Lew's Legacy

The MLK High School Naming Controversy 15 Years Later
BPC Mediaworks
Strategic Communications

Media Relations
Community Engagement & Outreach
Strategic Events
Ethnic Media Outreach

"Spirit of the Entrepreneur Family Business Finalist 2010"

bpcmediaworks.com

Once Upon a Time...
...telling your story
951.682.2664

Saturday, July 20, 2013 | 7:00 pm
Sunday, July 21, 2013 | 3:30 pm

Industry Hills Expo Center
16200 Temple Avenue • City of Industry, CA 91744

INFO & GROUP SALES:
310.674.6700 || HOTLINE: 310.599.5555
Child $17 adv/$20-gate • Adult $20 adv/$24-gate • Arena $30 adv/$35-gate
INFO & TICKETS ONLINE: www.billpickettrodeo.com • 866-LVRODEO

A CULTURAL AFFAIR BOUTIQUE • ZAMBEZI BAZZAR
INGLEWOOD TICKETS • VENNI MAC’S M&M SOUL
BLACK VOICE NEWS • ZAHRA’S BOOKS N THINGS
MS. B’S M&M SOUL FOOD

Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo
The Greatest Show on Dirt!
At the end of this summer citizens from the across the country are expected to converge on our nation’s capital to commemorate the golden anniversary of the historic March on Washington, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered one of the most powerful speeches in modern history, “I Have A Dream.” His words inspired not only the thousands who joined him that day, but the millions around the world who continue to fight against racial injustice while working to ensure that all people are judged not by the “color of their skin but the content of their character.” That was 50 years ago.

If current news is any indication, race – and racial injustice – is still very much a part of our national conversation as we continue to debate: the merits of race-based college admissions (the Supreme Court upholding race-based admissions when no “workable” alternatives are available); voting rights and intimidation by race (the Supreme Court’s decision to weaken the Voting Rights Act); racial intimidation in the workplace (the recent admission of racially insensitive comments by popular television personality Paula Deen); and fear and violence based on racial stereotyping (the George Zimmerman trial for the killing of Trayvon Martin).

Which leads me to our conversation this week with former Riverside Unified School Board of Education President Lew Vanderzyl during this graduation season.

The year was 1998 and at that time 110 public schools across the country had been named for Dr. King. Most were located in inner cities, what we consider more urban neighborhoods. The Riverside School Board of Trustees, under Lew’s leadership voted unanimously to name the city’s then newest high school after Dr. King. That action sparked a protest from parents that placed Riverside in the middle of a national debate. The school board members emphasized the universal cross racial importance of Dr. King’s legacy and cited intolerance and racism as the reason why a small but extremely vocal group did not accept the proposed name. The focus of national news coverage, Lew was quoted in the Chicago Sun Times as saying, “the things he (Dr. King) worked for all Americans can stand to consider.”

Instead of bridging social and racial difference, something Dr. King fought and eventually died to eradicate, the naming decision exposed extreme racial divisions within the community. As Lew said, Dr. King’s ideals are important to America and appropriate for all students. He set an example for all students and non-students alike that should serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

Unfortunately, it seems that our nation’s funds are still unavailable when it comes to cashing the check Dr. King metaphorically presented for payment on that hot day at the capital mall 50 years ago. A check that includes the riches of freedom, security of a just system, and the opportunities afforded through equal and quality education.
This past Monday, our United States Supreme Court made a decision on Affirmative Action by returning the case of Abigail Fisher v. University of Texas back to the state of Texas. This case is regarding Fisher’s claim of having been discriminated against because she is White. The Texas university system has an admissions policy that takes the top 10% of the public schools student body to correct past racial discrimination against Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians.

The court ruled 7-1 with Justice Clarence Thomas saying that race should not be considered at all even though he was appointed and selected to serve because of his race by members of the Republican Party. They knew and understood that racial discrimination has been a part of American history since our founding and his appointment was just a small step toward correcting this injustice of legalized racial discrimination. As part of that same history, Blacks, Latinos, Asians and Indians were legally denied admission to colleges and universities everywhere in the country and especially in the state of Texas. Texas is the state that birthed Juneteenth because when all slaves were emancipated by President Lincoln, Texas kept slavery alive and well for another two and half years.

This is one state that knows how to discriminate when it comes to race. Some examples of the legally entrenched practices of racial discrimination: In 1970 the courts found that in the history of Alabama State Troopers, no Blacks had ever been hired. In 1987, Sheet Metal International Association, Local 28 was found guilty of adopting discriminatory recruitment and admission criteria that restricted its membership to deny Blacks, Latinos and Asians access. They were also found guilty of only selecting workers from its sister local to avoid from even having to consider outside applicants.

