December 28th 2005

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UP FROM STREET

The Autobiography of California Senator Ruben S. Ayala

Publisher's note: Retired Senator Ruben Ayala broke many barriers as an American of Mexican descent: Chino Board of Education member, Chino councilmember and mayor, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisor member; and state senator. Senator Ayala had and still has a reputation of being a forthright, no-nonsense individual, and well known for not backing away from a righteous fight. There are many 'older individuals and politicians' that are aware of his making the right decisions for the common folks. He will be remembered for being a role model that broke the 'ice.' It is hoped that our young and up and coming adults will read Ruben Ayala's autobiography, be inspired, and emulate his heroic deeds.

“Up from Second Street” is a project I began upon sensing the need to highlight some of the more meaningful experiences in my life. It is not an all-inclusive personal history, but rather a series of snapshots designed to communicate to the reader the value of those people, principles, places, and events that have meant so much to me. As a child of Mexican heritage growing up in the Chino Barrio in Southern California, I had no idea that I would have the opportunity to live the life I have. If I were to describe in one line the formula for living a full life, I think I would borrow the words of the great American sage, Benjamin Franklin, "Doing well by doing good!" When we... Continue on page 3

COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP
-A PROFILE ON SERVICE

Patricia Nickols, Executive Director, a keynote speaker at the 40th Anniversary of the Community Action Partnership-San Bernardino County. Nichols created the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee to design and implement future CAPSBC programs to meet the needs of the expanded population in the County of San Bernardino. Photo by IEHN

The Community Action Partnership (CAPSBC) has had a long and distinguished record serving the low-income residents of the County of San Bernardino. In commemoration of 40 years of commitment and dedication, CAPSBC celebrated the important event with an anniversary dinner and an array of outstanding speakers. Patricia Nickols, CAPSBC Executive Director, spoke on the history of the poverty agency, the accomplishments in serving the less fortunate, and its future programs. Nichols recognized the late Rudy Castro, the former director who served from 1976 to 1991, thereafter losing his battle with cancer in April 1992.

“We will continue to serve our growing population with all the resources available,” Nichols said.

“The condition of poverty is complex and should not be thought of as a simple problem with a simple solution.” Keynote speaker was Community Action Partnership National President Derrick L. Span, who spoke eloquently on the aftermath of the Hur... Continue on page 7

SBCCD BOARD OF TRUSTEES SWORN IN
AND RE-ELECT OFFICERS

SBCCD Board of Trustees President Mary Sampson swears in (l to r) Dr. Don Singer, James C. Ramos, student trustee Dennis Partain and Dr. Chuck Terrell.

San Bernardino Community College District Board President Mary Sampson swore in incumbents Dr. Donald Singer and Dr. Chuck Terrell, as well as new trustee James C. Ramos, at its meeting on December 8, 2005. The trustees were elected in November and will serve four-year terms. James C. Ramos is a Highland resident and member of San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. He was congratulated by representatives from Senator Nell Soto’s office, Assemblyman Joe... Continue on page 7

SAN MANUEL DONATES FUNDS TO HOME OF NEIGHBORLY SERVICES

See Article on Page 2

The Home of Neighborly Services, San Bernardino, a service group located in the Westside San Bernardino, was the recipient of a $70,000 grant from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians in a special presentation on December 19, witnessed by HNS board members and boxing club youths. James Ramos, center, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians member, and chair of HNS board of directors, presented the grant. Photo by IEHN.

SBCCD Board of Trustees President Mary Sampson swears in (l to r) Dr. Don Singer, James C. Ramos, student trustee Dennis Partain and Dr. Chuck Terrell.

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Letter to the Editor;  
WHEN THE DEATH PENALTY MAY NOT BE THE FIRST, BEST OPTION

Prior to "Tookie" Williams' execution, I wrote two letters to editors of various newspapers. Tookie Williams and a number of advocates spoke during the last thirty to forty-five days as to whether he should:  
(A) be executed according to the date previously established, or  
(B) commuting his sentence, in the context of  
1) his demonstrated rehabilitated efforts to work toward changing the negative life choices of many of today's youth, and  
2) life in prison (without the possibility of parole) as long as those efforts continue.

