



## What's Good in Education - Briefs May 21, 2008

A Publication of the William S. Hart Union High School District

Vol. VIII, No. 17



### Student Artwork Bound for Washington, D.C.

Artwork by Yeon Whan Yoon from Hart High School will be on display in an alcove at the nation's Capitol for the next year as winner of the 2008 Congressional Art Competition. The contest is part of "An Artistic Discovery," a program sponsored by members of Congress to honor the artistic talent of America's youth. This year's theme was "Patriotism," and Yeon's winning entry is a mixed media painting, entitled "For Which She Stands." As part of his prize, Yeon will travel to Washington, D.C., in June to attend the exhibit opening and tour the Capitol with local Congressman Buck McKeon. Runners up in the local competition were Marissa



Embola, Saugus High, and Shontwanette Osawaru, Golden Valley.

### Orchestra, Band Earn Honors for Rancho Pico



The orchestra and bands from Rancho Pico Junior High School are bringing acclaim for the school's musical programs from band and orchestra festivals across Southern California this spring. The Mustangs' orchestra earned a Unanimous Superior rating from the regional festival sponsored by the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association—a festival to



which groups are invited only after they earn superior ratings at qualifying festivals. Rancho Pico's orchestra also earned Unanimous Superior at Littlerock High School, the highest rating a group can achieve. The school's Advanced Band earned Unanimous Superior at a qualifying festival at Montebello High School, and a Superior rating at the regional SCSBOA festival. The combined Beginning/Intermediate bands also participated at the Montebello festival and earned a Superior rating. Rancho Pico's instrumental music director is Randy Gilpin.



### SCV Essay & Poster Competition

Fifteen Hart District students have received cash prizes as winners in a poster and essay contest sponsored by the City of Santa Clarita's Human Relations Forum. Theme for the contest was "A Celebration of Differences," and entries depicted what the term "cultural respect" means to each entrant. Junior high essay winners were Griffen Scott, Placerita, first place; Martha Pineda, La Mesa, second; Sarah Johnson, Rio Norte, third; and Gracie Bauer,



Placerita, fourth. Junior high poster winners were Camille Jones, Arroyo Seco, first place; Dillon Thomas, Arroyo Seco, second; Mariela Fernandez, La Mesa, third; and Carlos Mandos, La Mesa, fourth. High school essay winners were Nedda Alishahi, Saugus, first place; Haydon Scott, Hart, second; Blythe Spendlove, Hart, third; and Alyssa Gresham, Golden Valley, fourth. High school poster winners were Andrew Bang, Saugus, first place; Ryan Leinbach, Sequoia Charter School, second; and Danielle Schaefer, Saugus, third.



## Golden Valley Sweeps Las Vegas Festival



Golden Valley High School's music department brought home an armload of trophies from the Las Vegas Heritage Festival, including the coveted festival Sweepstakes award. Golden Valley's Concert Choir earned first place in its division. Second place awards went to the school's Concert Band, Show Choir and Women's Choir. The Sweepstakes award, the highest honor awarded at the festival, was presented to Golden Valley on the basis of the three groups from a single school that got closest to a perfect 300 score. Schools from several states across the Southwest participated in the competition. Golden Valley's vocal music

director is Rachael Singleton, and the band director is Roger Brooks.

Golden Valley's choirs also earned some of the top awards at Music in the Parks at Knott's Berry Farm. The Show Choir won first place in its division and also won the Overall Choir Award for scoring the highest out of all choirs attending the competition. The Women's Choir also brought home a first place trophy, and the Concert Choir won second place. Jamee DeWalt won the Outstanding Vocalist Award.

## Skateboard Factory Tour Rated 'Awesome'

"Awesome!" "Best field trip I've ever taken!" "A definite 10!" Saugus High students had high praise for their field trip to Element Skateboards in Irvine. They toured the skateboard factory, met engineers, designers and production employees – the president even gave them a tour of his office, telling them his own personal story and how he turned his life around. Element provided lunch (the chairs at the table were constructed of skateboards!).



Students who answered questions correctly at the end of the presentation won wallets, hats, and skateboards. "Everything they talked about really hit home," said senior Anton McKay.