In California we have witnessed firsthand what happens when race is removed from college and university admission policies. In 1995 the Board of Regents had to rescind its policy of SP1 and SP2 and not take race, sex, religion, color into consideration when admitting or hiring students and employees. They had every good intention of doing what Justice Clarence Thomas based his opinion on -- the “Good Faith Notion” that people are color blind. It sounds good and right in a Christian nation but in my forty years of working in America and implementing affirmative action programs and fighting racial, sexual, religious discrimination, I learned it is not going to happen without laws on the books to make decision makers include race as part of the equation.

Some Justices have asked the question: “How long should we have Affirmative Action?”

In my opinion, how about starting with the evidence of what hundreds of years of White preferential treatment has given us in admission to schools of higher learning, awarding public construction contracts, and employment at all levels. I would say several hundreds of years might correct the problem and you would still need to have laws on the books. Just look at what some are trying to do with our voting laws.

Some of our US presidents have tried to protect the rights of all citizens and in some cases introduced remedies to correct the wrongs that have been inflicted on the victims of racial and gender discrimination. Lincoln, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Carter, Bush, Clinton and now Obama have issued executive orders to strike down the walls of some form of discrimination because they know it will not just go away.

So this court knows that race must be a part of the criteria and that is why they returned this case back to Texas for evaluation.
Court Cripples Voting Rights Act

Washington, DC
VOICE Staff

T
he Supreme Court effectively gutted a key provision of the Voting Rights Act, throwing out the map that determines which states or localities must get federal permission before they change their voting laws. Although the Voting Rights Acts was not struck down, but for the time being, it is weaker.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) can no longer block changes to voting laws and practices that might have a racially discriminatory effect until Congress establishes rules determining which jurisdictions must submit changes for review.

President Barack Obama said he was “deeply disappointed” by the decision in a statement on Tuesday. “While today’s decision is a setback, it doesn’t represent the end of our efforts to end voting discrimination,” Obama said. “I am calling on Congress to pass legislation to ensure every American has equal access to the polls.”

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder echoed the president’s sentiment: “the U.S. Supreme Court announced its decision in the case of Shelby County v. Holder – and invalidated an essential part of the Voting Rights Act, a cornerstone of American civil rights law. Like many others across the country, I am deeply disappointed with the Court’s decision in this matter. This decision represents a serious setback for voting rights — and has the potential to negatively affect millions of Americans across the country.”

Some lawmakers argued that these laws are intentionally trying to diminish minority turnout in order to benefit the Republican Party. According to published reports, Texas has begun to implement its voter ID law given the court’s decision.

Congressman Mark Takano also shared the feeling of disappointment with the court’s decision. “Today’s decision by the Supreme Court to strike down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act is incredibly disappointing. For over 45 years, the Voting Rights Act has provided voting protections to millions of Americans who are susceptible to disenfranchisement by prohibiting districts and states from changing their election laws and procedures without getting approval from the federal government.”

Rev. Al Sharpton stated, “this is a devastating blow to Americans, particularly African-Americans, who are now at the mercy of state governments. Give last year’s attempts by states to change voting rules, it is absurd to say that we do not need these protections. National Action Network and I will mobilize nationwide to put the pressure on Congress to come with stricter voter protection laws.”

Civil and human rights groups warned that the decision would negatively affect minority voters. “This is a deeply shameful decision said Michelle Romero, Director of the Greenlining Institute Claiming Our Democracy. “Within many of our lifetimes, brave men and women literally died for the right to vote, in the face of terror and intimidation from the Ku Klux Klan and others. Astonishingly, the court effectively sided with the KKK, making it far easier to deny the vote to people of color, the poor, and anyone else who officials don’t want voting.

“Make no mistake: Though the court technically didn’t throw out the pre-approval provision, its decision has the same effect unless Congress acts. This is a deeply shameful decision, every bit as shameful as the Dred Scott case or Plessy v. Ferguson.

“People of color live with the reality of discrimination and unequal treatment every day. From racial profiling to concerted attacks on the right to vote last year in state after state, we know that attacks on the rights of people of color haven’t gone away. Attacks on the right to vote may be more indirect and subtle than they used to be, but the provisions of the Voting Rights Act that the Court gutted today remain absolutely vital.

“Within the limits the Court has laid out today, Congress must move energetically to protect the right to vote for all citizens.”

Services To Be Held For Albert Casey

San Bernardino

By Lynn Summers

Funeral services will be held July 5th at Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church in San Bernardino for longtime Inland Empire union icon Albert Casey who died June 13th at the age of 84. Mr. Casey is best known for his work with the labor organization A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI) where he served as Inland Empire chapter president for 47 years.

In 1965, APRI was founded by A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin with a mission to unify working Americans of all nationalities, races and religions in the fight for social, political and economic justice. Casey studied under A. Philip Randolph and Rustin.

Mr. Casey first arrived in California from Detroit over four decades ago as a trouble-shooter for the union as part of a special AFL-CIO project. Later as APRI chapter president he focused on diversity in the awarding of construction contracts and was known for organizing voter registration drives in communities of color.