REDEMPTION:
How valuable would it have been if Williams had been able to live to continue to demonstrate a commitment to focus on his writings and his various efforts to reduce gang violence and the environments, which helped to spawn such behavior?

In looking at the above option, it might be worthwhile to examine whether Governor Schwarzenegger sufficiently indicated, prior to his rendering his verdict, the specific criteria that he would use to determine whether Tookie Williams would shortly be put to death, or under what circumstances that sentence might be commuted.

In my earlier example, I noted how Governor George Wallace changed from spouting; "Segregation yesterday, segregation today, and segregation forever" to "I grew up thinking one way, now I have learned differently." During his last administration, Gov. Wallace had more Blacks serving in key state positions in Alabama than there were in any other state in America.

With all the gang violence in America, would it not be worthwhile to make a similar investment in redemption?  

Amos Issac, Ph.D.

SAN MANUEL DONATES FUNDS TO HOME OF NEIGHBORLY SERVICES

The Home of Neighborly Services (HNS), an established non-profit service group serving the citizens and youth of Westside San Bernardino for many decades, was presented with a Christmas bonus of $70,000 grant by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

James Ramos, San Manuel member, presented the grant. He is also chair of HNS. He spoke of the need for helping the agency to further their mission in the Westside. "The Home has provided services in the area for many years and this small grant will continue to provide programs serving our youth and families in the area," Ramos said.

"We are very appreciative of the generous donation that the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians have given to the Home," said Amparo Olguin, director of HNS. "We have good programs for our youth, families and senior citizens. However, it is necessary for us to continue seeking funds for these programs, the administration and operation costs.

HNS was founded in 1922 as a community center to serve the citizens residing the San Bernardino’s Westside. Services include scouting, boxing, after-school homework and learning center, ESL, and a myriad of social, education and childcare services.

For information on the Home of Neighborly Services, call at (909) 885-3491.

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as individuals cooperate as families, as teams, as businesses, as congregations, as communities, etc. and commit ourselves to do well for the greater whole, we always do well individually. For that principle, I will always be grateful. Thank you to all, both mentioned and unmentioned, for allowing me to do some good with you!

"As a child of Mexican heritage growing up on 2nd Street in the Chino Barrio in California, I had no idea I would have the opportunity to live the life I have. To my family and all those fine people who have provided the sustaining support to allow me to serve my community for over 43 years as an elected official, with a deep sense of indebtedness, I offer a profound, Thank you!"

California Senator Ruben S. Ayala – August 2005

THE BOY WHO DIDN'T KNOW ALL THE WORDS

When Ramon Valdez was just a boy, he lived in Chino and played in the dusty streets of the barrio. The word "barrio" probably was not used much in those days, for it had yet to become a popular term.

His family was poor, but Ramon did not realize it because in the Great Depression days of the 30's there was nothing much with which to compare poverty. The whole town was poor. There was little to covet because there was a certain sameness to everyone's lot in life. And everyone's lot was not much. Ramon's family was close, as were most poor families of that time. The hunt for survival in those days did that to families.

The boy's father was proud and hard-working. Through all of the Depression he was never on welfare (or relief as they called it then), nor was he ever employed by the WPA or any other government agency. He drilled water wells around Southern California and was away from home much of the time.

Ramon's father was stern, but infinitely fair with his children, and he taught Ramon that if he were true to himself he would be true to everyone. The advice became the guidance that Ramon followed the rest of his life. The mark of that paternal lesson remains on him to this day.

When Ramon was 5 years old his mother died, and he was raised by his grandparents. Although the older people lived in Chino, they were both born in Mexico, and were still tethered strongly to their Mexican heritage and their Mexican ways. Neither spoke English very well. Ramon's environment rendered him bilingual when he was just a child.

His mother had spoken English well. But because she was gone from Ramon's life, and his father was away so often, the Spanish language became a dominant part of Ramon's world.

One day at grammar school, Ramon's teacher wrote "adventure" on the blackboard and instructed the youngsters in her class to write a short composition based on the word. The essay was to be turned in a few days later. Ramon did not know what "adventure" meant. He did not, in fact, know what "composition" meant. He felt lost and embarrassed. When the day arrived for the children to turn in their work, Ramon had nothing to submit. He was devastated. The teacher kept him after school—not to punish him, but to ask him why he had not written his composition. He told her his story, and said he was sure he could have done the work if he had known what the words meant.

