TEMPLE CITY Voice

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MARCH 26, 2010

Mayor to speak at JSA mini convention Saturday

JSA: Mini-Con This Saturday

The local chapter of the Junior State of America will host its annual mini-convention this weekend.

BY DANNY TSANG

The Junior State of America (JSA) will be hosting a mini convention this Saturday, March 27, 2010 at Temple City High School.

Registration will start at 9:00 a.m. and members will pay \$5 for admission while nonmembers will pay \$7. Beginning from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., this event will consist of a series of debates, thought talks, and special activities.

"I am expecting around 100 or more people this Saturday", states Christine Keung, the Co-President of the high school JSA.

"Mini-Con" on Page 3



BENEFIT CONCERT: Last Saturday, March 20, the Temple City High School FBLA hosted a benefit concert for the "March on Dimes" charity.

Photo Courtesy of Christine Keung

UNPUBLISHED, HISTORICAL NEWS ARTICLE

Survey on Trash Services Being Developed

Ad hoc committee, Athens look into replacing manual trash collection service.

BY RANDY SHUN

Temple City Councilman Tom Chavez announced on Tuesday a survey was being developed by city staff and Athens Services to assess the needs and wants of the community.

Chavez and Mayor

"Trash" on Page 3

District Still Needs Nearly Two Million to Balance Budget

If unions refuse to accept furlough days, School Board may need to layoff as many as 25 teachers.

BY DANNY TSANG

Facing a massive budget gap, the Temple City Unified School District (TCUSD) is waiting to hear from union representatives before making a decision to either increase class sizes or layoff as 21-25 teachers.

Superintendent Chelsea Kang-Smith urged the two undecided unions to agree to a salary step freeze and three furlough days during the Wednesday, March 10 school board

"Layoffs" on Page 2

School District faces multi-million dollar budget gap, may need to layoff employees to survive continued from front page

meeting.

A salary step freeze would postpone any pay increases, while saving the District \$440,000 per year, or \$1.32 million over three years.

Furlough days would save the District \$160,000 per day, or \$480,000 per year.

The state of California requires all school dis-



tricts to propose a budget for the next three years by March 15, and further mandates a reserve of 3 percent at the end of each fiscal year.

R i g h t now, school officials have proposed two plans to filling a \$4.44 million budget

deficit.

One plan would create furlough days, three per year, for all district employees and enact a salary step freeze for teachers not already at the top of the District pay scale.

Another would reduce the class offerings in K-3 education and 9th grade Math and English classes, raising class sizes from 22 to 31 and 20 to 30, respectively.

Choosing the latter option would also result in the layoffs of around 21-25 teachers.

Layoff notices were being prepared, Karen Reed, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Services, said at the previous school board meeting.

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The School Board had already agreed on \$1.48 million in savings on February 24.

"To put my money where my mouth is, I have decided to donate 25 dollars a month through Pay Pal," School Board Member Joe Walker said Wednesday evening.

To raise money, the District has been engaging in creative practices. For example, the District has created business partnerships with the community to generate revenues from corporate sponsors. The District is now encouraging parents to donate online through Pay-Pal.

At least \$687 has been raised, according to Chief Business Official David Jaynes.

In addition, the District plans to work with Chevron to develop a plan to capture solar energy for the District's power electrical appliances. District officials also are working on bringing a cell tower to the football field at Temple City High School.

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Raymond Tran

Mayor to speak at JSA mini-convention continued from front page

Although this event is open to anybody who wishes to come, those running for a position in the regional or statewide JSA are largely attracted to the mini convention.

The topics put up for debate revolve around the theme, "Era of the Common Man," which basically relates to important issues that concern the average mainstream American. Participants will discuss a range of subjects, from deciding whether a limit should be place on credit card interest rates to whether a flat tax is superior to a progressive tax.

"We are [also] having a debate about state-wide curriculum", says Taylor Evanko, the Vice-President of the high school JSA.

In addition, two guest speakers are scheduled to attend the mini convention: Temple City Mayor Fernando Vizcarra and Alvaro Day, a Republican candidate running for the state assembly.