## West Ranch Golfers Win First League Title

Congratulations to the West Ranch High School Boys Varsity Golf team, which won the school's first Foothill League Championship for the spring 2008 season. The Wildcats completed their season with an undefeated record of 18-0. Aside from excitement for the entire golf team, Head Coach Jeff Holen offered kudos to the strongest players—senior Ryan Weltig; juniors Colton Goodwin, Jordan Tanner and Collin Wheeler; sophomore Clayton Thatch; and freshmen JJ Holen and Jay Lim. With a strong team of underclassmen, Coach Holen is looking forward to another banner season next year. This year's team finished second in the CIF Southern Section, Northern Division.



## La Mesa Junior Optimists 'Adopt' Orangutan



Student members of the Junior Optimists Club (JOOI) at La Mesa Junior High School voted to support conservation efforts by "adopting" an orangutan through the Orangutan Conservancy, [www.orangutan.com](http://www.orangutan.com). Asapa (which means "Smokey" in Indonesian) is an illegally captured orangutan, one of the lucky one in five infant orangutans who survive their ordeal in the illegal pet trade. Ashley Cocker, president of the La Mesa club, researched the idea and the adoption was made possible through funds raised by hard-working student club members Mariette Boutros, Callie Gaskin, Kiara Hunt, Davit Karaoglanian, John Sese, and Julia Wong. The students worked at the JOOI Club booth at the Sheriff's Haunted House to earn the money they donated to Asapa's cause.

## Heroes of the Week Honored



The City of Santa Clarita Anti-Gang Task Force saluted 20 outstanding Hart District students at its Hero of the Week reception for honorees and their families. Featured speakers were Ernesto Olmos, Hart High School; Mike Guerrero, Placerita Junior High; and Katherine Stradling, Saugus High School. Additional honorees included Madeline Altieri and Katie McCarthy from Arroyo Seco



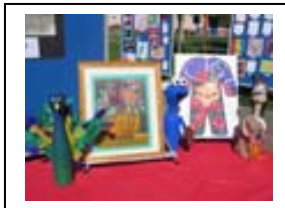
Junior High; Eddie Flint, Tyler Forte and Cathy Prieto from Bowman High School; Isaac Covarrubias, Chanel Meliton, Brandon Munn and Leticia Ruiz from Canyon High School; Jeffrey Sulka, Golden Valley High School; Maria Perez, Hart High School; Cristian Hernandez, Placerita Junior High; Isabel Soriano, Rancho Pico Junior High; Kelsey de Lemos, Rio Norte Junior High; Ethan Garcia, Matt Grove and Alexander Blair from Saugus High School. Heroes of the Week are chosen for their ability to overcome obstacles and demonstrate leadership at their schools.

## Hart Athletes Make the Grade

Hart High School's baseball team has been recognized by the Southern Section of the California Interscholastic Federation as having the highest grade point average in a school with 1500 or more students. Collectively, the players have a 3.58 average GPA, according to Coach Jim Ozella. Twelve of the 20 players on the team have a GPA of 4.0 or higher, the Los Angeles Times reported.

## Bowman Day of Artist & Poet Festival

Poets from Bowman High School's creative writing classes and student artists put their work on display and bared their souls at the school's annual Day of the Artist and Poet Festival. More than 90 poets and their poems are featured in the school's literary magazine, "The Phoenix," and many were read by their authors at the festival. Special guest was retired teacher Richard Weekley, who created Bowman's literary magazine and launched the first Day of the Artist and Poet 15 years ago.



Guest alumni poets also attended, along with family and friends of this year's presenting poets and artists. This year's festival was hosted by creative writing teacher Mike Mansfield and art teacher Mary Gaskin.

## Luncheon Honors Players of the Week

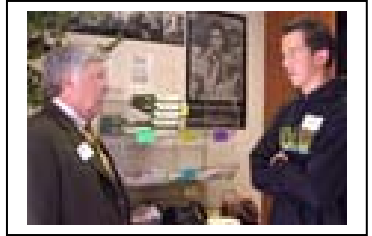
Eighteen outstanding high school athletes were in the spotlight when KHTS Radio and Lockheed Federal Credit Union (LFCU) hosted the annual Lockheed Player of the Week awards luncheon at Marie Callender's Restaurant and Bakery in Santa Clarita. Honored players and their coaches were invited to attend, and each player received an award from LFCU. The Lockheed Player of the Week program recognizes outstanding Hart School District athletes during football and basketball seasons. Each school's booster club receives \$250 for its athletics program every time an athlete from its school is selected. Player of the Week has been a success since 2004, when LFCU partnered with the Hart District to launch this program.