Ramon, who has been a good friend of mine for more than 30 years, told me this story at lunch the other day while we spoke of many things. It was that childhood incident, he said, that makes him favor bilingual education. Surely, he said he believes bilingual education would serve as the quickest way to help kids learn the English language.

Why should a child suffer in his studies, he said, because he is not familiar with English and has no one at home who can help him or no one at home who cares? It is not fair to the children, he said. It is only right to help them in school. He said bilingual schooling should have nothing to do with ethnic relationships. All of us are, after all, Americans, Ramon said. He described how, when I was a Marine in the war," he said, "Nobody ever called me a Mexican Marine. I was a U.S. Marine, just like all my buddies. "We were just trying to help one another stay alive. "Helping each other learn is something like that," he said.

By the way, Ramon is not my friend's real name. His real name is Ruben Ruben Ayala. California State Senator Ruben S. Ayala

Retired Senator Ruben Ayala has received outstanding awards during his public service tenure: Legislator of the Year Award from six associations; veterans groups, City of Rialto named a street in his name; Chino School Board named a high school in his name, PTA; Life Member; Outstanding Community leaders from two groups; Citizen of the Year from five groups; Boy Scouts of America-Special Jubilee Year Distinguished Citizen; City of Chino and County of San Bernardino named two parks in his name; American Diabetes Association named Ayala-Man of the Year; and numerous other state, county, city and organization awards.

WHEN INJURED, SEEK ADVICE FROM PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER

CHICAGO, IL — It is a fact of life. Accidents and injuries happen all the time. At home. At Work. In the car. On the playground. At the Store. It is no wonder that one of the most common reasons people consult lawyers is for personal injury claims.

According to the federal government's National Center for Injury Protection and Control, here are some eye-opening statistics about injury in the U.S.:§ Accidental injuries result in about 31 million emergency room visits each year. § Someone in the U.S. seeks medical attention for a dog bite every 40 seconds. § Playground accidents result in about 200,000 emergency visits every year—which is one injury every 2-1/2 minutes. § Falls are the leading cause of injury-related deaths in older Americans. One out of every three people age 65 and older falls each year. § About 600,000 people are treated in emergency rooms every year for bicycle-related injuries.

WHEN INJURED — Add One

If you or someone in your family does get injured, you will want to seek the advice of an attorney who practices in particular areas of personal injury. "Who's liable and who pays for the medical attention has a lot to do with the type of injury and location it occurred," explains James K. Carroll, chair of the Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section of the American Bar Association.

There are personal injury lawyers who concentrate in auto accidents, and others who concentrate on employee rights," explains Carroll. "For example, if you get hurt at work, it might be a worker's compensation issue. If a friend is injured at your home, the homeowner's insurance policy comes into play. If you're in a car accident, traffic violations are investigated."

When meeting with a lawyer, it is a good idea to bring any documents that might be relevant to your case, such as police reports that contain eyewitness accounts and details about conditions surrounding the incident.

Copies of medical reports from doctors and hospitals should be included. And bring any photographs you have of the accident or injury.

To find a personal injury lawyer that is experienced with your type of accident or injury, Carroll advises starting with Lawyer Referral, a public service program offered by state and local bar associations. Visit the ABA's web site online at www.abanet.org/referral, which provides a listing of Lawyer Referral programs covering all 50 states. Or look in your local Yellow Pages under Lawyer Referral.

Lawyers who are registered with the Lawyer Referral program are in good standing with the state bar association and are considered qualified in their area of practice. When you call the referral program, a trained staff person will determine the nature of your legal questions and suggest a lawyer who could answer them.

WHEN INJURED — Add Two

If you are referred to a lawyer by the service, you will be entitled to a half-hour initial consultation at no charge or for a nominal fee, typically $35 or less, that helps to fund the local Lawyer Referral Program.

More than 10 million callers are helped annually with legal information through public service Lawyer Referral programs. The ABA standing Committee on Lawyer Referral and Information Service approves public service Lawyer Referral programs that provide consumer help and information through referrals to public agencies and lawyers qualified in particular areas of law.