He was married to wife Louise for 38 years.

The family is still in need of contributions for his burial. Please call: (909) 885-2931. Or send contributions to: P.O. Box 7009, San Bernardino, California 92411.
HELP - American Cancer Society, Cancer Prevention Study, Enrollment Closing Soon

Rancho Cucamonga
By John Coleman

Several years ago, a Hispanic friend said he believed that the considerably lower risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer in Asian & Hispanic people compared to African American and non-Hispanic White people was due to what they ate and how they lived. His observation still holds merit but left key questions during a recent American Cancer Society (ACS) leadership meeting.

The American Cancer Society has designed such a study, “Cancer Prevention Study, III”. The study has been designed to help ACS better understand how to prevent cancer and save lives.

Initially designed to enroll about 500,000 people representative of the natives who migrated to these shores; men and women between the ages of 30 and 65; who have not been diagnosed with cancer at the time of enrollment; likely to provide information of a range of lifestyles over a span of (20-40) years.

Time for enrollment is running out. ACS’s target enrollees are 300,000. They want enrollees from all populations but encourage increased enrollment of people of color.

Participation in CPS III is FREE. The enrollment process takes approximately 30 minutes, involving signing an informed consent form, completing a brief questionnaire, providing a small blood sample and a waist circumference measurement. Involved personnel are registered healthcare professionals.

All additional participation in CPS III will include completion of periodic follow-up survey questionnaires to update information.

For more CPS III information, please contact Rachael Tolman at rachael.tolman@cancer.org, or 951-300-1223 or visit ACS online at www.cancer.org/cps3.

Fundraising Extravaganza

Riverside

On Saturday, June 29, 2013, the corner of Martin Luther King Blvd. and Kansas Avenue will bustle with several events as the Riverside Branch of the NAACP and ACT-SO will host a fundraising extravaganza at the Stratton Center/Bordwell Park. The fundraisers will feature an iPad, donation drive, and fish fry.

The first fundraiser, “Help Fill A Bin” seeks donations of gently used clothes, shoes, small appliances, books, household items, etc. with the exception of furniture and hazardous materials. Each bin filled raises funds for ten local high school students to compete at the National ACT-SO competition in Orlando, Florida. Donations are to be dropped off from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 1910 MLK Blvd., Riverside next to Bordwell Park. For early pick up contact Regan at (951) 323.8306 or Lillian at (951) 368.4819.

The annual fish fry for a donation of $10.00 will be held from 12 Noon to 4:00 p.m. at the Stratton Center, 2008 MLK Blvd. Dinners include a choice of fish, fries, coleslaw, bread and soda. Lastly, a drawing for a chance to win an iPad 3 will be held after the fish fry. Tickets are $5.00 each or five for $20.00. Entrants do not need to be present to win. For more information on these fundraising events, contact Lillian Harper at (951) 368.4819.

University of Redlands Gets High Marks in National Review of Teacher Training

The University of Redlands School of Education is included as one of only four California programs rated as doing well in training high school teachers according to the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ). The organization has released its first edition of the NCTQ Teacher Prep Review, an evaluation of more than 1,100 colleges and universities that prepare elementary and secondary teachers.

“The high marks for Redlands in the NCTQ report are a testament to the leading-edge work of our faculty and staff and the quality of the education our students are receiving. Graduates from our teaching training programs are often in high demand for jobs in the region’s school districts,” said James Valadez, dean of the School of Education at the University of Redlands.

The report examines why the United States, once the world leader in educational attainment, has now slipped well into the middle of the pack. The product of eight years of development and 10 pilot studies, the standards applied in the report are derived from research, the practices of high-performing nations and states, consensus views of experts, the demands of the Common Core State Standards and other standards for college and career readiness.

Along with University of Redlands, other California universities that are doing well in training high school teachers are UC Berkeley, UC Irvine and UC San Diego. These institutions generally received better marks for teaching basic reading and for their student-teaching opportunities. Redlands received 3.5 stars out of four in the NCTQ report.
Community Hospital of San Bernardino and St. Bernardine Medical Center Announce Availability of Community Grants Funding
Now Accepting Letters of Intent through July 1

San Bernardino

Community Hospital of San Bernardino and St. Bernardine Medical Center, members of Dignity Health, encourage nonprofit community benefit organizations to submit letters of intent (LOI) for the annual Dignity Health Community Grants program – which earlier this year awarded over $257,000 to 17 Inland Empire organizations.

The Community Grants program is dedicated to improving the health status and quality of life of the communities served by each of the 40 Dignity Health Hospitals in California, Arizona and Nevada. Since its inception in 1990, Dignity Health has awarded 2,577 grants totaling over $46.6 million.

Locally, grants between $10,000 and $25,000 will be awarded to qualified nonprofit organizations for use in providing health services to underserved populations, specifically for programs that improve access to quality care, provide chronic disease management services or offer youth development. Letters of intent must be submitted no later than July 1, 2013.

