Hispanic News

August 11th 1993

Hispanic News

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Gerald Torres named Assistant U.S. Attorney General

Gerald Torres, 1970 graduate of San Bernardino High School and son of recent San Bernardino City Unified School District retiree Mary Torres, has been nominated an assistant to U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. Confirmation of his nomination will be made in September. Torres will head the Division of Environmental and Natural Resources. He graduated from Stanford University in 1974, and Yale School of Law in 1978.

Torres has most recently been a professor and Dean of Law Students at the University of Minnesota. His appointment came at a crossroads in his career. He had just been accepted at the University of Texas in Austin when he received word of his nomination. He and his wife, Frances, are also new parents of a five month old son, Bennett.

Torres' mother, Mary started with the school district in 1965 as an aide with the Head Start program. "My seven children were out of the house, and I was lonely and wanted to be with kids," says the mother. Mary then went on to continue her education and became a teacher with Head Start. Her longest tenure in the district was at Bradley for a total of 11 years. She retired three years ago.

The Torres children are: Christine, a transcriptionist; Judith, bank vice-president; James, an accountant; Bruce, a law student; Carmen, a lab assistant and Elena, a nursing student.

Frank Torres, husband and father, passed away on July 14, 1993.

The Inland Empire Symphony Association and Sinfonia Mexicana Committee announced the presentation of the internationally known Mariachi Sol De Mexico de Jose L. Hernandez Concert with the Sol De Mexico Symphony Orchestra on September 26, 1993 at 7:00 p.m. at the California Theatre, 562 West Fourth Street, San Bernardino.

The mariachi concert will be the first fund-raising event to be held by the Association and Committee since the Sinfonia Mexicana Concerts were organized in 1985.

The Mariachi Sol De Mexico is a forerunner for promoting mariachi music throughout the United States. This innovative group has performed in many mariachi festivals, workshops and fund-raisers, especially in the Southwest which to date, attendance has numbered into the hundreds of thousands.

Maestro Jose Hernandez is the musical director of the prestigious Las Vegas International Mariachi Festival which is celebrated every September and attended by thousands and the Mariachi U.S.A. Festival, annually held in June at the Hollywood Bowl.

The Maestro has been recognized as the unmistakable leader in creating innovative arrangements and he has de-

Continued on Back Page

1993 was a banner year with a record 154 youth attending the Inland Empire Future Leaders program at the Desert Sun Science Center in the mountains at Idyllwild in July 1993. SEE STORY ON PAGE 4
EDITORIAL

Eaves’ Public Forum on Minority/ Women Business Enterprise Program’s Standard Operating Procedures is a step in the right direction.

Fifth District Supervisor Jerry Eaves recently presided at a public forum to receive input on the newly developed Minority/Women Business Enterprise Program’s Standard Operating Procedures. The Program was the result of an affirmative action contract compliance policy adopted by the County’s Board of Supervisors in 1977. In 1989, the Board further adopted a policy with contract compliance goals of 15% and 5% for minorities and women, respectively.

Eaves stated during his supervisorial campaign that if elected he would establish a priority to develop the MWBE Program. He is to be commended for accomplishing one of his campaign promises and actually prioritizing the development of the MWBEP process. The document, as presented for initial public review, is of prime importance to minority and women vendors in the county.

In order to insure that the Board goes beyond the spirit and intent of the Policies previously adopted in regard to contract compliance, careful consideration should be given to key recommendations submitted by persons at the forum, as follows:

• Contract compliance unit be administratively under the chief administration officer;
• An implementation component, with goals and objectives, be developed and incorporated into the SOP;
• A monitoring system for departments to insure compliance with policies and SOP;
• An external advisory committee be established for system review;
• Departmental and contract compliance unit submit status reports for public review.

Citizens submitted additional recommendations. However, the above recommendations were repeatedly emphasized and if implemented, would assure the vendors that a good faith effort was in progress.