With more than 400,000 members, the American Bar Association is the largest voluntary professional membership organization in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, The ABA works to improve the administration of justice; promote programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredit law schools, provides continuing legal education; and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law in a democratic society.

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Inland Empire Hispanic News

Wednesday, December 28, 2005

UP FROM 2ND STREET

The Autobiography of California Senator Ruben S. Ayala

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POLICIES ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AT Odds

Contradictions breed anger and confusion as U.S., State and local governments enact varying laws.

The free market sets its own rules.

By Anna Gorman and Jennifer Delson

Illegal immigrants receive in-state tuition for California colleges but do not qualify for federal loans. They can buy cars and car insurance but, in most states, cannot get driver’s licenses. They regularly find jobs at publicly funded hiring halls but cannot lawfully work.

Immigration policies in the United States are contradictory and often confusing, alternately welcoming illegal immigrants to the country and telling them to go away. “Do you want me to go back to my country? Or stay? Or what?” said Cristina Cardelas, 24, who is working, paying taxes and attending school in a county where her presence is illegal.

“Public policy is not logical sometimes,” said Harry Pachon, executive director of USC’s Tomás Rivera Policy Institute, a Latino think tank. “It’s almost like Prohibition. The law says one thing, but the reality is something else.”

In recent months, the debate over illegal immigration has grown increasingly fierce in Washington and around the country as advocates and opponents have wrangled over day labor centers, driver’s licenses, citizen border patrols and most recently, voter identification. “We are deeply divided among ourselves,” said Frank Bean, co-director of UC Irvine’s Center for Research on Immigration, Population and Public Policy.

The main reason for the domestic tug-of-war is well known: the tension between the demand for cheap labor versus the public cost of providing health, educational and other services to migrants and their families. Largely because illegal immigration is clandestine, no one has definitively measured its costs and benefits. Still, with 8 million to 10 million undocumented immigrants in the country, the issue provokes strong-and often conflicting-opinions.

“Immigrants are the backbone of our economy, and employers continue to need their labor,” said Tanya Broder, staff attorney for the pro-immigrant National Immigration Law Forum. “But our immigration laws haven’t kept up with this.”

“You are not just getting the cheap labor,” countered Rick Ottman, Western field director for the Federation for American Immigration Reform. “You are getting that guy’s wife and child, who is in school. You create these little illegal immigrant communities.”

The high emotions and contradictory impulses have made for strange politics. The Bush administration, whipped by opposing forces within the Republican Party, has tried to walk a fine line between supporting a guest worker program and cracking down on illegal immigrants. Of late, it has given more emphasis to border security, angering businesses within its own party.

“What we have now is a dishonest immigration policy,” said Mark Krikorian, who runs the conservative Center for Immigration Studies in Washington, D.C. “We make it tough to get across the border but easy to get a job. This is really the central conflict of everything that happens.”

Inconsistencies in public policy open the door for illegal immigrants to enter the embrace of the private marketplace.

Illegal immigrants cannot get Social Security cards but can get U.S.-issued tax identification numbers, which they can increasingly use to get home loans. Undocumented immigrants also can get Mexican government-issued identification numbers, called matricula consular cards, which they can use to open bank accounts, obtain credit and purchase insurance in the U.S. Some companies are more than willing to accommodate them.

“We have the business economy identifying the undocumented in a way that the government refuses to do,” said Bob Paral, a research fellow at the pro-immigrant American Immigration Law Foundation. The companies, for their part, are unapologetic.

“Whether they are supposed to be here or not the reality is that they are here,” said Robert Alaniz, a spokesman for WellPoint, parent company of Blue Cross of California, which accepts the matricula consular as identification in insurance purchases.

“They are a viable part of our economy.”

One of the sorest points in the debate is illegal immigrants’ use of government services, especially healthcare. The businesses that hire illegal immigrants tend not to offer health insurance, and the immigrants do not qualify for most government programs, so many go to emergency rooms for treatment when the need arises. Hospitals, by federal law are required to provide emergency care, regardless of patients’ immigration status.

In Los Angeles County, officials estimated in 2003 that the annual bill at public hospitals for uninsured illegal immigrants reached $340 million.

