

NEWS

Santa Barbara County Education Office

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Computer connections



A partnership between the Santa Maria Partners in Education and the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce has so far placed 28 computer and printer packages into the hands of local students who would otherwise not have access to technology, like Steven, Cortni, and Kristopher Prescott above. Story, page 6.

Cirones back in Santa Barbara County

County Superintendent Bill Cirone and his wife, Barbara, are back in Santa Barbara County following a harrowing accident that occurred in New York City in October.

While in New York to attend a board meeting of the Teachers Network, Bill and Barbara were both struck in a pedestrian crosswalk by a boy on a bicycle delivering food for a restaurant.

The young boy drove through a red light with such force that both Cirones were hurt, Barbara seriously. Both were unconscious when taken to the hospital.

Bill sustained a contusion, a partially collapsed lung and a broken rib, and required seven stitches. Barbara sustained serious head trauma and remained in critical

condition for several days following surgery. She was then released to a rehabilitation center in White Plains, NY, where she stayed for several weeks.

In mid-November, the Cirones flew home, where Barbara continued rehabilitation on an outpatient basis in Santa Barbara, with an excellent prognosis for a full recovery.

Bill and Barbara both asked to have their thanks conveyed to all those in the county who sent good wishes, prayers, care, and concern. The support helped sustain them and their family through the very difficult times and they are enormously grateful. They send love and thanks for all the support that has been showered on the two of them.

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Public Education: America's Future

From the desk of

Bill Cirone, County Superintendent of Schools

Thanks to all for unwavering support

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone countywide who sent good wishes, prayers, and support during the ordeal Barbara and I underwent in October.

Many of you know of the accident that occurred and then the extended rehabilitation period in White Plains, NY.

A caring Santa Barbaran, who wished to remain anonymous, gave us a ride home on his private charter in mid-November. Thanks to that act of generosity, we were able to avoid the challenges of a very long day of commercial travel with plane changes and crowded airports. Barbara did very well on the direct flight from Teterboro, NJ, to Santa Barbara and we arrived home safely.

Barbara continues outpatient therapy at the Rehabilitation Institute of Santa Barbara. The medical reports and therapy prognosis have been very good; and from the very beginning, Barbara has surprised her doctors with the speed of her recovery. There has been fatigue and other issues, but the long-term outlook at this point is excellent and everyone remains extremely optimistic. Most important,

Barbara is feeling and looking good and you can see that she is healing.

From the very beginning, it has felt so good to both of us to be home. What we once considered chores or little pleasures are now so very pleasing. And we appreciate the big things more than ever—all of you, our caring friends, neighbors, and colleagues. We are forever mindful of our good fortune and all we have to be thankful for as we begin this new chapter.

I can't say too often how Barbara, Peter and I are moved, overwhelmed, and appreciative of all the prayers, good wishes, and expressions of support everyone has been sending us.

We are convinced that your surrounding us with love and prayers is a very important part of this miracle of recovery. You are all a part of our team and we wish we could find the right way to say thank you, expressing the depth of our appreciation and letting you know how you have touched our souls.

Where's your school's news?

Send your school's news to the NEWS editor, Wendy Shelton, at the SBCEO, by mail, by truck, or by e-mail: wshelton@sbceo.org. Deadline for next issue: **April 16.**

Framework's author addresses Civics Education forum

David Vigilante, author of the state's new framework for civic education standards K-12, detailed what teachers, administrators, school board members, and community leaders need to know about the new curriculum at the second annual Civic Mission of Education Forum held in October at the Earl Warren Show-

grounds, where the California roll-out of the new civic education standards was featured.

Julie Dwyer, national director for Character Counts, along with John Ciambone, director of the Channel Islands YMCA, led two of the sessions. Scott Greenberg, a national youth motivational speaker who survived having cancer as a teenager, gave the keynote address on "How to Serve-Learn-Achieve in the Face of Adversity."

"This conference was a rare opportunity for local educators, youth, and community leaders to hear directly from the author of the state framework

of civic education," said Art Fisher, director of Career Education Programs of the Santa Barbara County Education Office, and Service Learning State Lead for Region 8.

Breakout sessions at the Civic Mission Forum were led by national, state, and local presenters on service learning, civics education, character education, youth leadership, and the scope and sequence of the curriculum roll-out for civics education.

Santa Barbara Mayor Marty Blum opened the forum, along with representatives from the offices of Congresswoman Lois Capps and state Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson.

