

# Public officials need thick skin

## South county's office holders a busy lot

Public officials certainly come in for their share of heat, whether they're elected or appointed.

At least the hired ones are paid, often quite well, for the privilege of being "in the kitchen," so to speak. They better have thick skins or they won't last long.



Scott Faust

Elected school board and city council members,

on the other hand, usually are paid a token amount, if at all, for the hours they put in before, during and after regular meetings and other community commitments. They certainly aren't compensated for their role as lightning rod for public criticism.

It takes a special kind of person to seek public service. This edition of The Salinas Californian's South County Life magazine brings you profiles of 13 such people, including school board and city council members, city managers and a superintendent in south Monterey County.

We could easily have profiled twice or three times that many people and not run out of worthwhile subjects.

So consider this a cross-section of the caliber of people who help run south county's cities and school districts.

They're a pretty impressive group.

As South County Life continues its exploration of what makes Salinas Valley communities special, look for our next issue — coming March 24 — which will focus on the area's police, fire and emergency services.

We hope you continue to learn from and enjoy South County Life — and life in south county!

SCOTT FAUST is executive editor of The Salinas Californian.



RICHARD GREEN/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN FILE PHOTO

The Gonzales Police Department announces its Community Policing program in July at a news conference. At the lectern is Police Chief Paulette Cudio. Also pictured are, from left, Gonzales police Lt. Keith Wise, City Manager Rene Mendez, Mayor Matt Gourley and City Council members George Worthy and Maria Orozco.

## STAFF

### REPORTERS

Janice Austin  
Victor Calderon  
Kimberly Chase  
Polly Kennedy  
Niko Kyriakou  
Ria Megnin  
Dave Nordstrand  
Zachary Stahl  
Erik Vance  
Dawn Withers

### PAGE DESIGNERS

Jim Albanese  
Melissa Chavez  
Mary DiMeglio  
Donald Fukui  
Tom Leyde

## CONTENTS

Overview by Polly Kennedy .....	2
Holly Casey .....	4
Anabelia Ponce .....	7
Eva Rios .....	9
Wendy Francioni .....	11
Tom Guajardo .....	12
Matt Gourley .....	13
John Huerta .....	15
Richard Ortiz .....	16
Jeff Pereira .....	17
Stephanie De La Rosa .....	18
Rene Mendez .....	20
Anna Vega .....	21
Ann Marie Gallant .....	22