The sum of these contradictions is a lot of anger and confusion.

“I am allowed to work and pay my taxes and everything, but I am not allowed to be here,” said Cardelas, an undocumented immigrant who has both a matricula and federal tax ID number. “It’s hypocritical.”

Cardelas, whose mother is a cook and whose father is a baker, got scholarships and worked two jobs — as a secretary and a waitress — to attend community college. Now she attends UCLA, where she is studying public policy and international relations. She pays in-state tuition. However, when she graduates, Cardelas said, she will be stuck back working low-wage jobs that do not demand a valid Social Security card.

“You’re allowing me to go to school and get an education.” Cardelas said, “but why?”

Adding to the contradictions is uneven enforcement of immigration laws. The tough stance mostly ends at the border, critics say. “Once you get in, the odds of getting picked up are pretty low,” said researcher Michael Fix of the Urban Institute, a Washington think tank.

In addition, employers for the most part, face little risk of sanction for hiring undocumented workers. Meanwhile, to assist such workers in their job search, a thriving not-so-underground economy in fraudulent documents has developed. Phony green cards and Social Security cards are hawked daily in public places.

Many illegal immigrants point out that the government could find them and grant them legal status, if only it had a clear paper trail. Ironically, undocumented immigrants — unless they have committed crimes besides illegal entry — often face deportation only if they call attention to themselves by applying for legal residency and being denied.

That’s what happened with Celestino Morales, 39, who came to the United States from Mexico in 1989 and has worked and paid taxes here ever since. In 2002, Morales sought legal residency. The immigration authorities determined that he did not qualify. Now Morales may be forced to leave his wife and daughters and return to Mexico. “It seems unjust what they are doing,” said Morales, who owns a home in East Los Angeles. “I don’t bother anyone.”

Some illegal immigrants say they are torn between doing the right thing and maintaining the basic deceptions that make their lives here possible.

Orange County resident Ana Maria Camacho, 35, got her jobbers a dental intake assistant by using a phony Social Security card, so she cannot tell her boss her real name. However, figuring it might help her prospects for gaining legal status, she pays taxes — using her real name and a legitimate taxpayer identification number. The problem is, Camacho cannot report her real earnings or their source because she works under another name. Therefore, she makes up that part, calling herself a caretaker for senior citizens. “It gets to the point that we don’t even know who we told which lie to.” Said Jorge Camacho, 37, Ana’s husband. “Or who to tell the truth to.” Ana Maria added.

Much of the nation’s wavering on illegal immigration stems from a lack of national direction, say academics and other experts. State and local governments end up making their own, often varying, policies — while the free market sets its own rules. For example, some cities have opened day labor centers to manage workers who gather on streets and sidewalks, whereas others have banned them from congregating.

Some states, such as Oregon, allow illegal immigrants to get driver’s licenses. Others such as California do not. But an unlicensed driver can buy car insurance.

Norberto Rivera, 33, an Orange County machinist, said he could not get his job without a car so he bought one, used. Though undocumented and unable to get a license, he registered it in his name with the state Department of Motor Vehicles and signed up for insurance on the car lot with a storefront broker for Lincoln General Insurance Co. “Sometimes it seems the rules don’t make a lot of sense, and sometimes we immigrants cannot follow them all,” Rivera said. “But we can try to follow some of them.”

Inland Empire Hispanic News

thanks R & P Printing - Ron, Ken, Joe and Jerry for their outstanding quality of work during the 2005. May each of you have a very happy and prosperous year.
Happy New Year!
Wishing you all the best!

My heart's desire is that the new year brings joy and success to all. I pledge to continue working hard for the benefit of San Bernardino County so that the 5th District is a safe place to live, work and play.

I also extend a special thanks to the community newspapers that work so hard throughout the year to bring the residents the information that matters most. These papers play important communication roles in our communities.

Thank You,
Josie Gonzales
San Bernardino County
5th District Supervisor
Josie Gonzales for Supervisor
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Yolanda Urena is a math major at Valley College and wants to apply her skills in the scientific field. She is a mother and a part-time student. "At first I was intimidated when I started college, but then I learned about all the possibilities at Valley and there's no stopping me now!"

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