CSU Bakersfield offers B.S. degree at Hancock

Allan Hancock College and CSU Bakersfield have announced a new partnership that will offer a bachelor's degree in business administration at Allan Hancock College. Upper-division business courses will be offered in the winter and spring quarters of 2004 with the business administration BS program slated to begin in the fall quarter of 2004. The program will allow 20 students per new academic year. Allan Hancock College will provide all the lower-division general education and major preparation course requirements, while CSU Bakersfield will provide all the upper-division general education and major course requirements. This brings to four the number of universities Allan Hancock College has linked with to offer upper division university classes right on the Hancock campus. UCSB offers bachelor's degrees in English and history, University of La Verne offers a bachelor's degree in child development, and Holy Names College offers nurses the opportunity to complete a bachelor's degree in registered nursing.



Rock unveiled to honor Winn's life, contributions

A dedication ceremony to unveil the rock honoring Will Winn's life and many contributions to the Goleta Valley Junior High community was held in November.

Winn was a science teacher at Goleta Valley Junior High for 35 years. Over those years, he won many awards for his teaching excellence. Many of the curricula that he created for his classes are now used countywide. Winn died Nov. 16, 2001, after having received three unsuccessful liver transplants.

Los Alamos receives national recognition

Los Alamos School District was one of 115 California schools that received national monetary awards for high achievement through Title I of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

"These schools and their teachers deserve high praise for their hard work in boosting student scores," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell.

The 2003 criteria for designation as a Title I "achieving" or "honorable mention" school included:

- A 2002 school year Academic Performance Index (API) score of 675 or higher;
- A poverty indicator of at least 50 percent;
- Achievement of the school's API growth targets in the 2000-02 school years; and
- A doubled API growth target for both the entire school and the socio-economically disadvantaged subgroup for two of the previous three years.

The winners were chosen because of their high achievement during the school years 1999-2000, 2000-01, and 2001-02.

Harvest places second in division

Allan Hancock College's student-produced literary and arts magazine, *Harvest 2003*, placed second among similar publications across three states. The Pacific Western Division of the Community College Humanities Association made the award. The Pacific Western Division offers some of the country's toughest competition in literary publications and produces more national winners than any other section of the country.

"The fact that we were up against such phenomenal competition only makes our win that much sweeter," said professor Michael O'Brien, the publication's advisor, and the instructor who leads the class of students who produces the journal each year. O'Brien said 85 percent of the publication consists of students' work. Poetry, prose, and photographs by faculty and staff complete the book. "Our contributors have included advanced literature students, adult education, and ESL (English as a Second Language) students and a number of works both in Spanish and English. The 176-page, perfect-bound journal features a full-

color student painting on the cover, and for the first time in its eight-year history, the publication includes a short script and a manga—a type of Japanese-style cartooning.

This is the first time the literary magazine has placed second in the regional competition. Two other times in the last eight years it has placed third. O'Brien explained that this professional publication came from humble beginnings. "Our first four editions were all created by volunteer labor and made possible by fundraising. The last four have been created by the English 107 and 108 classes (Arts Magazine 1 and 2)," he said. Students in these classes learn how to start from scratch and end up with a quality publication. "They read and choose submissions; design the book's appearance; create the book's specifications, including paper weight, paper stock, etc.; and help put out bids to printers," he explained, adding that they complete the process by using advanced desktop publishing skills to put the magazine in "camera-ready" form for the printer.

Sales of the magazine generate revenue for the next edition.

Community colleges going high tech for registration process

For the first time in history, Allan Hancock College is offering online registration for credit classes. At the touch of a button (make that a keyboard), current Allan Hancock College students can now register online for credit classes.

Students who enrolled in credit classes at Allan Hancock College in fall 2003, including Fast Track classes, are eligible to register for spring 2004 credit classes online through the college's new WebReg process.

The college's comprehensive online registration process provides instant registration and confirmation for students who use the process, and it also provides other online data, such as grades and class schedules.

"We have worked for three years to write new programs, revamp processes, and reorder our registration procedures in order to convert to online registration," said Norma Razo, director of admissions and records. "Our goal has been to make the registration process as simple and accessible as possible. We are very pleased to offer this service to our students."

Razo explained that for the first semester, spring 2004, WebReg will be available to continuing students only. It is expected that in future semesters, as the process is put in place, more groups of students will be able to register online—including brand new students.

At Santa Barbara City College, students can apply online and they can also enroll online for online courses. The school is working toward having students enroll in other credit classes online in the future.

Showing real spirit

Spirit Awards honor dozens of local students unaccustomed to public accolades

Nominations are now being accepted for the Spirit Awards that will be conferred to North and South County students in the spring.

These awards honor those students who have shown exemplary spirit in overcoming obstacles to reach success and share with others.

