

Marathon fun



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Top educator



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Full of heart



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Good times



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Las Virgenes administrators accept cut in pay

70 teachers get pick slips

By Stephanie Bertholdo

The Las Virgenes Unified School District's top brass will accept a 5 percent reduction in pay to help ease budget concerns and avoid further program cuts, but the move still won't be enough to stop layoff notices from being issued to 70 teachers on March 15.

The reduced salary for principals, deans and district cabinet members, including Superintendent Donald Zimring, will go into affect in fall, 2010.

Zimring warned at a Feb. 23 LVUSD board of education meeting that the school district has reached a point where it can no longer cut its way to financial stability.

"The government created a situation for this district that we cannot remain solvent," Zimring said, explaining that a 13 percent reduction in state funding over the past three years has heaped "historic losses" on local schools.

An additional \$3 million will be slashed from the budget over the next two years, LVUSD chief business official Karen Kimmel said.

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AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW—Longtime Calabasas resident Norman Schwartz took this picture at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 27 from his patio at Vista Pointe looking eastward. At rainbow's end is a water tank on top of a hill at Park Belmonte in Calabasas Park. It's one of the more spectacular rainbows we've seen. The recent rain, of course, helps. Average annual rainfall in the area is about 17 inches. To date, that's right where we stand. The forecast calls for possible rain Saturday.

New Calabasas water park conjures up 'Vegas'

De Anza aquatics complex proposed

By Joann Groff

The Calabasas City Council has taken the first step in developing a water park at De Anza Park on the west side of town, although some members were disappointed with the initial design and said it looked like a "Las Vegas resort."

In 2003, when the city's community services department was updating its parks and recreation master plan, a survey was sent to residents soliciting their ideas.

"The consistent theme that came back was an aquatics complex on the west side of Calabasas," said Jeff Rubin, the city's community services director.

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Educators will consider new parcel tax for 2010

By Stephanie Bertholdo

The Las Virgenes Unified School District Board of Education voted last week to conduct a community survey on whether residents are willing to support a second parcel tax.

The survey will cost \$25,000.

Superintendent Donald Zimring told the school board that while he is sensitive to the "tax tolerance" of the public, the board is required to explore every potential funding avenue to help the district weather the ongoing state budget cuts in education.

As part of its budget balancing measures during the nationwide recession that started about three years ago, the state has slashed education funding to the barebones. The Las Virgenes budget has been cut by more than \$13 million since 2007, and the state may cut more funding over the next two years.

Zimring said the community

must be allowed to "weigh in" on whether they want to tax themselves to maintain current school programs.

TBWB Strategies of San Francisco was hired by Las Virgenes to lay the groundwork for a \$98 per parcel tax in 2004. If the company finds that less than 60 percent of the public favors a second tax, then the district will likely scrap its plans.

But if the survey finds that a majority of people are in favor of the annual tax—which gives schools money that the state cannot take away—then a fundraising committee will be formed to raise the \$100,000 necessary to put the proposal on the November ballot.

To pass a parcel tax, a supermajority, or 66 percent of yes votes, is required.

Zimring said TBWB Strategies found that a big swing vote in favor of the previous parcel tax came from residents who rent

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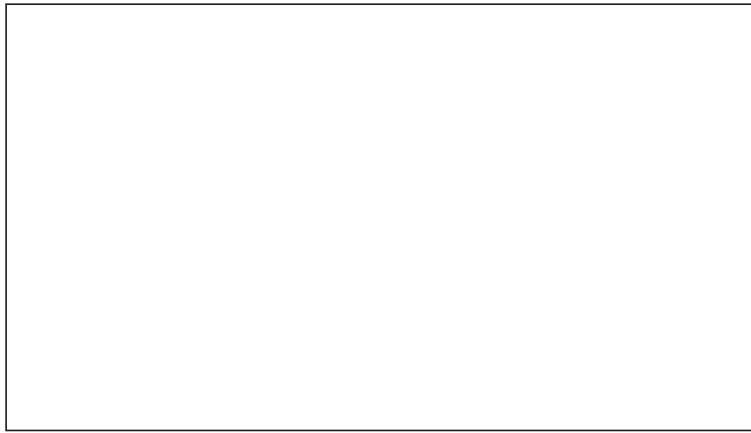
Who's pinched more—the school district or the taxpayers?

Westlake High boogie night



JANN HENDRY /Acorn Newspapers

COSTUME PARTY—Westlake High School instrumental music band director Brian Peter, left, joins music booster president Susan Wolf and her husband, Marcus Ryle, at a Disco Fever dinner, dance and fundraising auction Feb. 28 at The Canyon club. Visit www.whsband.org to learn more.



IRIS SMOOT/Acorn Newspapers

GROOVIN'—From left, Agoura High School students Hayley Tolmanski, Rachel Maresca and Alexis Farag, all 17, bust out their best moves during the second annual Agoura High School Dance Marathon. Students from Agoura, Calabasas and Westlake high schools came together for a six-hour fundraising event to benefit Camp Kindle, a summer camp in the Santa Clarita Valley that helps children with HIV/AIDS.

Students organize dance marathon

Four students—Chloe Kruskol, Sheena Banerjee, Kelley Klezek and Shannon Yih—organized a dance marathon last weekend at Agoura High School to benefit Camp Kindle, the Santa Clarita Valley summer camp for children with HIV/AIDS.

The Feb. 27 dance marathon involved Agoura High's associated student body and included students from Agoura, Calabasas and Westlake high schools.

In addition to an evening full of dancing, there were guest speakers and performers, including Kindle representatives, student DJs, Agoura High's Comedy Sportz team and a break dance club.

Ten area businesses partnered with Agoura High School to sponsor the event.

Camp Kindle's mission is to

Guilt-free motherhood topic of the day

The Conejo Valley chapter of Mothers & More will host a public event at 7:30 p.m. Thurs., March 11 at the Westlake Village Civic Center, 31200 E. Oak Crest Drive, Westlake Village.

Michelle Paquette will speak on guilt-free motherhood. The discussion is free of charge, and the public is invited.

Most mothers use their own upbringing to set their expectations for themselves, but times have changed and being a mom today is no longer about being all things to all people.

Attendees can learn how to find time for themselves and the importance of guilt-free self-care.

Paquette has worked as a magazine editor, psychotherapist and motivational speaker. She is the owner of All Ways Consulting and works for the California Health and Longevity Institute at the Four Seasons.

She assists with developing new programs in health, wellness, nutrition and life balance.

Paquette has a master's degree in clinical psychology.

For details, go to www.conejovalleymothersandmore.org or e-mail Lucy at Lmchae@yahoo.com.

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