



# THE HIGHLIGHTER

The Official Monthly Newsletter of Rotary District 5300  
**Charles M. Barr, District Governor 2007-2008**

## LETTER FROM GOVERNOR CHARLES: *Growing Together*



It is hard to believe that a month has already passed in this new year. Your new president should by now be comfortable in their new position, and the members of your club have probably also become used to the new president.

August is Membership and Extension month. Each and every Rotary member in our district should be committed to share Rotary in their community. By sharing we have the opportunity to bring new members to our organization. Probably most of us don't stop and think about the impact we have on Rotary. If each member of your club would bring a guest to a meeting, and if just 20% of those guests wanted to join Rotary, there would be a huge growth membership in your club and the district. We as members of Rotary should not sit back and wait for someone else to bring a guest or sponsor a new member.

As I have talked with the presidents of a number of clubs in our district. All of them realize how important it is to sponsor new members. There is a new enthusiasm about recruiting new Rotarians. What an exciting year it will be if we can grow our district in a manner that we can all be proud of. As I make official visits this year I will have a special Rotary pin for those presidents who have sponsored a new member.

This year I have heard a number of funny stories about president's gavels or the club bell disappearing. Hopefully by now the presidents have recovered their gavel or club bell. If your club has a good story about the president's gavel or the club bell and would like to share it with the district please send it to Melinda Robbins, Editor for the Highlighter.

# The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Monthly Report

- **Giving.** Roughly \$700,000 was contributed to the Rotary Foundation by District 5300 Rotarians for the year just finished. Roughly \$540,000 was contributed to the Annual Program Fund, over \$100,000 was contributed for restricted purposes (e.g. polio, matching grants, scholarships), and over \$55,000 was contributed to the permanent fund. Under current procedures, 50% of the Annual Program Funds will be available for District 5300 Rotarians during Tom Novotny's year as Governor (2009-10) to be used for educational and humanitarian grant programs.
- **GSE.** Pam Hayes (Covina), District GSE Chair, reports that Larry Skaggs from the Green Valley / Henderson Rotary Club was selected to be the GSE team leader for next year's group study exchange with D 9790 in Australia. Team member's selections for the GSE team will take place on September 22nd in Apple Valley. Clubs should be thinking about whom within their community might make a good GSE team member for next year's GSE visit to District 9790 in Australia.
- **Humanitarian Grants program.** For this year, \$75,000 to \$80,000 (up to \$3,334 per Club at the present time) will be available for international matching grants and \$35,000 (\$500 to \$1,500 per Club) will be available for District Simplified Grants. Two grant seminars will take place in August (August 11 at Etiwanda Gardens and August 25 in Las Vegas). This seminar will provide an opportunity to understand how to identify potential projects, ways in which Clubs can work together on joint projects, the various types of grants that are available for a Club, the grant application process, and the stewardship responsibilities we all have to use these resources wisely. Come to the seminar and learn how to access these District dollars for grants to help your Club do "good works". The Grants' Seminar is designed for: Club Presidents, Club Presidents-Elect, Club Foundation Committee Chairs, Club Foundation Committee Members, Club Service Projects Chairs, and interested Rotarians.

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## Entrepreneurs from Zambia, Africa

This week's program was indeed a special event. Past President of the Rotary Club of Lusaka, Zambia, Africa, Ghazi Hussain, brought us eight of his countrymen and women, from half way around the world, to present to us their varied business ideas.



These presenters represented the winners of a competition that started out in Zambia with 200 competitors. Those members and guests who attended had the treat of seeing and hearing from the best of the best, four women and four men, ages 17 to 30. Hussain told us that these competitors had gone through 200 hours of advance IT, entrepreneurship and health care training.

First up, Chris Mudenda, told us about his business plan for the potential business he has named Core and Sadi Enterprises. With an estimated budget of \$12,950 he would recycle computers, with sensitivity to the environment. He foresees employing four persons initially, but who knows how big this very needed service could grow.