The adoption of the Minority/Women Business Enterprise Program by the Board of Supervisors will be a major accomplishment for Eaves and a successful step for economic equality for MWBE vendors.

An Open Letter to the Board of Supervisors

July 30, 1993
Jerry Eaves
Jon Mikels
Barbara Riosdian
Marsha Tarocci
Larry Walker
San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Dear Supervisors:

Recently the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors formed a Blue Ribbon Committee to review the current fiscal situation confronting the county and bring forth recommendations to reduce the deficit.

On Tuesday, July 13, 1993, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors received the Blue Ribbon Committee’s recommendations and formed another Ad Hoc Committee to develop and propose procedures for the implementation of the Blue Ribbon Committee’s recommendations.

The Latin Coalition would like to take this opportunity to relate several concerns we have over the process and projected results of the above described process.

First, the fact that there has been no effort to include any Latino/Hispanic representation in any part of this very critical process is evident by the impending disproportionate impact that the reductions and reorganizations will have on the already un-represented Latino/Hispanic county department heads and employees.

Secondly, the proposed funding cuts do not in any way address the Affirmative Action impact that proposed reductions will have on the currently dismal record the county has providing outside contracts to Latino/Hispanic businesses. Unlike the non-Latino/Hispanic businesses who currently dominate these committees, Latinos/Hispanics have not been given equal access to the decision-making process relating to the proposed contract-out of certain county-performed services and functions.

Lastly, both state and federal anti-discrimination laws prohibit public and private entities from discriminating in providing any policy, practice or procedure that intentionally or unintentionally adversely affects the equal employment or business (goods and services) opportunities of any person because of race, national origin, color, religion or sex.

In communicating these concerns to you, we hope to avoid the necessity of delaying the county’s efforts to balance a very difficult budget with costly and time-consuming litigation. However, the Latino Coalition cannot and will not allow the Latino/Hispanic community to be left out of this very critical process. The consequences are too great and the negative long term impact too significant for a community that has already suffered more than its share of lost business and employment opportunities.

Sincerely,
(signed)
Mel Albisio
Latin Coalition

Vietnam Veterans Afflicted by Agent Orange eligible for compensation now

Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown recently announced that the V. A. will immediately compensate eligible veterans who were exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange during their tour of duty in Vietnam and are afflicted with Hodgkins Disease, Porphyria Cutanea Tarda, non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, soft tissue sarcoma or chloracne.

The VETCENTER located at 313 North Mountain Avenue in Upland is now assisting Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and wish to file a claim for compensation, medical treatment and counseling related to their tour of duty in the war zone. "This is a giant step for all Vietnam veterans," according to VET CENTER counselor Gary Kuiterman. "We are hoping Vietnam veterans will take advantage of this opportunity," he added.

The VET CENTER is open Monday through Friday. Veterans can call the VET CENTER to schedule an appointment by calling 982-0416. There is no charge for any VET CENTER service. VET CENTER services are available to all Vietnam Era veterans and their families. Services are also available to veterans who served in Lebanon, Grenada, Panama and Operation Desert Shield/Storm.
The boy who didn't know all the words

From Inland Valley Daily Bulletin
July 28, 1993
By John Jopes

When Ramon Valdez was just a boy, he lived in Chino and played in the dusty streets of the barrio.

The word "barrio" probably wasn't used much in those days, for it had yet to become a popular term.

His family was poor, but Ramon didn't realize it because in the Great Depression years of the '30s 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 who he was, he would be true to everyone.

The advice became the guideline 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 couple 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, English is the official language in our state. It ought to be.

But 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's not fair to the children, he said. It's 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 to me.

"It's something like when I was a Marine during 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.

State Senator Ruben Ayala.

By John Jopes

Wednesday, August 11, 1993

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The Inland Empire Future Leaders Program held its Ninth Annual Youth Leadership Conference at Desert Sun Science Center, Idyllwild in which 154 pre-high school age youth attended.

