

Able Voices



An advocacy publication of Tri-County Independent Living

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The holidays are over, the CA legislature is back in session, and the State continues to face a massive budget deficit. Meanwhile, the squabbling continues between Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Democratic legislators and Republican legislators on how to address the crisis as California quickly approaches bankruptcy by around March.

The Governor offered another budget proposal on Dec. 31, which included large budget cuts and some revenue increases. His proposals have all included significant cuts to the State Medi-Cal program, SSDI recipients, and IHSS care providers, in addition to reductions to other programs such as education and measures that have included having state workers take unpaid days each month. Also figuring into the economic chaos is a new Administration taking office in DC and talk of a possible relief package to the 44 out of 50 states that are facing budget deficits. The U.S. Congress is taking its time with this measure, unfortunately, and reports indicate that nothing may happen until the month after Barack Obama is sworn in as President.

While people with disabilities, seniors and others once again face painful cuts, consider the following facts that show, perhaps, that “*what is good for the goose is good for the gander*” is not always the philosophy of elected officials in hard economic times.

* The U.S. Congress just voted itself a **\$4,700/year pay raise** bringing members to an average of \$174,000/year. This is on-top of their reported median net worth, estimated at \$1.7 million for Senators and \$675,000 for Representatives. * Last summer, California State Assembly Members voted themselves a raise and last November, added wage increases for their staff members of about 5%. * November also saw pay raises of up to 19% for California State University administrators, even as students were being turned away for lack of funding. * The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors voted itself a 6% raise back in May. * Humboldt County has **never** given a pay raise to its IHSS workers and the Governor and Republican state legislators are seeking pay CUTS for them in proposed budgets. *

Consider contacting your elected officials know how you feel about such facts and matters relative to the state budget and disability issues.

Take Action! Contact Your Elected Officials

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Capitol Bldng., Sacramento, CA 95814, Tel.: (916) 445-2841; Fax: (916) 558-3160; **Assembly Member Wesley Chesbro**, State Capitol Bldng., P.O. Box 94249-0001, Sacramento, CA 94249-0001, Tel.: (916) 319-2001, Fax: (916) 319-2101; or 235 4th St., Ste. C, Eureka, CA 95501, Tel.: (707) 445-7014, Fax: (707) 445-6607; **Sen. Pat Wiggins**, 710 E St., #150, Eureka, CA 95501, Tel.: (707) 445-6508; Fax: (707) 445-5611; **Sen. Sam Aanestad**, State Capitol Rm. 2054, Sacramento, CA 95814, Tel.: (916) 651-4004; Fax: (916) 445-7750.

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Help Create A More Accessible Eureka!

Are you a person with a disability and living in the City of Eureka? Would you like to take a more active role in creating an accessible and safe community?

Tri-County Independent Living seeks to create an Accessibility Advisory Committee to take a proactive role in Eureka but we vitally need the help of those who experience accessibility issues every day.

We are looking for individuals who could attend a monthly committee meeting, volunteer to go to at least one City Council meeting each month, provide us with information about specific accessibility issues in the community, and possibly participate in other special projects as the group evolves. We would like to offer a regular, consistent and reasonable voice

IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 5, 2009--CA State Legislature reconvenes.

Jan. 10--Budget must be submitted by Governor

Jan. 19--Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Jan. 20--Presidential Inauguration Day



The Eureka City Council meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m., Eureka City Hall



for the disability community before the Eureka City Council so that action on accessibility and other disability issues will not sit on the back burner and general awareness of these issues will increase!

If interested in participating in such a group, call TCIL at 445-8404 and ask for either Cindy Calderon or Glenn Reed.

Local Happenings

March 7--11 a.m.-3 p.m., Bayside Grange--*Humboldt Pie II* fundraiser for TCIL

Tri-County Independent Living, 2822 Harris St., Eureka, CA 95503. For questions on this publication, call Glenn Reed at (707) 445-8404.