Next we heard from Princess Chileshe (what a great name). Chileshe's idea is to start a milling business, which she would call MIPS Milling Company, turning grain, mainly maize corn, into flour and other consumable food products. She calculates that this would be successful because there is a great demand, from the poorest to the richest, and there are only 9 milling companies in Zambia, and none in the immediate area of Chamber Valley, Zambia, where she would set up the company. Princess told us that 90kg of maize yields 75kg of flour.

Clyde Milimo plans to start a mushroom business which he would call Specialized Mushroom Producers and who doesn't like mushrooms. He estimates with a capital investment of \$8,500 he could create six jobs. Milimo points out that mushrooms are healthy, nutritious and an immune system booster. The cost would be relatively inexpensive for the consumer. He would market his product to individuals as well as volume buyers such as restaurants and hotels.

Our next speaker, Esnart M'Tonga, would like to start an Internet café and snack bar catering to Zambian youth. She would call her business Esnart Jay Youth 2 Youth Net or E Jay YAN. She told us that the café would be a unique friendly environment where youth could gather and relax. The café would also have an educational component. It would cater to the many university students, high school students and school graduates in the area. Esnart sees this as "not a luxury but a necessity." She anticipates a startup cost of \$94,000.

Next we met Kennedy Kombe who is eager to start a sausage making business. He sees himself as the future sausage man of Zambia. With a capital investment of only \$2000 he would start out in Chirundu, Zambia, (bordering Zimbabwe) employing four persons but who knows where this dream will end up. Kombe will also incorporate a training component to teach IT and entrepreneurial skills, plus a health education component, emphasizing ways for citizens to protect against HIV/AIDS and other health issues challenging Zambians, where the current life expectancy is only 37 years.

Rachael Mofya would like to start a bee, honey and beeswax business that she would call M&N Bee Products. With a startup cost of \$13,223, she believes she could create nine jobs. She would start her business in Kapri Mposhi, Zambia, which is near natural resources needed for honey production, and is also near good transportation routes to facilitate distribution. She would employ area youth and also build in a component to help reduce HIV/AIDS, a serious problem in Zambia.

Our next presenter, Terrence Simfukwe, would start a business he would call Image Centre Studio, processing photos for the local people. He believes by starting the business in the Mbala District of northern Zambia (just below Tanzania), which has a population of approximately 140,000, he would do well as there are no such businesses located there at this time. With a start up cost of \$80,000, he would create six jobs.

Our final guest, Kapasa Musonda, plans to start a business called Le? Kay Fashion Design. Her creations would be a fusion of fashions from different parts of Africa and Western styles. Musonda has a natural talent, as demonstrated by the beautiful shirts worn to our meeting by all eight presenters that she had designed. She plans to market to fashion conscious consumers, primarily women, who are looking for clothing that is functional but unique. She anticipates a startup cost of \$25,000 and initially would create two jobs.

It was a true pleasure meeting these very talented youth from Zambia. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors, business and otherwise they are clearly starting out with a great deal of natural skill and motivation, and the sky's the limit.

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## Pasadena Sunrise 2007 Field's Finest Awards Dinner

The Rotary Club of Pasadena Sunrise held the annual Field's Finest Awards Dinner on June 14, 2007. Pasadena Sunrise has adopted Field Elementary School in Pasadena and has several ongoing service projects at the school including a landscape beautification project and the donation of 50 books a year to the school library. The major event for the school is the Field's Finest Awards Dinner. Each teacher selects the outstanding student from his or her class. That student is invited to the dinner along with the parents and the teacher. Each student receives an individual award and all of the students' names are inscribed on a special plaque that is displayed in the school hallway. Pasadena Sunrise provides the dinner and serves it to all of the attendees and the club provides all of the awards.