“Encouraging programs that focus on unmet health-related needs in our local communities is one of our strategic priorities,” explains Linda McDonald, Dignity Health Inland Empire vice president of Mission Services. “By emphasizing prevention, addressing underlying causes of health problems and working together, we can improve the continuum of care while helping build a stronger, healthier community.”

Grant applicants may download the 2013 LOI form at http://www.dignityhealth.org/Who_We_Are/Community_Health/STGSS045787 and may submit one LOI to either Community Hospital or St. Bernardine. A joint community benefit initiative committee will review all LOIs submitted to both hospitals.

Grant applications must address one or more of the following health priorities:

- Access to care with focus on health care resources, dental care resources or mental health resources;
- Chronic disease self management with focus on diabetes, congestive heart failure, asthma or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD);
- Youth development with focus on healthy lifestyle alternatives, teen pregnancy, education promotion or career development.

The Community Grants Program is funded by contributions from Dignity Health member hospitals and supports Community Hospital of San Bernardino and St. Bernardine Medical Center in their missions to provide compassionate, high-quality and affordable health services.

For more information about the local grant application process, contact Kathleen McDonnell, Inland Empire manager, Community Benefit, at (909) 475-5083.
U.S. Supreme Court Reaffirms Importance of Diversity in College Admissions But “Adds a New Wrinkle” for Universities

The Supreme Court earlier this week endorsed the benefits of student-body diversity in colleges and universities and allowed the continued use of race-conscious admissions policies. The Court upheld the equal protection framework as laid out in Grutter, and did not strike down affirmative action. And it recognized that a diverse campus brings important benefits, “including enhanced classroom dialogue and the lessening of racial isolation and stereotypes.”

This is a win for the principles of opportunity, diversity, and equality. Abigail Fisher’s legal team failed to prove that she was discriminated against.

However, the Court added a wrinkle by sharpening the standard that universities must meet, requiring colleges to show there were no “available, workable race-neutral” alternatives available to them. The Court sent the case back to the lower court to determine whether the University of Texas admissions policy meets this standard. In dissent, Justice Ginsburg stated that she would not have asked the court of appeals to take a “second look” because she believes that the University has already produced sufficient evidence that its policy is permissible.

We are confident that the University of Texas will be able to meet this standard, as will other universities that have been responsibly using affirmative action. However, it will be critically important that the voices of students – those most affected by the policy – be fully heard at any re-hearing, and we will do everything possible to help make that happen.

The University of Texas admissions policy challenged by Fisher involved only a very modest consideration of race, in addition to race-neutral initiatives. Most of the University of Texas’s students are admitted through its Top Ten Percent Plan, which guarantees acceptance to Texas residents in the top ranks of their high school class. For the remainder of its applicants, the University undertakes an individualized “whole-file” review to assemble a class that is both exceptionally academically qualified and broadly diverse.

This process allows the school to consider a student’s race along with multiple other criteria, such as essays, leadership qualities, extracurricular activities, awards, work experience, community service, family responsibilities, socio-economic status, and languages spoken in the home. The full-file review process does not award any fixed points to racial minorities; nor does it involve illegal quotas or set aside designated admissions slots for minority students. The University of Texas’s admissions process is sufficiently flexible to take into consideration the racial background of any applicant, including white students, based on their unique backgrounds and experiences.

As the Court of Appeals noted when it first upheld the University of Texas’s admissions policy, the University’s policy considers race even more modestly than the University of Michigan Law School policy that the Supreme Court previously upheld in Grutter. We are eager for the lower court to hear student voices, and we will be there to vigorously represent those students, when it hears the case again.

It is important to emphasize that a clear majority of the Justices did not challenge the Court’s precedents, including its seminal 2003 decision in Grutter, that colleges and universities have a compelling interest in creating diverse campuses. Getting into a high quality college impacts a person’s life well beyond their time in that school. Higher education plays a vital role in opening pathways to opportunity in today’s society.

A broad coalition supported the critical importance of diversity in higher education in Fisher, including major corporations, former military leaders, over 100 colleges and universities, religious organizations, diverse student organizations, labor unions, as well as civil rights advocates, including Latino groups, Asian-American organizations, and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, which filed a brief on behalf of the UT Black Student Alliance and African-American alumni of UT.

Our country must deliver on its promise to make the pathways of opportunity open to everyone. The promise of equal opportunity will ring hollow unless colleges and universities can ensure meaningful access to students of all races. We will not rest until a quality college education is within reach of every American child.

Stark racial disparities in education continue to limit opportunity from elementary school through college. We must redouble efforts to develop creative policies that open and maintain access to higher education for all of our nation’s students. We must do everything possible within the Court’s guidelines to make diverse colleges the norm across the United States.
Completion Counts making a difference for Riverside students

Completion Counts is Riverside’s partnership to raise college graduation rates… but just what does that mean? If we look at Completion Counts at its very most basic message it is this: educational completion really does count.

