

NEW VISION NEWS

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Poor Economy Hits Hard and Close to Home



ONE IN EVERY 239 HOUSEHOLDS IN CALIFORNIA HAD FORECLOSURE FILINGS IN 2011.

by Daisy Rozo

Everyone says the economy is bad and that is why there are no jobs and more people on un-

employment and welfare, but that is only a snapshot of what is really happening.

According to *US-Courts.gov* bankruptcy filings increased by just over 8% from 2009 to 2010 (results for 2011 are not yet available). While 8% may not seem like a lot, that number was much higher here in California, which is broken up into four districts. The southern district had the least increase at 13.8% and the district with the highest increase was central California with an increase of over 31%. The average for California was nearly 20%.

Bankruptcy isn't the only result of the poor economy, home foreclosures are also rising. According to RealtyTrac, more than 1 million homes were foreclosed and repossessed in 2010 and 2011 was worse. California was second in line for the most foreclosure filings in 2011 of one in every 239 households, according to CNBC.com. Only Nevada was worse with one in every 115 households having foreclosure filings.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Monday, February 13 is a non school day for students
- ◆ Monday, February 20 is a school holiday
- ◆ 7th grade class is selling Valentine grams at lunch on Friday
- ◆ WASC visits New Vision on Thursday, February 9

Illiteracy Rates Rising by Kasey Coser

What is illiteracy? It is, quite simply, the inability to read or write and though illiteracy rates are improving, according to a study published in *USA Today* in January 2009, it is estimated that 32 million adults in the United States are illiterate. That translates into 1 in 7 adults. That means that every day you will probably interact with several people who are illiterate and it is a growing problem everywhere. But why, exactly, is illiteracy a problem?

Those who are con-

sidered illiterate cannot read anything more challenging than a children's picture book and are therefore unable to read such important items as the safety precautions on cleaning products or side effects warnings on medication bottles, which is very dangerous.

Knowing the facts about how many people are illiterate isn't enough, however. It is also important to know why illiteracy is such a growing problem in America. Why, with school being mandatory, aren't more people

literate?

There are many reasons according to David Harvey, president and CEO of ProLiteracy who commented on the study in *USA Today*. Some of those reasons include undiagnosed learning disabilities, immigration and high school dropouts. The study illustrates the importance of young people staying in school and becoming fully literate. It is not only good for your future, but being able to read may just save a loved one's life.

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OPINION

Waiting for a Bus Stop

by Cynthia Paniagua

New Vision Middle School offers a lot to its students, but as a relatively young school, New Vision is still growing and in need of adding to its current programs. In my opinion, one thing our school

really needs is a school bus, because not all New Vision students live here in San Bernardino. I think if New Vision had a school bus it would help many parents save gas money. And allow more students to attend the school. A school

bus would also help by increasing the attendance of students who have no way of getting to school in the mornings.

New Vision Middle School does not currently offer bus services to its students.



Increasing Smoking Bans

By Estefania Gonzalez

In November 2011 a total of six states had banned smoking in most public places, but there are still many states with no smoking regulations at all. This poses a great health risk to many non-smokers living in those states as the

federal government has made no move to regulate smoking bans nationwide, instead leaving such decisions up to state and local authorities to enact and enforce.

Research has shown the harmful effects of smoking and even of second hand

smoke to non smokers. Cigarettes can cause many problems in a smoker's future. They can cause lung cancer and even death. They are also addictive and addictions can destroy families. So, if you smoke, think about the people surrounding you and how it

affects them and think twice before lighting up in a public place.



Is Progress Worth the Price?

by Vanessa Zarate

Recently, San Bernardino County decided to make the 215 freeway wider. During the construction there have been many traffic jams and accidents. What was already a bad stretch of road has been

worse by the construction traffic. This is a problem because the traffic is affecting people by making them late to their jobs and too many innocent people get into car accidents due to the narrowed curves. The traffic delays peak around 5-8 in

the morning and 5-8 in the afternoon/evening. This has been going on for many weeks with no end in sight and it makes me wonder, is the progress worth the price?



ROAD CONSTRUCTION CREATES MORE TRAFFIC AND POSES ACCIDENT RISKS ON THE 25 FREEWAY.

After School Program

by Stephanie Contreras

The After School Program at New Vision Middle School is the perfect combination of fun and academics. The program provides a safe place for students to stay after school hours as well as providing other useful services such as homework help and the opportunity to play sports.

Snacks are provided as well as access to tutors and other programming, such as the popular cooking class. The staff of the After School Program show genuine care and concern for all of the students they serve and their efforts are appreciated.



THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM IS LED BY MS. DUMAS AND RUNS FROM 4PM UNTIL 6PM EVERY DAY.

Litterbugs

by Karina Gonzalez

Litter is always a problem. You see it in the streets, clogging up the gutters, blowing through yards on windy days. It seems that people just do not care enough to throw their trash

away and do not even realize they are contributing to the pollution that makes the environment worse for future generations and unattractive for us to live in now. Unfortunately, New Vision Middle School students are just as guilty of

littering as those outside of the school. Every day the trash left behind on and under the lunch tables increases and it takes a long time to clean it all up. So, don't be a litterbug! Throw away your trash after you eat!



It takes a team of students a long time to clean up after lunch, but it will only take you a couple seconds to throw away your trash when you finish eating!

Fun Fridays

by Alyssa Cameron

Once a month or so, New Vision offers students and staff alike a Fun Friday. Each of these special days has a theme. So far we've had Crazy Hat Day and Crazy Hair Day. It's always entertaining to see how teachers and students get into the spirit as they dress up for

these days. There is even a prize for the homeroom with the most participation, so keep an eye out for news of the next fun Friday theme, then get in the spirit and help your homeroom win the Spirit Stick!



CAN YOU GUESS WHAT THE NEXT FUN FRIDAY THEME WILL BE?

Life, Camera, Action! It's a Blockbuster Year!

REAL JOURNEY

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Yearbooks will be going on sale soon! Information will be handed out to each 6th period class. Don't let your memories slip away, buy a Yearbook and preserve them today!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

REALJOURNEY.ORG

Talk and Text Trouble

by Tiffany Dede

The No Texting While Driving Law went into effect in the state of California on January 1, 2009, but that doesn't seem to have stopped many drivers, especially since many drivers still do not follow the original hands free law that re-

quires use of a speaker or Bluetooth device to talk on a phone while driving (that law was effective on January 1, 2008). According to the CHP, in the first year alone, over 100,000 tickets were issued to drivers who were openly talking on their phones without using a hands-free device. The

problem seems to be a combination of laziness and the relatively low cost of the fines associated with breaking the laws. There is a movement to significantly raise the fines, but a bill that was passed by both the State Senate and House that would have doubled the fines, was

vetoed by Governor Jerry Brown in August. Lawmakers are not likely to give up, however, so California drivers should be cautious and start obeying the law now or they may end up paying much higher penalties and fines later.



HANDS FREE AND NO TEXTING LAWS HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE JANUARY 2008 AND 2009 RESPECTIVELY MANY BLATANTLY IGNORE THE LAW, CONTINUING THEIR UNSAFE DRIVING HABITS.