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## Pasadena Sunrise Union Station BBQ

The Rotary Club of Pasadena Sunrise served a BBQ lunch to the patrons of Union Station on June 30, 2007. Union Station Foundation, located in Pasadena, California, is the San Gabriel Valley's largest private agency serving the poor and homeless. Union Station offers emergency and transitional housing for individuals and families, hot meals, career development, job placement, health care, case management services and substance abuse recovery support. Pasadena Sunrise has had a long term commitment to BBQ lunch each month where there are five Saturdays in the month. It is a popular event and 93 people had queued up by the time the meal of burgers and hotdogs, along with salad and dessert was ready. The Club uses a special charcoal BBQ built by PDG Eldon Osborn. It makes cooking up the 144 burgers and a like amount of hot dogs a delicious task. Ten members of the club participated in the project.

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## Montebello Rotary Honors City's Employees of the Year



The Montebello Rotary Club honored Montebello's finest in public service and safety personnel at a recent meeting.

"It has been an annual tradition of the Montebello Rotary Club for the past several years to recognize and award the people who serve our community," said president Tom Millhouse.

City Employee of the Year, Chickwan Michael Tam, joined the Finance Department in 1979 as an accountant. In 2000, he was promoted to city controller, a position he holds to this day. Under Tam's direction, and his high standards of excellence, the City's Finance Division has received the highest award for governmental financial reporting issued by the Government Finance Officers Association for 18 consecutive years. In 1992, Tam was named Manager of the Year, the City's highest recognition.

"Not only is Mr. Tam respected for his unparalleled financial knowledge, but he is known throughout the organization as friendly, fair, approachable and always willing to go the extra mile to provide outstanding customer service," said Diane Albert, Director of Administrative Services.

Transit Employee of the Year, Billy Altimirano, began his service with the City as a bus operator in 1978. He has assisted in improving the dial-a-ride program, served as a mentor for

new dial-a-ride bus operators and has a 20-year safety record.

"Billy is a perfect example of the high quality people we have in the Transportation Department who provide much needed service to the residents of Montebello," said Allan Pollock, Director of Transportation. "He treats his customers with respect and courtesy and is looked on by others on how to be a successful bus operator."

Rocky Lopez joined the Montebello Fire Department in 1986. As the department's paramedic coordinator, Lopez, along with the nurse educator, is responsible for running the department's Emergency Medical Services program. He is also involved with the district attorney's Youth Rescue program in which he works with at-risk youth.

"Rocky has received numerous letters of commendation over the years and has exceeded this department's expectations in all aspects of the job," said Montebello Fire Chief Steve Huson. "He has worked very hard to become one of Montebello's finest paramedics."

In 1991, Corporal Larry Jackson joined the Montebello Police Department and was assigned to uniform patrol. In 1998, he transferred to the department's Gang Unit and was responsible for a considerable amount of the Unit's data collection. From 2001 until present, Jackson has handled hundreds of large-scale narcotics cases which have resulted in the seizure of large amounts of drugs, weapons and currency.

"Larry is a very committed and dedicated detective and his solid work ethic and expertise are a huge factor in his ability to accomplish these tasks," said Montebello Police Chief Garry Couso-Vasquez. "Larry is an example of the best of the best in our organization."

"We appreciate all the hard work and dedication of our City employees," said Montebello City Councilman Jeff Siccama. "They have provided Montebello's residents with quality service that the City is very proud of."

Each recipient thanked club members for the recognition and the special program in their honor.

"We are extremely grateful to those that serve in the public safety sector for putting their life on the line every day while doing their job, and to all other public service employees for assisting us in a professional and courteous manner," said Millhouse.

The Montebello Rotary Club congratulates all the recipients for their outstanding commitment and service to the City of Montebello.

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## Larry Skaggs will be GSE Team Leader for 2007

Larry Skaggs has been a member of the Rotary Club of Green Valley (Henderson, NV) since 2003. Tired of the cold and snowy weather in the Midwest, Larry and his wife Vicki moved to the Las Vegas area shortly after his retirement from the Aurora Illinois Police Department. (Aurora is the second-largest city in IL, and a western suburb of Chicago).



During his law enforcement career which began in 1975, Larry worked in nearly every division of the police department, including Patrol, Vice & Narcotics, and Administration. He held supervisory and leadership positions in the Gang Unit, the Training Section, and the Investigations Division. Larry was actively involved with the Citizen Police Academy, the Aurora Area Crime Stoppers, the Honor Guard and the Field Training Officer (FTO) program. He was a Lieutenant at the time of his retirement, completing 28 years of exemplary service.