Going to school is important, but school is more than just a social center. School is about teaching and learning. And, like any effort that is deemed a success, having the personal determination and direction to achieve the goal and graduate with valuable skills, does matter in our world.

Riverside takes education very seriously. It is also a very personal issue for me. Before I became Mayor, I taught government and career preparation classes at Poly High School. At home, I read with my own kids and help them with their homework.

Completion Counts started in 2010. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the National League of Cities identified cities who could benefit from a three-year, $3 million dollar grant, but who would also commit their own resources to sustain what the grant would help create. The four cities chosen for the Communities Learning in Partnership (CLIP) grants were New York, San Francisco, Mesa (AZ) and Riverside.

The grant aimed to raise both high school and college graduation rates, and to smooth the path from high school to college – especially for students who would be the first generation in their families to attend college– to create a more skilled, educated and competitive workforce for the 21st century economy.

The City of Riverside, the Alvord Unified School District, the Riverside Unified School District, Riverside City College, the Riverside County Office of Education, the University of California Riverside and the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce are the partners in the Riverside CLIP grant. Together, we took a hard look at how our schools and students were performing. We identified paths for improvement or innovation, and we set goals to measure the effectiveness of what we are all do together, over time.

Tools we put in place include our www.college311.org website – a free resource that connects parents and students (including veterans and adult learners returning to college after time away) with FAFSA (Federal Financial Aid), college and university applications and the Career Cruising assessment program, among other features. We also opened the Completion Counts Welcome Center at RCC, open to any local student seeking guidance and answers about their options.

Outside dollars allowed us to get teachers and counselors from both our public school districts talking with their counterparts at RCC. This resulted in an unprecedented alignment of important English and math classes that ensure our high school students are prepared for college entry.

In May 2012, we proudly announced the RCC 2-Year Completion Contract for Riverside resident students from AUSD and RUSD. At a time when the state budget crisis is reducing class offerings, RCC is guaranteeing entrance and priority registration for serious, college-ready students. College starts with core math and English courses in a full-time schedule. Students earn the credits necessary to receive their associate degree, career certificate or transfer credits to university, in two years time. All of us involved in education cannot emphasize enough what a big deal this is for Riverside students!

At a time when California youth have trouble just getting into college, and spend up to five years getting into classes they need, Riverside students have an extraordinary opportunity here. Both school districts and RCC promise that this pathway is “the new way we do business in Riverside.” It’s not too early – or too late – to get serious about education and have serious talks with teachers and counselors about your future.

At this time, African-American students and their families have not pursued this opportunity as fully as others in our city have. We want to change that. All the partners have worked unbelievably hard to identify and overcome barriers to student success. That doesn’t mean classes have been made easier; that’s not what the 21st century economy is demanding of us. From curriculum to counseling to career training, being adaptable and working as partners, we are working smarter, together.

You’ll be hearing more about Completion Counts in the months ahead. I wanted you to have a bit of an introduction to what it means – for students, for families and for our city. It’s important. Because this is true: completion counts!
Keith Sweat in Concert  
June 27, 2013  
Time: 7:30 pm. Location: San Manuel Bingo and Casino, 777 San Manuel Boulevard, Highland, CA. Tel: (800) 359-2464.

Tales of Freedom and Diverse Culture through Food Premieres June 28, 2013  
10 pm ET on PBS  
Renowned chef and culinary author Lidia Bastianich sets out on a lively cross-country adventure to celebrate our vibrant culture through food.

SOCAL ICON Vocal Competition  
June 29, 2013  
Time: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. The SOCAL ICON contest is open to aspiring singers between the ages of 7 and 18. The contest is divided into three age divisions (7-10, 11-14 and 15-18) and takes place over three months with qualifying, semifinals and final concert rounds. Auditions will be held on June 29th at the Galleria at Tyler – Riverside. The semifinals will take place on July 27th and the final concert event will take place on Saturday, August 31st at The Margaret A. Webb Theater in Santa Ana. Three celebrity/industry judges and the audience members will all cast votes to choose three winners (one from each age group). The winners will get identical prize packages which include a professional photography package from 3 Penguins Photography of Riverside, recording studio session from Red Room Studios of Orange County and gift certificates from Sam Ash Music Stores. Contact: Bruce Sampson, www.socalicon.com, bruce@wbzb.net, 951-371-5239.

Free Healthy Food Tasting Party  
On Saturday, June 29th at 12pm The Necessary Nutrition Academy will host a free Healthy Food Tasting Party, downtown Riverside at 3985 University, Ave. Although this is a free event, space is limited and reservations are required. Additional information can be obtained by calling 951-259-5198 or visiting www.Necessary-Nutrition.com

The Necessary Nutrition Academy Healthy Food Tasting Party is designed to showcase great healthy foods and snacks while showing attendees how to use food and nutrition to fight obesity, illness and diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, cholesterol and more. A certified nutrition specialist will be on hand to discuss which “healthy foods” sabotage success, how to eat more and lose weight, how to combine meals properly for optimum nutritional value and the best foods to reduce illness and disease.