The emotional ceremonies invite entire families to come applaud students who, because of the obstacles that stand in their way, do not traditionally receive academic accolades.

Packed audiences cheer for the students who often are receiving applause for the first time in their lives.

Nomination forms are available from Susan Ham and the Center for Community Education at 569-3873.





Computer connections

Four more computer packages were given to North County students through the Computer Connections program, which makes the connection between business and education.

The Santa Maria Valley Industry Education Council and the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce are partners in the program that provides computers, Internet access, and training to students and families who would otherwise not have access to technology.

The intent of the program is to help bridge the gap in the digital divide

that separates student who have computer access at home and those who otherwise would not. The computers are awarded to students in low-income homes in an effort to enhance and encourage academic

success. The computers are available for use by the entire family.

In South County, the Computers for Families project works toward similar aims.

Making connections

Above, a table displays what each student receives through the Computer Connection program: a gift bag with mouse pad, printer paper, surge protector, and cables. There is also a manual in English and Spanish that tells them who donated their computer, what to do if it doesn't work, where they might go for repairs after the warranty is up, frequently asked questions about the CC program and about the Internet, and contact names for the family to receive training.



At top left, David Fernandez stands before his gift bag. At right, Katy Villegas stands with Mike Bouquet, chairman of the Chamber Board. At bottom of page, Santa Maria High School District staff members stand with the student they pitched in to support through the program. From left, Dr. Jeff Hearn, Dee Ringstead, Jim Armstrong, Susan Whitefield, Cristina Mendez (a student at Righetti), Craig Huseh, Diane Bennett, Dr. John Robertson, Raquel Sosa. Not pictured is Dr. Tom Littlefair.

Three area teachers take part in national teachers summit in Bainbridge Island, WA

Three Santa Barbara County teachers, Sandra Bravo of the Guadalupe Union School District, Chris Mullin of the Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District, and Quinn Plante of the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District, joined 50 other teacher leaders from throughout the nation at a week-long summit of the Teachers Network Policy Institute (TNPI) on Bainbridge Island, WA.

The TNPI institute is grounded in the idea that education policy continues to be made without the voice of the teacher, even though study after study shows that teacher expertise is one of the most important factors in student achievement.

At the institute, teachers and policymakers came together to help bridge that gap. The goal was for TNPI MetLife Fellows, all full-time classroom teachers, to ensure that the teacher's voice was included in the development of federal, state, and local education policies. During the institute, teachers met with high-level policymakers and served as spokespeople for the profession.

The teachers shared information about the action research conducted in their classrooms all last year.

Bravo had compared two adult English as a Second Language classrooms to determine practices that most contributed to increased learning of English. Based on her findings, Bravo's policy recommendations included promoting student interactions in the learning process; encouraging teachers to get to know their adult students and their language and literacy needs; and fostering a safe, accepting, adult learning environment to encourage greater participation.

Mullins' research focused on the recruitment and retention of teachers to the profession. Based on an analysis of data and literature, his policy recommendations included the support for multi-age teaching groups at school sites, empowering the professional voice of educators, reinventing public perception of the teaching profession, and increasing teacher salaries.

Plante participated in the institute as one of the facilitators.

Further information is available from Carol Gregor, director of teacher programs at the Santa Barbara County Education Office, 964-4711, ext. 5281.

Hernandez named student trustee at Hancock College

A chance encounter while in the registration line at Allan Hancock College two years ago changed student Frank Hernandez from an enthusiastic participant to a campus leader.

Today, Hernandez is the new student member of the college's board of trustees, a job that places him squarely in the middle of college operations and administration—exactly where he wants to be.

It was a conversation with an Associated Student Body Government (ASBG) representative while he waited to register for fall classes in 2001 that led Hernandez to add the ASBG

leadership class to his schedule at the last minute.

"I had always been involved in student activities in high school," said the 2000 St. Joseph High School graduate, "but I had never been the organizer, the leader. ASBG gave me the chance to do that."

Since joining Allan Hancock College's student government in fall 2001, Hernandez has held several leadership positions including commissioner of communication, student body vice president, and now student trustee. He has also served as a student representative on the auxiliary

accounts board.

As student trustee, he represents the point of view of more than 12,000 students.

A communications major with his sights set on law school, Hernandez plans to transfer to UC Berkeley or UCSB. He follows politics with zeal, especially at the federal level because he loves to "track how the senators vote and see the games they play." His love of politics feeds right into his love of history where he "enjoys learning about the good guys and the bad guys, and the personalities that caused history to be made."

Breakfast with Authors celebrates 51st year



The community helped celebrate the 51st anniversary of a unique Santa Barbara literary event when world-renowned authors and illustrators of children's literature took part in the annual Breakfast with the Authors in October in the auditorium of the Santa Barbara County Education Office.