Larry was also an instructor for North East Multi-Regional Training and a seminar presenter for numerous police and leadership training programs. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal/Social Justice from Lewis University (Romeoville, IL), and his Master of Science degree in Public Service Administration from DePaul University in Chicago.

Larry originally became a Rotarian in 1998, joining the Rotary Club of Aurora Sunrise. He held various positions on the Board of Directors, and served as Club President in 2001-02. After transferring his membership to Green Valley, Larry remained actively involved in all facets of his new club, where he is currently the club Vice-President, Editor of the newsletter, and Webmaster. He has continued to be associated with the law enforcement profession, by working as an adjunct instructor for several college criminal justice programs.

In his free time, Larry enjoys reading, and watching football (GO BEARS!). He spends a lot of time “on the computer,” where he has learned just enough to “get into trouble,” and he loves to play golf with several close Rotary friends, although he considers the game to be more of a penance than a passion.

Larry is honored to have been selected from among so many worthy candidates to represent District 5300 as GSE team leader to Australia. He knows he could not have achieved this success without the help and support of his family, friends, and fellow Green Valley club members.

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## Joe “Peppy” Sciarra named Rotarian of the Year

Joe “Peppy” Sciarra, a Past President of the Rotary Club of Alhambra, and a long time Alhambra community leader, was named “Rotarian of the Year” by 2006-2007 Rotary Club of Alhambra President Lee Lieberg.

Although Sciarra served as Rotary President nearly 30 years ago, he has remained active in the club, earning the Rotarian of the Year honor through his tireless work for, and support of, many Rotary service projects.



He works every year on the planning committee for Rotary’s annual \$10,000 Raffle, a fund-raising project initiated during his term as President.

He is a prime supporter of the Rotary Foundation and its many projects aimed toward world peace and understanding. He organizes the club’s annual New Year’s auction, turning member’s Christmas “white elephants” into dollars for the Foundation.

Alhambra Rotary’s annual “Heart Walk” has been a project especially close to Peppy’s heart. He worked for many years on the Heart Association’s annual walk, but then established Rotary’s own walk that has generated tens of thousands of dollars for equipment and services for the heart patients at Children’s Hospital. His efforts have resulted in the walk now being called the “Peppy Sciarra” Heart Walk.

Along with his many efforts for the Rotary Club of Alhambra, Sciarra has served the greater Alhambra community in many ways, having also served as President of both the West San Gabriel Valley YMCA and the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce.

Alhambra Rotarians received notification of Peppy’s new honor with unanimous enthusiasm, and none would be surprised if Joe “Peppy” Sciarra received that honor again in the very near future.



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## Group Study Exchange 2008 Down Under

Rotary is looking for a few good nippers and sheila's. (That's men and woman to you non-Australians!)

Imagine a leisurely drive down a **possum pad** on the way to **never never** with nothing but your **dilly bag** and some local **tucker** to take you through the day? If this sounds **jake**, then ask your boss for **ripper flat strap**! If you are an adventurous **bottler**, **good nick**, between the ages of 25-40 and been employed for the past two years, then **park the carcass** and fill out the application for your **possie** (even if you are **molly dooker**!). You will **sparrowfart** and surely be **knackered** by the end of this amazing adventure through the **land down under**, but it will surely be the best **do** of your life....**fair dinkum**! \*

For those of you not familiar with the colorful language of Australia, here's your chance to be part of District 5300's 2008 exchange with District 9790, located in New South Wales and Victoria in the southern part of the country. There is no better way for a member to introduce the magic of Rotary to someone than to refer them to participate in the Group Study Exchange....and DG Charlie Barr has ensured that this year's trip will indeed be magical as the group travels through the land known as Oz.