"This was a banner year for us with the highest number of young people that have attended our leadership program," stated Dr. Tom Rivera, Associate Dean for Educational Support Services, Cal-State, San Bernardino and program director. "In finalizing our 9th year, the Program has serviced over 1,200 students from the Inland Empire. Participants' statements indicate the effectiveness of the program and positive impact on their lives. And the students are looking forward to implement those learned concepts in their forthcoming school year."

The highly successful youth program is the result of an initial experience by Susan Vargas, Burbank Elementary School principal, while attending a state conference in Sacramento. Two students expressed positive experiences in a leadership conference that was held at the capital. Impressed by their enthusiasm, Vargas contacted Bill Ellison and Henry Vasquez, district educators, and the group quickly adopted the concept and designed a similar program. They sought the support of Rivera, who felt that such a youth program would be beneficial to the local students. The group received support from parents, students and community leaders and ultimately formed the Inland Empire Future Leaders Program.

Since 1985, the Program's Board has successfully conducted summer leadership conferences with a mix of youth attendees from every geographical area in the Inland Empire.

The week-long leadership conferences involve a series of workshops which include goalsetting, career planning, motivation, speech writing and presentation, mock trials, introduction to parliamentary procedure and cultural orientation.

The program's motto is Familia, Leadership and Pride. The students are grouped into 12 member families. Each family has a leader, peer counselor and graduate assistant. This year's program involved 82 support staff volunteers! The program's final day culminates in an evening of dinner for parents, volunteers and students at Cal State San Bernardino. On this occasion the students perform for the audience and speakers are selected who express their learning experiences at the camp.

An added component of the IEFLP is the formation of GANAS. This new group was established by alumni to foster and maintain the ideals of the Program. They are providing the leadership and service to community, aid in the planning and implementation of conferences and assist in fund-raising projects. The group has, in addition, established a network communication with former Program participants.

In order to monitor the Program's overall goal(s) effectiveness, the IEFLP has established a tracking system whereby surveys are conducted with high school graduates who were prior Program participants.

In 1990, 85 students responded to the survey of which 74 were college-bound, which represents an 87% higher education career goal! In 1991, 86 students responded to the survey of which 73 were college-bound which represents an 85% higher education career goal!

Rivera said, "We are very pleased with the program's success and in terms of high school graduates (98%) and college-going rates. Our future plans will involve grant development for anticipated Program growth for our forthcoming 10th anniversary. It is our hope that applicants will not be turned away for lack of funds. The success of our program and our alumni association will be an incentive for our Board and the Inland Empire as a whole, to create the necessary funding."

"It is through personal efforts and commitment that the Program will succeed and assure that it will affect the lives of many youths in the Inland Empire."

First Annual Latino Business Conference & Expo
The Inland Empire Hispanic Chambers of Commerce Association announced that Rudy Fernandez, Governor Wilson's Director of the Office of California and Mexico Affairs, has been confirmed as the main luncheon speaker for the First Annual Inland Empire Latino Business Conference and Expo to be held on August 27, 1993 at the Ontario Hilton, 700 N. Haven Avenue, Ontario. The event will commence at 7:30 a.m.

Speakers scheduled for the Conference are: Carmen Munoz, Southern California Edison and Professor H. Randall Rubin, University of La Verne - business law; Gilbert Apodaca - business management; Herman Barrero, La Alcancia De Ahorrers, Tito Zamalloa, AT&T, Noredia Rodriguez, Southern California Edison, Jay Leo - marketing and advertising; Reina Ornelas, US Census, Joe Padilla, Jodan Publishing & Seminar - how to start a business; Ivan Gamarra, vice-president and manager, Bank of America, Kathy Chuck, regional business development officer, Bank of America - financing; Ricardo Fonseca, Advanced Business Systems, Juan Guzman - accounting made easy; and Frances Vasquez, affirmative action officer, County of San Bernardino - contract compliance.