## ROP to Offer Virtual Enterprise Class

Hart District Regional Occupational Program (ROP) is developing ROP Virtual Enterprise (VE) a hands-on class in which students create and run a virtual business. Academy of the Canyons is currently in the seventh year of offering the popular class, and several other high schools are actively pursuing the idea of starting a regular day version of this program. Students in Virtual Enterprise run a full-fledged (virtual) company including product development, marketing, advertising and sales, accounting, and more. Participation in the class can include student participation in trade fairs and conferences, and students who successfully complete this course of study will have a real grasp of both entrepreneurship, and the ins-and-outs of running a company. ROP officials visited AOC's class/company, Adventure Outdoors, to get tips on the new after-hours class offering.

## Golden Valley Seniors Study Business Ethics

Business in high school isn't usual. However, seniors in English 12B at Golden Valley High School have first hand experience in the ethical dilemmas employers face each day—employees stealing, passing private information, using the internet improperly, sexual harassment, punctuality, and other improper business behavior. Junior Achievement sent volunteers into Denise Eldon's, Joanna Sarff's, and Janay Chapin's classes to present the ethical dilemmas. Each week



for seven weeks students brainstormed solutions and techniques to solve the problems using a code of ethics. The culminating activity is a training video produced by each group that addresses a common dilemma. Selected students and business volunteers were invited to a "Meet and Greet" lunch, a common networking activity in the business community. The presentation has been so successful that a second offering of seven sessions will be added next fall at Golden Valley.

## Disabled Students Invited to Prom

Disabled students from across the Hart District can look forward to all the glamour and memories of a high school prom, thanks to the Valencia High School Associated Student Body. This year's event will be held Saturday, May 24, and will feature a dinner and dancing to music presented by a disk jockey. A local salon is donating hair and nails for event. The first such prom was an unqualified success last year, and some 70 students are expected to attend this year's event as well. Students from all of the district's Special Day Classes SC2 and SC5 have been invited, along with their teachers and teaching assistants. ASB student Katya Ortiz is organizing this year's event.

## Hispanic Businesses Recognize District Staff

Hart District Superintendent Jaime Castellanos and Canyon High School campus supervisor Nellie De La Cerda will be honored at the fifth annual Excelencio Awards Ceremony hosted by the SCV Chamber of Commerce Hispanic Business Committee. This year's event will be held Thursday, May 22, at the SCV Repertory East Theatre in downtown Newhall. Castellanos is among three community leaders cited for improving the lives of Hispanic youth. De La Cerda will receive a Community Service Award for her 16-plus years of contributions to the local school community. She was nominated by several community members for her work in keeping schools safe and bringing diversity to the SCV's multi-cultural community.

## Valencia Junior Studies Climate Change

Dylan Beal, a junior at Valencia High School, is off to Cornell University this summer, where he is hoping to further his research as part of the school's College and Career Explorations program in the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences. Dylan earned a scholarship for the summer program through original research he has been conducting on global climate change. Last summer, Dylan was one of only 150 California high school students selected to participate in COSMOS (California State Summer School for Math & Science) at UC Davis. He chose "Anatomy of Global Climate Change" as his course of study. Within this program, he received a grant from Intel towards developing and executing his own research project, "The Effect of Global Climate Change on a Darkling Beetle Population." As part of the grant, he submitted a research paper to the Southern California Regional Junior Science & Humanities Symposium and was one of 24 students chosen to present their work at this year's symposium at UC Irvine.



## Saugus Percussion to Join "The Killer Bs"

The percussion section from the Saugus High School band will join the symphony orchestra from Grace Baptist Church for the annual Celebrate Music Concert, scheduled for 10 a.m. May 31 at the church. Theme of the free concert is The Killer "Bs," featuring musical favorites Brandenburg Sinfona-Bach, music from Bizet, highlights from "West Side Story" by Bernstein, Flight of the Bumblebee, a Beach Boys medley, Barnum and Bailey favorites and more. Goal of the concert is to teach people about music using fun, interactive methods, including kazoos and boom whackers. After the concert, youngsters can see and touch the instruments and ask questions of the musicians.