

San Fernando Valley Business Journal

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NEWSMAKERS

By - 5/26/2008

San Fernando Valley Business Journal Staff

Automotive

Maria Zepeda has been named loss control subrogation manager for the Ventura County and San Fernando Valley branches of Enterprise Rent-A-Car. Previously Zepeda was regional loss control manager for Simi Valley. Zepeda manages a team of administrators overseeing losses for Ventura County and San Fernando Valley, including Palmdale. Zepeda's responsibilities include subrogating for losses as well as educating branches on how to mitigate losses. Zepeda began her career at Enterprise in 1998 as a rental manager trainee after she received a degree in business administration from CSUN.

Banking

Anne A. Williams has been promoted to chief operating officer of California United Bank, adding to her existing title of chief credit officer. Williams was one of the initial founding executives of CUB and is a veteran of 28 years in the banking industry. Previously she was senior vice president, California credit risk manager for US Bank and held similar positions at Santa Monica Bank and Pacific Century Bank in Los Angeles. Williams is a Los Angeles resident and is active in the community. She sits on the loan committees for the Valley Economic Development Corporation's Financial Restructure Program, the VEDC SBA Micro Loan Program, and the San Fernando Valley FDC Loan Program. She is a former board member of the Los Angeles Local Development Corporation and People+Plus, a Red Cross auxiliary. She also is a former loan committee member of the California Economic Development Lending Initiative ("CEDLI") and of the FAME SBA Micro Loan Program. She is a board member of the Los Angeles Tennis Club where she also chairs the Finance Committee.

The chief executives of two Valley business banks have been announced as finalists for the 2008 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award. James D. Hicken, president and CEO of the Bank of Santa Clarita, and David Rainer, president and CEO of Encino-based California United Bank were the sole Valley representatives from the 21 finalist executives in the greater Los Angeles region. The winners will be announced at festivities to be held June 24. They will then be in the running for the national awards program which culminates on Nov. 15.

Education

Elyse Chaplin has been named the new director of the California State University Northridge internationally-recognized Center on Disabilities. Chaplin is the former director of Disability Support Services and assistant dean of Student Life at Brown University, who has been working on her doctorate in higher educational theory and policy studies—with an emphasis on serving students with disabilities at the postsecondary level—at the University of Toronto, will assume her new post mid-July. CSUN's Center on Disabilities garners international attention each year with its annual Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference. The conference draws thousands of people from around the world—academics, people with disabilities and some of the world's leading technology entrepreneurs—all interested in exploring ways technology can make life easier for persons with disabilities.

Entertainment

Warner Home Video has promoted Jeffrey Baker, Jeff Brown and Mike Saska – the heads of Warner Home Video's three main business units – Theatrical Catalog, Non-Theatrical Franchise and New Release.

Baker was promoted to executive vice president and general manager of the Theatrical Catalog division. Baker has overseen WHV's catalog business since 2005 and previously served as senior vice president of Home Video for Warner Strategic Marketing.

Brown was promoted to executive vice president and general manager of the Non-Theatrical Franchise division. Brown has served previously as head of WHV's Non-Theatrical Franchise unit and has lead the division to a number one share in the non-theatrical video segment.

Saska was promoted to executive vice president and general manager of WHV's New Release division. Previously, Saska served as vice president of U.S. marketing, overseeing all creative services and consumer promotions.

Brian Henderson has been hired by HD Expo as the new sales manager. Henderson is coming from Green Media Enterprises, where he was responsible for targeted market development and sales team development for a national consumer products exhibition company. HD Expo also added Leslie Schimmel as the new business manager and Jen Kroo as the new operations manager. Schimmel will work closely with the management team, while Kroo will be working with the day-to-day operations of the company.

Stephen Rowe has been added to the LA ProPoint team as senior engineer. LA ProPoint is a fabrication, and design company for stage and show systems. Rowe will be responsible for the design, and engineering of special projects for LA ProPoint's theme park, theatre and museum clients. A California native, Rowe has a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering and has spent more than 15 years in the manufacturing and entertainment industries. Most recently Rowe has worked as a mechanical engineer for Walt Disney World in Orlando and Universal Studios Japan.