The annual event has been held continuously for 51 years.

To the authors and illustrators included: W. Royce Adams, Marsha Diane Arnold, Ruth Bornstein, Jeri Chase Ferris, Mel Gilden, Mike Gordon, Ellen Kelley, Sara Louise Kras, Robin LaFevers, Len Lamensdorf, Fran Lantz, Itoko Maeno, Ermila Moodley, Susan Strong, and Carol Tanzman.

"This has always been a very special event because the authors and illustrators share tales and advice with an avid audience," said County Superintendent Bill Cirone, whose office coordinates the program. "We are very proud to continue this fine literary tradition."

Johnson family adds to Hancock's automotive lab

In life, Blaine Johnson held the record for the most wins as a Top Alcohol dragster in the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA). His success earned him the title of "the quickest man in the history of drag racing" and as a leader in his sport, he influenced many.

Today, Blaine's legacy lives on through the ongoing efforts of his family to support state-of-the-art teaching in the Allan Hancock College automotive, industrial technology, and engineering curriculum.

The family has established a \$100,000 scholarship endowment at the college in Blaine's name and to date has donated more than \$180,000 worth of high tech equipment to support the industrial technology labs. Funding for this support comes through proceeds from the annual Blaine Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament.

This year, the family, including parents Agnes

and Everett Johnson, and brother Alan Johnson, donated a \$40,000 cylinder block power hone with accessory tools to the automotive program. The unit prepares and finishes cylinder walls and is present in only the top automotive shops.

"In the real world, automotive shops need to have this quality level of equipment to be competitive, which means students coming out of the AHC automotive program need to be trained and ready to go to work. This tool will help ensure that happens," said Alan Johnson.

Allan Hancock College automotive instructor Bob Leeds added that "the need for qualified automotive repair technicians continues to increase as more and more cars hit the road. The basic principles of the industry haven't changed over the years, but the tools continue to be more sophisticated, and costly, and that is why donations like this one are so important to this program."

Teachers honored at curriculum fair

Two dozen Santa Barbara County teachers were honored by their state legislators at the annual Curriculum Fair of the Teachers Network, coordinated by the Santa Barbara County Education Office.

The teachers had received 18 individual or group disseminator grants at the Education Celebration in May and were presented with certificates at the Oct. 8 curriculum fair in the auditorium of the County Education Office, where their award-winning projects were displayed.

Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson came personally to present awards for those in her district. Teresa Martinez came to represent Bruce McPherson, and Mike Stoker represented Tom McClintock.

“These curriculum award-winners represent the very best programs throughout classrooms countywide,” said County Superintendent Bill Cirone, whose office sponsors the program. “Through the Teachers Network program, these classroom-tested projects are able to get widespread exposure across districts, and can be used to benefit children at all grade levels and in all subjects,” he explained. “It is fitting that legislators and their representatives acknowledge the excellence of these programs and the hard work that goes into creating and implementing them.”

TEACHERS NETWORK DISSEMINATOR GRANTS 2003

Did Our Book Orders Come In?—Hutton Foundation

(Miller School, Santa Maria-Bonita)

Tricia Epperson

The Hero's Journey—Tenet Healthcare Corporation

(Righetti HS, Santa Maria Joint Union High)

Karen Silva, Carol Nylander, and Julia Raybould

The Quest to Save Amarya—Cox Communications

(Battles School, Santa Maria-Bonita)

Aaron Shrogin

The Car Project—Saturn of Santa Maria; Toyota of Santa Maria (McKenzie JHS, Guadalupe Union)

Richard Crain

The Chumash and the Channel Islands—Venoco, Inc.

(Ontiveros School, Santa Maria-Bonita)

Therese Brady, Kelly Demares, and Tracy Lipson

Light the Way—Lockheed Martin Space Systems

(Olga Reed School, Los Alamos –SBCEO)

Jan Hermann and Sherry Gunderson

Three Sisters Garden — Sawaske Landscape; Western Farm Service (Benjamin Foxen, Blochman Union)

Deborah Howell

Alien Invasion — The Gas Company

(Olga Reed School, Los Alamos – SBCEO)

Diona Durham

Colonial High Tea—Whittier Award for Character Ed., Los Padres Bank (Nightingale School, Orcutt Union)

Jennifer Gibson

Poetry of Art—ExxonMobil Corporation

(Ontiveros School, Santa Maria-Bonita)

Linda Corley and Mary Lynn Crandall

Kinder-Garden Buddies—Willebrand Family Trust

(Ontiveros School, Santa Maria-Bonita)