This event mixes great food, education and fun.

The Necessary Nutrition Academy is the educational component of Necessary Nutrition, Inc. Necessary Nutrition has collaborated with skilled professionals in the fields of health and wellness in order to offer comprehensive programming; including classes, workshops and nutritional counseling. For a complete list of upcoming classes and events visit www.Necessary-Nutrition.com.

The Ultimate Thriller “The” Michael Jackson Tribute  
June 28, 2013  
Time: 8:00 pm. Location: Riverside’s Performing Arts Center, 3485 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA. Tel: (951) 779-9800.

18TH Annual Pechanga POW WOW  
June 28-30, 2013  
Location: Pechanga, 45000 Pechanga Parkway, Temecula, CA. Cost: Free. Tel: (951) 770-4769.

Juneteenth Business Mixer and Black Awareness Extravaganza  
June 29, 2013  
Come out and enjoy live music, guest speakers, children activities, information booths and refreshments. Time: 12 noon – 4:00 pm. Come out and enjoy live music, guest speakers, children activities, information booths and refreshments. Location: Perris Hill Park, 607 E. Highland Avenue, San Bernardino, CA. For more info, please contact Dr. Winn at wwaminc92@yahoo.com or call (909) 889-9509 or (909) 833-9723.

Breaking the 4Walls “LIVE CONCERT”  
June 30, 2013  
There will be a lot of praise dancing, singers, mime dancers, spoken word, Christian rap, skit, vendors, food and so much more. 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Location: Men & Women on the Move Ministry, 380 W. 3rd Street, Perris, CA. If you would like to be a part of the show, please email Essenceofgraceministry@gmail.com.

For More Information please contact:  
Dr. Winn  
Email: wwaminc92@yahoo.com  
Phone: (909) 889-9509 or (909) 833-9723

Miss Cover Girl 2013/2014.  
June 30, 2013  
Quinceaneras Magazine is conducting “Miss Cover Girl” beauty pageant; the contest will host thirty girls competing to be on the cover of the next issues of Quinceaneras Magazine. Time: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Location: Riverside Municipal Auditorium, 3485 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA. Tel: (951) 346-4700.

Project Adelanto 4th of July Benefit Concert  
July 4, 2013  
Performing Michael Hart, Spirit Filled Choir, Soldiers of Yahweh, Prince Charles, Crimson Crux, Robert Grant, Love Connection, IHIZ,
Igorilla, The Saint, BboyNesto, Caught up, & XMAN Ministries bringing a Free concert. Gospel music of all types. Location: San Bernardino County Fairgrounds, 14800 7th St., San Bernardino, CA. For more information, call (760) 278-1263. Time: 4 – 7 pm.

The Saturday Morning Sit Out for Women Only Day
July 6, 2013
Women across the Inland Empire will leave the dishes in the sink—the laundry in the basket—the bed unmade—and the children with dad to join their sister friends for The Saturday Morning Sit Out. A “Guilt Free ME Moment” Conversations, Massages, Inspiration, Prizes, Encouragement, Vendors and more. Location: The HourGlass Art & Wine Gallery, 8200 Haven Avenue Ste 103, Rancho Cucamonga, CA. Cost: $10.00. Advance ticket purchase required and must be 21 years old. Tel: (909) 258-4545 or email tickets@imgettingleanin2013.com.

First Saturdays Business Network in Rancho Cucamonga
July 6, 2013
If you are looking to make Business-to-Business connections, learn about products & services that will help your business grow, and attend cutting-edge workshops & CrowdPitch 101, First Saturday Business Network is the place for you to be. Location: Tropeca Restaurant and Bar, 11849 Foothill Blvd., Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730. Cost: Free. For more info please call (657) 204-6249 or go to bizhelp101.com. Time 7 – 9 pm.

Kenny G.
July 6, 2013
Location: Thorton Winery, 32575 Rancho California Road, Temecula, CA. Tel: (951) 699-0099. Time: 7 – 9 pm.

Annual Grapes & Gourmet Wine Festival
July 11, 2013
Come and join the Community for Individual Development Community Center at its annual Grapes & Gourmet Wine & Food Festival. It’s a night of wine tasting, gourmet food, live and silent auctions. Location: C.I.D., 8088 Palm Lane, San Bernardino, CA. Proceeds from this event benefit the C.I.D. Sponsored by Friends of C.I.D. For more information please contact the C.I.D. Community Center at (909) 384-5426.

Healthy Living
with Dr. Ernest Levister, F.A.C.P., F.A.C.P.M.