Richard Espinoza has been named vice president of NBC's western region sales, at NBC's Domestic Television Distribution division. Espinoza, who is based here in Los Angeles, has served most recently as director of western region sales at NBC's Domestic Television Distribution division. Espinoza will continue to handle programming sales of first-run and off-network programming to local broadcast stations based in western U.S. Espinoza has been at NBC Universal since May 2004, and has over 15 years of various television sales experience. Espinoza has held positions at NBC Enterprises, and has represented a variety of television programs.

Engineering

Rob Blasberg has been appointed as associate at engineering firm Psomas, Inc. As leader of Psomas' Federal Services Program since 2006, Blasberg is responsible for managing and expanding the firm's portfolio of work on Federal projects. His prior 12 years of experience as a project manager for the US Army Corps of Engineers has prepared him well for this role. Blasberg works with multiple Federal agencies and multiple Psomas offices from the Santa Clarita location. A graduate of Rutgers University with a bachelors degree in economics, Blasberg lives in Valencia with his wife Regina and their two children. Psomas specializes in engineering and design of transportation, water, and land development projects in the Western United States.

Finance

Stephen M. Davis has been promoted to first vice president, Investment. Davis is a native of Southern California and has been a part of Merrill Lynch's Woodland Hills office for 15 years. In his new title, he will continue to provide professional guidance on investments, retirement, and estate planning.

Health Care:

Michelle Toby has joined Aspyra Inc. as regional sales manager for Aspyra's Southeast region. Toby has over 15 years of experience in imaging sales. Her most recent post was as sales manager for AMICAS, Inc. Toby has also represented Drager Medical and GE Healthcare. Aspyra, Inc. provides solutions for integrated technologies and services.

Non-Profit

Meet Each Need With Dignity (MEND) has named its new board of directors: J. Bilal Abdullah, Wells Fargo Community Bank district manager; Dan Boyle, Providence Health Systems director of media relations; Liza Makabenta-Sacilioc, independent communications consultant; Diane G. Medina, KABC-TV vice president of diversity and community relations; and Hilary Norton Orozco, senior vice president of Palmer Investments, Inc.

Greg Koubek has been promoted to executive director at the West Valley YMCA. With nearly 10 years of experience at the Gardena-Carson and New York YMCAs, Greg officially, starts his new position April 21. Greg has lived in California for five years with his wife, Dr. Natalie Shun, and their 18-month-old daughter Helena. The couple is looking forward to finding a home in the West Valley area to be close to Natalie's

family who lives in Camarillo. Prior to Greg's tenure at the Gardena-Carson YMCA, he served as the Executive Director and Urban Development Director for the Capital District YMCA located in Albany, New York.

Technology

Greg Ballard has been appointed to the board of directors for Digital Theatre Systems. Ballard is currently president and CEO of Glu Mobile Inc., has served as CEO of MyFamily.com and held a number of positions with 3dfx Interactive Inc., Warner Custom Music Corp., Capcom Entertainment Inc., and Digital Pictures Inc. Ballard also serves as an advisor to LunchBox Digital. He holds a bachelors degree in political science from the University of Redlands and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Utilities

Steve Blois, 56, of Camarillo, has been appointed to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$100 per diem. Blois is a Republican. Since 2003, he has served as president of Valley Vista Consulting Incorporated, a construction industry consulting firm. From 1973 to 2003, Blois held various positions at Blois Construction Inc. including co-president from 1997 to 2003, general manager from 1986 to 1997 and foreman, project manager, estimator and general support from 1973 to 1986. Prior to that, he was an apprentice, journeyman and pipe layer for Blois & Cardoza Inc. from 1966 to 1973. Blois is on the boards of the California State University Channel Islands Foundation, the Boys' & Girls' Club of Camarillo and board member the Crestview Mutual Water Company. He is also past-president of the Associated General Contractors of California, management trustee for the Construction Laborers Health and Welfare Trust Fund and area volunteer for the California Central Coast American Field Service.

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