The JSA, the largest high school student-run organization in the United States, is dedicated to promoting political awareness among today's youth.

Athens, Staff to develop residential survey continued from front page

Pro Tempore Vincent Yu sit on the Athens ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee, formed in August, was asked to study the current trash collection service and determine whether the 30-year evergreen contract was still necessary.

The survey will determine "what the needs of the residents are and what they want in regards to the trash issue," Councilmember Chavez said on November 17, 2009.

In addition to discussing the residential survey, Chavez reported that the ad hoc committee again discussed the rates of an automatic trash pick-up service.

At the last meeting, the councilmember informed officials that cost reductions would range from less than a dollar to three dollars and sixty cents per month.

Switching over to an automatic system would also require the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles and sturdier containers. The changes will likely reduce Temple City's environmental footprint.

Another issue that was discussed was possibly

"restructuring the contract," Chavez stated.

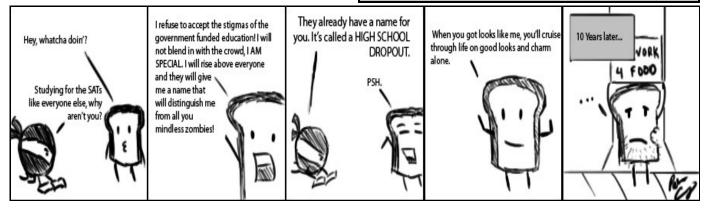
Temple City's current agreement with Athens Services automatically renews itself every year. For example, this year, the contract will expire in 2039. But in 2010, the contract will extend itself for a year and expire in 2040.

"No decisions were made at that time and we are continuing to look into possible options," Chavez concluded.

Mayor Pro Tempore Yu added that both he and Councilmember Chavez are looking for a time to visit Athens' material recovery facility. The material recovery facility is the center where all trash is processed prior to going to a landfill.

Note To Readers:

To read an online only news article, "Funding Being Explored for New Rehabilitation Program", please visit our blog.



This comic strip was designed by Peterson Cheng.

FOUNDER'S COLUMN: IN THEIR SHOES

These past couple of weeks have been difficult and tough.

First, I was studying for my final exams while I was packing up my stuff to move back to Temple City.

Second, I was unpacking and repacking my stuff to move from Temple City to Washington, D.C., where I will be living for the next ten weeks or so.

In addition to my personal workload, I, along with Senior Editor Jason Wu have had to take some extra responsibilities with the *Voice*. (Editor-in-Chief Sophia Chang will resume her responsibilities this coming week).

Because of this rough and tumble period, a lot of what normally goes on does not and what normally does not go on does.

But, I am grateful that the *Voice* has been able to function somewhat smoothly despite the unexpected and temporary circumstances we were placed in. And it is because of these circumstances that I was again able to take some time to reflect on the amount of work our staff does each week and step in their shoes for a bit.

Our readers probably do not know how much work our volunteer staff puts in each week at the *Voice*. So, I thought I'd just highlight a little bit of what the executive staff does.

Each week, the Senior Editor distributes assignments to several members of our staff. A couple of days later, he receives the drafts and edits the articles. After Jason is complete, the Editor-in-Chief is given the revised articles and begins to layout, a process that can take from two to four hours each week. Finally, a version of the layout is placed on a server, where I download and then conduct a final review before sending the *Voice* off to printing.

Sounds a bit complicated right? It sure is, and we strive each week to ensure a new edition of the *Temple City Voice* is available for our readers to enjoy.

So next time when you pick up a *Voice*, don't forget to think of Sophia and Jason, two high school students who volunteer many hours of their time each week in order to present a copy of the news publication to Temple City.





TEMPLE CITY Voice

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Letters to the Editor...

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Interested in sponsoring the *Temple City Voice*?

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 26 Sadie Hawkins Dance @Temple City High School, 7 P.M. - 10 P.M.

	28	Palm Sunday
April	1	TCHS ASB Elections
	2	Good Friday

Comedy Sportz Show @TCHS Room 601, 7 P.M.

- 6 City Council Meeting @Council Chambers, 7:30 P.M.
- 13 Planning Commission MTG @Council Chambers, 7:30 P.M.