Staying Hydrated In The Summer Months

Dear Dr. Levister: I celebrated my 80th birthday last week with my usual 2-mile walk. This time I felt a bit dizzy and experienced muscle cramps afterwards. Should I drink more water during the summer months? F.A.

Dear F.A.: Congratulations on getting out there and staying fit. Staying well-hydrated is always important, particularly in the summer months when the temperature rises and our perspiration (‘sweating’) increases. Every day, our bodies lose water naturally through the urine, intestines, skin, and lungs.

Ignoring dehydration symptoms can lead to heat stroke, which is much more severe and requires medical treatment. One of the most important things you can do is to stay hydrated. If you’re an evening exerciser, make sure to drink fluid, especially water, throughout the day, not just during your workout. If you’re a morning person, drinking enough the night before is critical. Limit alcoholic beverages, which may contribute to dehydration. Avoid energy drinks. Eat colorful and water rich foods to add a boost of hydration. The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) recommends drinking:

- 16 – 20 ounces of water two hours before moderate-intensity summer exercise,
- 8 -12 ounces 10 – 15 minutes before going out in the heat,
- 3 – 8 ounces every 15 – 20 minutes during activity when active for less than 60 minutes,
- 3 – 8 ounces of a sports beverage every 15 – 20 minutes when exercising greater than 60 minutes.

For dehydration from exercise and heat, cool water is still the best. In the case of dehydration from body fluid loss, vomiting and diarrhea, an electrolyte solution, or drinks such as Gatorade or Pedialyte, can be helpful when used according to package guidelines. Nonetheless, adults can usually do well with water alone.
The process of learning never stops. Lewis J. Vanderzyl, known to many as just “Lew”, can attest to this as a veteran educator in Riverside County with a career that spans more than 50 years. His name may sound familiar because Vanderzyl grabbed local and national headlines in the late 1990’s when his proposed naming of a Riverside high school for the civil rights leader Martin Luther King stirred controversy among parents in the predominantly White community of Orangecrest. In the end, Vanderzyl and his steadfast supporters won and the school was dedicated to MLK in 1998.

It was only fitting that after championing the name of the civil rights leader for one school, Vanderzyl would be honored last month with the dedication of the multipurpose hall at Central Middle School in Riverside, where he had served as principal early in his career.

Now retired, Vanderzyl shares his thoughts with the VOICE on his career and education.

**When you became President of the Riverside Unified School District Board of Education, what was your top priority?**

To make sure that the district didn’t fall under the leadership of conservative Christians. I probably have changed a bit over the years, but that probably was the main thing I was concerned about. At the time in the early 1990’s, many conservatives moved to take over a number of elected positions [on the school board]. I think it would have been unfortunate for the school board if that happened. I think you have to have a philosophy of education – or of life – to lead
schools and I was glad to see the possibility of more openness of the board’s approach to issues rather than close-mindedness. That was probably the most pressing thing that concerned me. I would run into so many people who were close minded about their education and it dominated their thinking entirely. I think the ongoing dispute of evolution is symptomatic of that.

**Since stepping down, do you feel RUSD is in a better place or has it receded?**

I think it is unfortunate that the superintendent doesn’t have a clear idea of what he wants to do other than please the board just to see that the school board continues to function. That is probably least newsworthy to some people, which is probably why it doesn’t get a lot of attention.

You have become an iconic figure in Riverside County for the naming of a Riverside high school for Martin Luther King, Jr. in a predominantly White community. Why did you propose MLK for the name of the school?

Martin Luther King, Jr. and I were both born in the same year, 1929, and he accomplished so much in his life. I was struck by that. Not only his accomplishments, but his devotion to justice, brotherhood and non-violence made him a special figure in American history, and certainly America during the 1960s. I think it was those principles that stood out to me, more than the man and his actions, but his concern for equality and justice for all people.

**Before you announced MLK would be the name of the high school, did you foresee how controversial the idea would be?**

I was probably not as aware of the controversial naming beforehand. It was a thing I took some
2013 Black Graduation
Ceremonies

Photos by John Coleman
pleasure in standing up for because of the kind of person that King was.

Why did you choose to not fold on the proposed name despite all of the tension created by your opponents?

First, my own feelings and my own values of what I thought would be appropriate in that naming. I think even so, remembering the school board meeting when we had seven hundred people in the auditorium that supported the idea of naming the school for King, at the time there was an organized few who tended to dominate the conversation, as it is now. There were hundreds of more parents who supported the naming than the people who opposed it.

Martin Luther King, Jr. High School was a notable accomplishment in your legacy. However, what would you like for people to focus on when they reflect on your leadership as an administrator?

I want them to remember that I tried to do the right thing. I supported those things that I thought were most appropriate and the superintendent at that time was someone I got along with well. We had differences on one thing or another, but she respected me, being a school board member and president of the board for such a long time.