Lic. Eduardo Duran, Mexican Trade Commissioner stationed in Los Angeles, and Tony Ramirez, Director of National Maquiladoras Association, will speak on the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Corporations and small businesses will be exhibiting its services and products, as well as the media industry consisting of local television, radio and newspapers.

Reservations are required. Persons interested in attending or wish further information may call at the following telephone numbers: Pomona (909) 624-9621, Ontario (909) 984-6877, Fontana (909) 874-1131, San Bernardino (909) 888-2188, Riverside (909) 682-7288 and Perris (909) 940-4440.

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JULY ENCAMPMENT AT DESERT SUN SCIENCE CENTER, IDYLLWILD
1993 Inland Empire Future Leaders Program Sets Record in Banner Year

Inland Empire Hispanic News
Wednesday, August 11, 1993

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Chino Valley Bank Promotes Latina

ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA, July 27, 1993 - D. Linn Wiley, President and Chief Executive Officer of Chino Valley Bank, has announced the appointment of Elsa I. Zavala to the position of Vice President and Director of the Bank's Data Processing Center. Zavala will be responsible for the overall operation and management of the Bank's in-house computer system.

Zavala joined Chino Valley Bank with over 13 years of experience in the banking industry with extensive knowledge of computer systems management. Her last assignment was with General Bank where she was Assistant Vice President and Central Services Manager. Zavala received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration from Commerce Institute, Monterrey, Mexico.

Zavala has remained active in community affairs throughout her career and is currently a counselor for the juveniles at Boys Republic in Chino. She also is a volunteer at the Department of Children's Services and aids her local community in preventing graffiti.

S.B. Police Seek

The San Bernardino Police Department announced the opening of 9 positions for law enforcement trainees. After completion of a POST- approved academy, trainees may be appointed to entry-level police officer. Salaries for the positions start at $2,419 per month.

Persons wishing further information may call Debi Shuker at (909) 384-5696 or inquire at the San Bernardino

Chancellors Club Dinner Dance Set

The Chancellors Club announced their First Annual Benefit Dance at the Knights of Columbus, 2392 N. Western Avenue, San Bernardino on August 14, 1993, with Happy Hour at 8:00 PM. Music will be provided by the Brown Image, starting at 9:00 PM.

The Chancellors Club, formerly a car club, have recently reorganized as a community group. The Club's main goals are to generate a scholarship fund foundation for Hispanic students and develop community projects.

Donations toward their goals are $12.50 per person. For advance tickets or further information call Art Blanco at (909) 881-3226.

Baca Bill Extends Search For Southern California Veterans' Homes to Jan. 1995

Assemblyman Joe Baca (D-San Bernardino) had his fourth consecutive bill signed into law, which becomes effective immediately. AB 466 extends the life of the Governor's 12-member Commission on a Southern California Veterans Home to January 1, 1995 for the establishment of one or more state veterans homes in Southern California.

The commission was established October 14, 1991, however, expired July 1, 1993.

"To date, the commission has performed exemplary work in pursuit of additional homes, however, only one home in Barstow for 400 beds has in fact been established and is not expected to open until 1995," Baca said.

"There is currently only one veteran's home in California, which is located in Yountville and accommodates 1,400 veterans."

Geo. Brown announces $9.5 million community development block grant for S. B. County

Congressman George E. Brown, Jr. (D-San Bernardino) announced that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is awarding a grant in the amount of $9,597,000 to the County of San Bernardino. These community development funds can be used for capital improvements, public services, housing preservation, fair housing, or economic development.

"This funding could not come at a better time," Brown noted. "Given our current economic troubles in San Bernardino county, every bit of additional federal help for budget support and new economic development is invaluable."

The grant awarded to the County of San Bernardino will be designated for projects that had previously been approved by the Board of Supervisors. The various projects consisted of a mobile home resident outreach program in the Inland Valley; child advocacy group; Boys and Girls Club; West End Aid Center; and an assortment of projects totaling the grant amount.

