

## **EDUCATION Duo airs opposing, shared viewpoints at forum**

Businessman, teacher hash out party differences for students

**BY BROOKE SELF**

STAFF WRITER

**YERMO** — Two High Desert locals with staunch political views shared their varying opinions on hot-button issues such as immigration reform, the War on Terror and welfare policies on Friday morning for students at Silver Valley High School.

Rande Scarbrough, a retired government and economics teacher at the high school who taught for 30 years, said he is an unabashed liberal Democrat because he is Christian. He debated Joseph W. Brady, a self-proclaimed conservative Republican and commercial retail broker, in front of the 11th- and 12th-grade students for one hour.

Brady said 50 percent of the population in the city of Barstow and significant percentages across the Victor Valley received government assistance and/or welfare benefits. He said the entitlements were "de-incentivizing" citizens from working.

Scarbrough, on the other hand, said he believed the benefits go mostly to children and that "it didn't keep (him) up at night" to think that some may be potentially unqualified for the benefits they receive. Scarbrough said the reason there is a high rate of locals receiving entitlements is because of a depressed economy in the area.

The pair appeared to share viewpoints on guns rights, both stating that assault rifles should not be allowed in the hands of citizens.

"Soldiers in World War II would have loved to have a gun of that power," said Scarbrough, emphasizing the capabilities of the modern weapon, adding that he thought American culture was marred by an "infestation of guns."

Devon Sullivan, 16, an 11th-grader in Greene's class, said Brady completely changed his views.

"He changed my perspective on government and everything," Sullivan said, "because all of my family are Democrats but I liked what he had to say about conservative views."

The teachers who hosted the debate were Cecile Greene, Josh Tanis and Ryan Giuliani, all U.S. History and government teachers.

In their closing statements Brady said that he believed the country was "at a crossroads" with an increasing national debt that "scared" him.

Scarborough said he applauded the work of business people like Brady but would like to see what he called the "hard edge" of capitalism softened through services such as universal health care for all. He stated that his "only issue" with the Affordable Care Act is that it's "not expansive enough."

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Rande Scarbrough, right, and **Joseph** W. Brady stand at podiums as they speak to Silver Valley High School students on Friday.

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