

# EDUCATION

## Will education get the funds it needs in 2005?

### BRIEFLY

#### Baba Jamal on stage

Arts For the Schools presents Baba Jamal - The Story Man on stage for one evening only Friday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Cal Neva Resort Celebrity Showroom. Baba Jamal Koram, with wit and wisdom, brings stories alive through song, rhythm and rhyme. Baba Jamal is a dedicated practitioner and teacher of Spoken Word Traditions. He is a respected leader in the world of storytelling who uses stories to uplift, inspire and encourage the positive growth of our children, grown folks and our community.

The Story Man represents the best in storytelling innovation, creativity and folkloric culture. Baba Jamal Koram holds B.A., M.S. and Ed.S. degrees and serves as counselor and educator for countless youth programs such as the Boys & Girls Clubs.

Tickets for Jan. 7 are \$15 for preferred seating, \$12 for adults and \$5 for students. There will be a \$2 discount with advance purchase at one of the following outlets: Artists of Tahoe & Art Attack in Incline Village, Vista Gallery in Tahoe Vista, North Tahoe Conference Center in Kings Beach, Frames by Ryrie in Tahoe City and Between the Notes in the Gateway Center of Truckee.

Baba Jamal will also perform for 10 student assemblies in our local schools. This program has been funded in part by the Western States Arts Federation and the National Endowment for the Arts. For additional information, please call Arts For the Schools at (530) 546-4602.

#### Open auditions, acting sessions

The Tahoe Acting Workshop announces auditions for its First Annual Salute to the Oscars and Film, an evening of movie scenes from award winning and deserving films. Auditions will be held on Sunday, Jan. 16 from 3-7 p.m. at the Lake Forest Creative Center in Tahoe City. Adults actors and students alike are welcome.

In addition, after school sessions will start on Jan. 11 for students grades 3-5 and 6-8. Grades 9-12 will start on Jan. 13. Each six week session will help develop young actors in a variety of skills and

stage awareness. A final public performance will showcase what the students have created.

For information on auditions and the sessions, call the Tahoe Acting Workshop at (530) 906-7834

#### Earth Day art wanted

The South Lake Tahoe Earth Day Committee is seeking the talent of local artists to design the 2005 Earth Day logo. The chosen logo will be used to promote Earth Day, which is scheduled for April 23, 2005 at the Heavenly Village, as well as appear on event T-shirts and posters.

Artists interested in participating in the logo contest are being asked to incorporate the 2005 Earth Day theme, "Seasons of Tahoe, Seasons of Change," in their submissions. Additionally, the logo should include "South Shore Earth Day 2005." The winner of the contest will receive a \$50 cash prize, in addition to their artwork appearing on Earth Day items.

Logo submissions must be received by Monday, Jan. 3, 2005 at 5 pm.

Submissions may be sent electronically to Jessica Schwing at [atschwing@trpa.org](mailto:atschwing@trpa.org).

For additional contest information, please contact Jessica Schwing at (775) 588-4547, ext. 318.

#### Classes for infants

A "Play With Me" class will begin Wednesday, Jan. 5. These fun and educational classes are for parents or caregivers and their babies under 12 months old (unskilled walkers). You will learn new ways to play with your little one, with puppets, songs, lap rides, parachute play and movement exploration.

Each week we will discuss different areas of development and share ideas about encouraging that development. Come out and make new friends to form a network of support for the years of parenting ahead.

Classes run from 12-1:30 p.m., and will take place at St Nick's Episcopal Church, one mile south of the wye in Tahoe City. To register, or if you have any questions, please contact Penny Watne at (530) 546-2132.

The start of a new year brings transformation — people are making New Year's resolutions, accountants are preparing to file taxes, the president will be inaugurated for his second term.

In accordance with the onset of the year 2005, budgets are also created and implemented. The 2005 budget for education increases federal education funding to \$57.3 billion. That's 36 percent higher than when President George W. Bush first took office.

On paper, this proposition appears to be a step in the right direction for education, especially since money has been stripped from this sector at an exponential rate over the past four years.

This new budget affects California in several ways. First and foremost, federal funding for California increases to \$11.5 billion, 45 percent more than four years ago. An additional \$3.2 billion is provided to help California implement the changes of No Child Left Behind.

President Bush signed the No Child Left Behind act on Jan. 8, 2002. The objective is to give schools stronger educational reform based on:

- ◆ Stronger accountability for results
- ◆ More freedom for states and communities
- ◆ Encouraging proven education methods and more choices for parents.

The intent with No Child Left Behind is to give each child quality education and the knowledge and tools to move on to the next grade level. The act designates that children should have smaller classroom sizes during elementary education and teachers should hold specific subject credentials and only teach those subjects.

Unfortunately, No Child Left Behind seems to cause more detriment than hope when looking at the state of education over the past two

years in California. Perhaps the increase in funds for this program will produce more positive results in the near future.

Other areas of allocation include Reading First and Federal Student loans. Reading First funding is aimed to complete the task of teaching



By Vicki Isacowitz

#### ON THE CHALKBOARD

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all California students to read by third grade. This program is funded by \$159.3 million. Federal Student Loans will receive \$4.8 billion, ensuring greater access to a college

education for more young people.

The effort to attract and retain highly qualified teachers in California classrooms is being afforded \$341.3 million, while annual assessments to track student

\$1.9 billion.

California charter schools are obtaining \$75 million as a result of Rod Paige, U.S. Secretary of Education, declaring a three-year federal grant intending to aid the creation of 250 charter schools by the year 2007.

Reports compiled by both state and federal officials announce that 56 percent of the county's public schools have a higher academic rating than previous years. Federal academic goals were met by 68 percent of these schools. Within the state of California, 64 percent of schools improved their state ratings while satisfying all federal targets.

Being told our schools are getting better is promising. However, take a look at the percentages. In most classrooms, when students earn percentages of 56, 68 and 64, they are failing. Students are considered average when they master between 70 and 80 percent. Once they acquire between 80 and 100 percent, then students are commended for their achievement.

Although apparently moving in the right direction, the state and government need to improve their percentages.

May the year 2005 bring happiness, success and peace to everyone.

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**COBBLESTONE CINEMA**  
475 N. Lake Blvd., Tahoe City, CA  
Presented in DOLBY DIGITAL  
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Starring: Adam Sandler and Tea Leoni  
Fri: 7:15 • Sat: 6:30 & 9:30  
Sun: 4:15 • 7:15 • Mon-Thurs: 7:15  
\*Sunday Bargain Show

**BROCKWAY TWIN THEATRE**  
8707 N. Lake Blvd., Kings Beach, CA  
Presented in ULTRA STEREO  
**Fat Albert PG**  
Starring: Bill Cosby  
Fri-Thurs: 7:00  
Sorry No Passes

**Flight of the Phoenix PG13**  
Starring: Dennis Quaid and Giovanni Ribisi  
Sat-Thurs: 9:30

**Ocean's Twelve PG13**  
Starring: George Clooney, Brad Pitt & Julia Roberts  
Fri: 7:00 • Sat-Thurs: 7:00 & 9:40

**MARTIS VILLAGE THEATRE**  
Hwy 267/Palissades Dr., Truckee, CA  
Presented in DTS DIGITAL  
**Meet the Fockers PG13**  
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