The $9.5 million grant is 22% higher than last year's community block grant program.

Community development block grant funds distributed by HUD to agencies are to improve housing, living standards and the economy in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods.

Brown is Chairman of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee and a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee.

Classes Open August 17 for SBVC Fall Semester

SAN BERNARDINO - Fall registration at San Bernardino Valley College continues until August 12 for new and returning students. Already, more than 3,500 continuing students had registered by mail by the end of July.

The new semester's day and evening classes begin Tuesday, August 17 in 72 different subjects.

First-time SBVC students may be required to take assessment tests in English and math. Test appointments should be made before applying for college admission. The testing (matriculation) office is Room A-201 in the Administration Building, (909) 888-6511, Ext. 1172.

Applications for admission are available in Room A-106. Admission Office hours are 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Thursday.

On-campus registration is in the Campus Center, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, August 2-12. Counselors are available.

All California Community Colleges enrollment fees have been increased to $13 a unit (college credit) for state residents. Baccalaureate-degree students will continue to pay $50 a unit.

Class Schedules, which include a listing of all day and evening classes, a map and information about financial aid and other facts vital to new students, are available in the Campus Book Store on the lower level of the Campus Center for a dollar.

San Bernardino Valley College is at 701 S. Mt. Vernon Avenue. Call (909) 888-6511 for other information.

Be A Designated Driver!
Many people have added rooms, enclosed patios, converted garages, put in a loft or other improvements without a building permit. This event can cause severe financial difficulties to a buyer.

Local governments require building permits for practically every conceivable improvement to the structure of a house. They receive a lot of money from this taxing device. In return for the money, the government provides inspectors who are supposed to make sure the improvements are in compliance with building codes.

An improvement built without permits has not been inspected by a code enforcement person. It might be dangerous or structurally unsound. There might be shoddy materials behind the walls.

A permit fee is owed on the improvement by the owner of the property, including the buyer.

The government can order the improvement to be demolished. If the buyer doesn't do it, the government will do it and charge the owner twice the cost.

Buyers, protect yourself. If you or your contracting inspector notices the presence of a room addition, enclosed patio, etc., go to the Building and Safety Department to look at the building permits. Do not rely on the seller's statements.

If you discover an addition built without permits after the sale, consult an attorney. You may be able to recover your loss.

SUN BERNARDINO CITY SCHOOLS
Outstanding Student

VANESSA CORREA - Vanessa is in Steve Brown's 6th grade class at Vermont Elementary School. She is highly respected by her fellow classmates and was elected vice president of the Vermont Student Council; and was also the school representative to the California Student Council Leadership Conference. Her parent is Sylvia Casillas.

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Mariachi Sol De Mexico

de Jose L. Hernandez

In concert at California Theater, San Bernardino, on September 26

Inland Empire Hispanic News

Story Continued From Page 1

Developed the style to its fullest potential without losing its historical musical tradition. Under his leadership, the Mariachi Sol De Mexico is currently the only group in the United States involved in performing in the classical music circuit. The orchestra has performed with symphonies in El Paso, New Mexico and the world-renowned L.A. Philharmonic Orchestra.

Maestro Hernandez is the organizer of the Mariachi Heritage Society, an organization whose ultimate goal is to preserve the Mexican traditions and legacies of mariachi music. Additional goals are to conduct quality instructional workshops and to teach traditional mariachi music to students of all ages.

"This is truly one of the most outstanding quality performance of mariachi music throughout Southern California," stated Tony Bocanegra, Sinfonia Mexicana event coordinator. "This concert will completely satisfy mariachi aficionados. Our committee is diligently working to bring the best of our cultural music to residents of the Inland Empire."

Tickets may be reserved by calling the Inland Empire Symphony Association office at (909) 381-5388.

The Inland Empire Hispanic News will profile the history of the Sinfonia Mexicana in its August 25th publication.

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