Linda Corley and Margaret Ontiveros

Great Americans' Day—Martin and Virginia Kern; Rio Vista Chevrolet (Los Olivos School, Los Olivos)

Gary Crispin

Los Olivos Oaks—Mills, Kendall and Lloyd

(Los Olivos School, Los Olivos)

Suzanne Squires

Historical Fiction Research Project—First American

Title Company (Goleta Valley JHS, Santa Barbara High)

Debra Bush

From Gold Mountain to Angel Island: "The Chinese Must Go!"—InaMed (San Marcos HS, Santa Barbara High)

Melanie Jacobson

Girls Didn't Count, But Now They Do!—Bermant

Development Company (Brandon School, Goleta Union)

Victoria Thor Korhahrens

All the World's an Atom—Raytheon

(Santa Barbara JHS, Santa Barbara High)

Marilyn Garza and Aaron Sottile

American Art: Three Women, Three Styles, Three Eras—Coastal Getaways Realty (Adams School, Santa Barbara)

Jodi Miles

Plan Ahead . . .

January

- 1 – New Year's Day holiday (SBCEO closed)
- 5 – Superintendents meeting, 9 a.m., Santa Ynez HS Board Room
- 8 – County Board of Education meeting, 2 p.m., SBCEO Board Room
- 8 – AB75 Principal Training Program - South (Formative Data) (for more info., call 964-4711, x5436)
- 15 – AB75 Principal Training Program - North (Formative Data) (for more info., call 964-4711, x5436)
- 19 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday (SBCEO closed)
- 21 – School Business Officials Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Lompoc
- 23 – National School Nurse Day

February Black History Month

- 2 – Superintendents meeting, 9 a.m., Santa Ynez HS Board Room
- 5 – County Board of Education meeting, 2 p.m., North County Office
- 10 – AB75 Principal Training Program - South (Instructional Strategies) (for more info., call 964-4711, ext. 5436)
- 11 – Resiliency Module and Youth Development Training, Bonnie Bernard and Carol Burgoa with WestEd, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Orcutt Union School District - IMC (limited to 40) (reg. fee is \$40, for information, contact Lorraine Waldau at 735-7035 or lbwaldau@msn.com)
- 12 – AB75 Principal Training Program - North (Instructional Strategies) (for more info., call 964-4711, ext. 5436)
- 12 – Resiliency Module and Youth Development Training, Bonnie Bernard and Carol Burgoa with WestEd, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., SBCEO Auditorium (reg. fee is \$40, for information, contact Lorraine Waldau at 735-7035 or lbwaldau@msn.com)

February, cont'd.

- 12 – Teachers Network Grant Recognition Dinner, Solvang (for information, contact Carol Gregor at 964-4711, ext. 5281 or cgregor@sbceo.org)
- 13 – Lincoln Day holiday (SBCEO closed)
- 16 – Washington Day holiday (SBCEO closed)
- 18 – School Business Officials Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Los Alamos
- 20 – 2005 Teacher of the Year application deadline (for information, contact Carol Gregor at 964-4711, ext. 5281 or cgregor@sbceo.org)
- 28 – Mock Trial preliminaries, Santa Barbara (date tentative)

March

Women's History Month/Arts Education Month

- 1 – Superintendents meeting, 9 a.m., Santa Ynez HS Board Room
- 2 – Santa Barbara County Spelling Bee, SBCEO Auditorium
- 2 – AB75 Principal Training Program - North (Teacher Observation) (for more info., call 964-4711, ext. 5436)
- 3 – Disseminator Grant application deadline Feb 21: 2004 Teacher of the Year application deadline (for information, contact Carol Gregor at 964-4711, ext. 5281 or cgregor@sbceo.org)
- 4 – County Board of Education meeting, 2 p.m., SBCEO Board Room
- 4 – AB75 Principal Training Program - South (Teacher Observation) (for more info., call 964-4711, ext. 5436)
- 6 – Parent Conference, Lompoc High School
- 6 – Mock Trial finals, Santa Barbara (date tentative)
- 12 – Battle of the Books, SBCEO Auditorium
- 15 – Crystal Apple Nomination Deadline (for information, contact Carol Gregor at 964-4711, ext. 5281 or cgregor@sbceo.org)
- 15 – School Business Officials Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Santa Maria High School

Annual parent conference taking place March 6 in Lompoc

The annual parent conference will once again be held at the Lompoc High School, bringing together hundreds of parents seeking to hone their skills and learn vital information to help with their parenting skills. Workshop topics are selected by parents who attended the previous year. Further information is available by calling the Center for Community Education at 569-3873.



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