**WHAT IS GSE?** The Group Study Exchange (GSE) program is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business and professional men and women ages 25 to 40 in their initial years of professional life. Led by a Rotarian representing District 5300, the 2008 GSE team will travel through Australia's beautiful beaches, cosmopolitan cities, mysterious outback and meet fellow Rotarians who share the same values to which all members of our international association are committed. A team of up to 4 non-Rotarian professionals will be invited to participate in this exchange with District 9790 in February/March of 2008. There is no better opportunity to share expertise with those in similar vocational fields, be immersed in cultural experiences, enjoy fellowship with host families and members of the community, and participate in Rotary experiences with host clubs.

**WHY PROPOSE A GSE TEAM MEMBER?** The Group Study Exchange is an excellent way to introduce prospective members to the world of Rotary. Through this experience, they will learn the mission and value of Rotary through their travels and interactions with Clubs in their host country.

**ADDED VALUE TO EMPLOYERS!** As a Rotarian, you may own or manage a business. As a member of your community, you may know many young professionals responsible for making your town a safe and attractive place to live. By supporting GSE, a team member will

bring back valuable information and shared experiences that will build upon the success of your company and your community. Just imagine what cross-cultural expertise in business, industry, technology, communications, fire/police officers or education could do for your world?

#### NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Contact DISTRICT 5300 GSE CHAIR Pamela Hayes (Covina Rotary) at (626) 337-6200 or [vlinceo@aol.com](mailto:vlinceo@aol.com).

#### DATES TO REMEMBER!

Applications for team members are **due by August 25**.

Send applications to:

Pamela Hayes

5358 N. Irwindale Avenue, Unit B, Irwindale, CA 91706

\*Translation: Imagine a leisurely drive down a **seldom-used road** on the way to the **outback** with nothing but a **small bag** and some local food to take you through the day? If “this sounds **fine**, then ask your boss for **approval**, **as soon as possible**! If you are an “adventurous **first-class person**, **healthy**, between the ages of 25-40 and been employed for the past two years, then **sit down** and fill out the application for your **position** (even if you are **left-handed**)! You will **get up early in the morning** and surely be **tired** by the end of this amazing adventure through **Australia**, but it will surely be the best **celebration** of your life....**for sure**!

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## Alhambra Rotary Donates \$2500.00 to the Public Library

The Rotary Club of Alhambra, a long-time supporter of the Alhambra Public Library, made the most significant donation (to date) to the new Civic Center Public Library (under construction), when 2006-2007 Rotary President Lee Lieberg presented a check for \$25,000 to Stan Yonemoto, President of the Alhambra Public Library Foundation.

The presentation was made at an Alhambra City Council meeting, and other active participants in the presentation were Mayor Gary Yamauchi, Library Director Carmen Hernandez, and Board of Library Trustees President Cynthia Ison.

“Naming Opportunities” for the new library, based upon level of donation, are available

from \$1,000 to \$1,000,000. Alhambra Rotary's donation earns the service club the naming right of the library's Conference Room, and Alhambra Rotary's donation will be so noted in the room.

The Rotary Club of Alhambra has made countless donations to the Alhambra Public Library over the years, including a donation that allowed the Library to earn a matching grant for the establishment of its Alhambra Library Literacy program. The club also honors its weekly program speakers by donating a book to the library in the speaker's name. Hundreds of books have, thus, become available to the library's reading public through this annual donation program.

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## Information Resources for new Club Presidents

**Are you aware that Club and District Support (CDS) staff serve as your primary contact at Rotary?** Staff can answer any question about Rotary as well as provide advice on club elections, constitutional matters, club traditions and customs, club operations, and RI Board policy. Below are some critical web resources to assist in leading and supporting your club in the year ahead.

