary school earn money for their school library by reading books and writing book reports," explained Spinetta. "I donate to the school library based on the number of books read and reported on by the students, and everybody has fun raising money while reading and learning."

Pioneer Elementary School kicked off its fundraiser on Monday, February 3rd with a whole school assembly. The school's principal and librarian emphasized the significance of the fundraiser to the students, and each student was challenged to read and report on at least five books. Peggy Gardner, principal of Pioneer Elementary School, enthusiastically explained that the school will creatively encourage students to read. "Our librarian selected an assortment of appropriate books to feature for each class during their library visits, and our upcoming Pajama Day includes plenty of time for reading. We're very grateful for the opportunity to earn books for our school library," said Gardner.

Pine Grove Elementary School held its classroom kick-off event on the same day as Pioneer. Pine Grove students will read at least 1,400 books while marking the fundraiser with days devoted to reading, guest readers, and prizes. The school chose 'Read Your Socks Off!' as the theme for its fundraiser, and for every book read and report completed, students will get to hang a sock with their name on it in the cafeteria.

"This should be a hoot," said Kelly Hunkins, principal of Pine Grove Elementary. "We are going to have a whole lot of fun in the process of reading all those books." Hunkins also has a large assembly planned for the end of the fundraiser and an energetic parent organization to help out along the way.

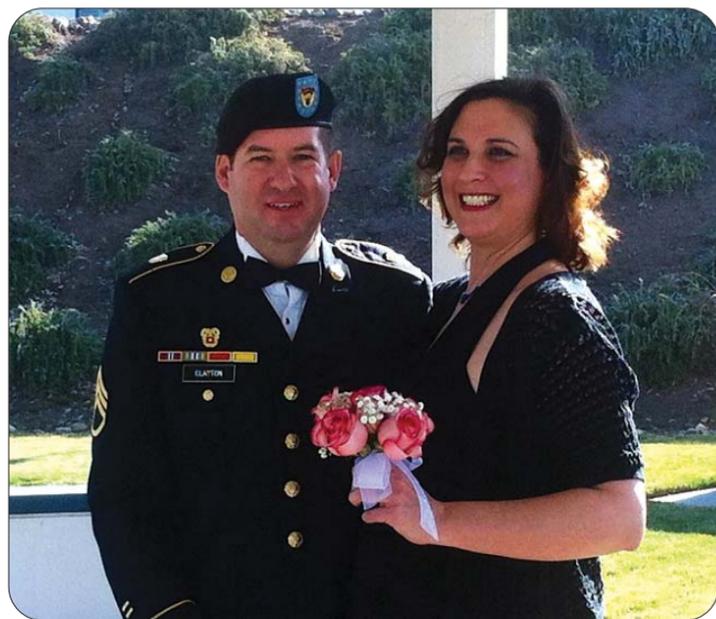


Jim and Charles Spinetta with volunteers and staff from Pine Grove and Pioneer Elementary Schools. Photo and Press release Special to the Gold Country Times

At the district level, this fundraiser receives a tremendous amount of support from Elizabeth Chapin-Pinotti, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction for the Amador County School District. The

Amador Community Foundation assists the Spinetta Family by administering the funds throughout this project. Spinetta predicts that each school will meet its reading goals and earn about \$8,000 for each library. "The

funds are used carefully by principals, teachers, and librarians to purchase new books for the school library," he said. "Hundreds of students at the two schools will read thousands of books and raise over \$16,000."



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Ms. Gwen Bohdan and Sgt. Eddie Clayton exchanged wedding vows on January 23, 2014 in the Gazebo behind the American Legion Post 108 in Martell. A clear and bright midwinter's day gently set the outdoor stage for a fine occasion. All ambient noise settled just before vows were spoken. Brian Slagboom officiated, Ghanelle Yancey and Mike Spinetta were the witnesses. Official photographer was Pamela Plamondon. The bride wore a lovely dress from the

Clothes Mine, and the ladies there steamed Eddie's uniform and loaned him some cuff links. Sounds like a wonderful Family Affair!

Congratulations to the bride and groom, Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Clayton! We wish them a beautiful, long and healthy life together.

Photo Special to the Gold Country Times by Amy Champ

## iTunes Festival

iTunes is putting its stamp on South by Southwest, piggy-backing on the annual event with its own music festival. The company said Wednesday it will debut its popular iTunes Festival, a free concert series held in London for the past seven years.

While the London version is a 30-day event, the U.S. festival will feature five nights of rock, country, pop and hip-hop at South by Southwest, an inter-

national showcase for music, film and interactive projects to be held next month in Austin, Texas. The iTunes festival will be held March 11-15 at ACL Live at the Moody Theater, where Austin City Limits is held. The first night will include performances by Coldplay, Imagine Dragons and London Grammar. Other performers include Keith Urban, Willie Nelson, Pitbull, Zedd and newcomer Mickey Guyton. The festival will be streamed live and

on-demand through the iTunes store, iTunes radio, and on Apple devices. More information at: <http://www.itunes.com/festival> and <http://sxsw.com/>

## National Pancake Day,

March 4, IHOP® restaurants offer free short stack of buttermilk pancakes to help raise money for charity! To learn more about Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, visit us at [www.ihoppancakeday.com](http://www.ihoppancakeday.com)

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