- Discover the names and contact information for your CDS team members by using this web link: <http://www.rotary.org/support/CDAreps/index.html>
- A list of helpful resources for club presidents and secretaries is attached and on the web: [http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/club\\_pres\\_sec\\_resources.pdf](http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/club_pres_sec_resources.pdf).
- Make changes to your club's membership records, reference various Rotary Foundation reports, pay your club's dues, and report next year's club officers using Member Access. Full instructions and helpful suggestions are found: <https://riweb.rotaryintl.org/faq.asp>
- Find club publications, audiovisuals, software, forms and supplies: <http://shop.rotary.org/catalog/default.php?cPath=37>
- Use the Club President's Checklist, a monthly calendar for both presidents and presidents-elect, with reminders of club and district functions, as well as RI and The Rotary Foundation deadlines: [http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/pres\\_checklist.pdf](http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/pres_checklist.pdf)
- The Club Leadership Plan is a strategic planning tool based on the best practices of actual Rotary clubs: <http://www.rotary.org/support/club/clubplan.html>

- IRS information regarding US club's tax status and mandatory yearly reports is attached and on the web – **with new IRS requirements for 2008:**

[http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/info\\_paper\\_clubs\\_irs.pdf](http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/info_paper_clubs_irs.pdf)

Rotary staff looks forward to working with you and supporting your club's service efforts. Be sure to contact your CDS representative whenever you need assistance.

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## Dr. Siu Recognized by RI Foundation

Dr. Tim K. Siu has been awarded special recognition by the Rotary International Foundation!

He's been recognized for his service many times – at the local level (Chamber, City, S.G. Med. Center, etc.); on the floor of the U. S. House of Representatives (where Congressman Adam B. Schiff read glowing remarks about Dr. Tim into the Congressional Record); and even internationally, where his achievements have made a difference for world peace and understanding.

At the 2007 District 5300 Rotary International Conference, however, Dr. Tim gathered in a supreme honor, one that has been earned and bestowed this year on just 50 people in the entire world (out of how many billions of individuals? The mind boggles!).

The award title – the Rotary International Distinguished Service Award – doesn't do justice to the magnitude of the honor, but just take our word for it – this is a biggie! The requirements to even be nominated for the award are overwhelming; but just the tip of the iceberg of Dr. Tim's achievements, outlined in Governor Christine Montan's presentation remarks, would certainly qualify anyone for this prestigious honor.

Maybe it's best to quote from Governor Christine's remarks – this gives the full picture:

*The hands and hearts of Rotarians have molded the Rotary Foundation into one of the world's greatest organizations for building world peace and understanding among nations and peoples.*

*Every year, many thousands of Rotarians give of their time, enthusiasm, expertise and material means to support the Rotary Foundation, and ensure it's continuing role in improving the quality of life for many throughout the world. Each of these Rotarians deserve recognition, but only a relative few are singled out by the Trustees of the Rotary Foundation for truly outstanding service and achievements.*

*Such Rotarians may receive one of two recognition on an international level:  
The Citation for Meritorious Service; or  
The Distinguished Service Award.*

*Last evening {at the 2007 District 5300 Conference} Rotarian George Newton was honored with the Citation for Meritorious Service, and we heard that less than 200 Rotarians are so honored each year.*

*The Distinguished Service Award honors Rotarians whose service often extends beyond the District level, and over an extended period of years. The Trustees recognize these Rotarians with a beautiful bronze plaque. As with the Citation, those who contributed ONLY financially are not eligible, and those nominated for the Distinguished Service Award must have been a past recipient of the Citation for Meritorious Service {Dr. Tim received that recognition in 2002}.*

*Not only is it an honor for me to present this award to a Past District Governor, but especially so, to a long-time friend from my home club – the Rotary Club of Alhambra.*

*It is with great pleasure that I announce that the Trustees of the Rotary Foundation confer the Distinguished Service Award for 2006-07 to Past District Governor Dr. Tim K. Siu!*

*There you have it – “our” District Governor honoring “our” Past District Governor*

*We don’t know what else to say – it is an honor well deserved, and we doff our editorial hats to Dr. Tim K. Siu, honored by, and most certainly dedicated to, the Rotary International Foundation.*

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## **Federal Tax Filings Available for Review**

The Federal Tax filings for the District 5300 Foundation, a tax-exempt charitable organization, for the year ended June 30, 2007, are available for public inspection. Persons interested should contact either Conrad von Bibra at 626-441-2279 or Robert Eichel at 626-351-3500 for an appointment.