Her friendship was important, but I was always determined to do what was correct despite that friendship.

If you had to point to one characteristic that is currently missing in local school leadership at this time, what would it be and what advice would you give?

I would guess right now that there is too much emphasis on athletics just as there is in regular society and not enough emphasis on the academic side of the equation. I would hesitate to offer my colleagues any advice. They are going to have ideas of what is best for education and they may be the same as mine and they might be different. I would not want to interfere with their interpretation of how the school district should be run. With the way the board is now constructed, it’s not the same as when I first came on, and they were all people I respect. … They will make decisions, they may not agree with what I’m thinking and sometimes they will agree, I would just say to them, you need to do the job as you see fit.

What would you like to be most remembered for by future generations?

The naming of Martin Luther King, Jr. High School.

(Above) Lew’s wife Mollie speaks at the dedication of the Lewis Vanderzyl Multi-purpose Auditorium at Central Middle School last month. Photo by Michael Elderman
Southern California Gas Co “Energizing our Future” Scholarships Awarded

Southern California Gas Company “Energizing our Future” recently presented scholarship awards to five graduating high school students who have overcome great personal challenges and plan on attending Riverside Community College and other area universities.

Southern California Gas Company believes that a well-rounded workforce makes good business sense for a vital and healthy California. The “Energizing our Future” Scholarship Program has for many years encouraged and supported students in pursuit of their dreams for a higher education and a better life.

SoCalGas has been delivering clean, safe and reliable natural gas to its over 20 million customers for more than 140 years and continues to invest in our young people.

Photo Caption: Left to Right: Marcus Simons; LaShé Rodriguez, representing Assemblyman José Medina; Russell DeCuir; Woodie Rucker-Hughes, Riverside Unified School District; Andrea Becerra; Aubrey Alva; Lea Petersen, SoCalGas Co Public Affairs Manager; Sabrina Cervantes representing Assemblyman José Medina. Photo by Lonnie Graffell

North High School’s Marcus Simons Graduates With Perfect Attendance

Marcus Simons graduated from North High School’s International Baccalaureate program and he was probably the only student in his class who never missed a day of school since kindergarten. Simons, whose dad Ken is Director of UCR’s Afrikan Student Programs, is also a high achiever. He received awards for outstanding leadership as well as for his contributions to the school’s marching band. He will be attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the fall and plans to major in architecture. 1 – Marcus Simons, 2 – Lauren Potter, actress, White House advisor on the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities, and former Riverside resident, 3 – Riverside Unified School Board member Tom Hunt 4 – Proud dad and grandad Ken Simons and his father Joe Simons.

Photos by Michael Elderman
Ana Sanchez thought the day would never come. The 23-year-old business major couldn’t wait to walk at Cal State San Bernardino College of Business and Public Administration’s commencement at the university’s Coussoulis Arena.

Sanchez, who grew up in Perris and now resides in San Bernardino, completed her studies in March and received her bachelor’s degree in business administration with a concentration in management during the CSUSB College of Business and Public Administration’s commencement ceremony.

But the path to a college diploma has been fraught with financial and social obstacles. A product of an unstable family environment, her father left the family when she was a child, leaving her mother to single-handedly raise four children while holding down two jobs.

Until eighth grade, Sanchez had no available role models. She had never heard of the AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination – program until the coordinator at her middle school brought it to her attention. The program is designed to assist students who are in the middle of their academic class, neither advanced nor remedial, by helping them take more challenging classes and achieve at a higher level. By the time she arrived at Perris High School, she was well immersed into the program.

That’s where she was introduced to the concept of college. “It was very demanding, taking lots of notes,” said Sanchez. “But despite all my other family obligations at home, I managed to stay in AVID throughout high school.”” During her senior year, she visited the Cal State San Bernardino campus with the AVID students and received a fee waiver to apply to the university.

During high school, her sister Blanca, who is seven years older, had long moved out of the family home. Unaware that Blanca had been attending Cal Poly Pomona, Ana only found out after her sister dropped out of college to work full time to help support the family.

“As a little girl, I looked up to my sister,” said Sanchez. “I felt really scared thinking, ‘If my role model can’t do it, how will I manage?’” Nevertheless, she forged on.

She was accepted to CSUSB and began in fall 2007. Her mom was excited and very supportive, although both were worried about how they would pay for college. Fortunately, Ana was awarded financial aid.

“That was great, but I was unsure how to navigate the ‘MyCoyote’ account that was suddenly flooded with e-mails and notifications about financial aid,” said Sanchez.

While Ana’s mother was working at a Circle-K carwash, she introduced Ana to a customer who expressed an interest in Ana’s college future. Turns out he was Elliott Duchon, superintendent at the Jurupa Unified School District. He made it a personal mission to mentor Ana through the complex and overwhelming information she was receiving.

Ana’s mom drove her to Duchon’s office and together with his secretary, helped interpret the dozens of e-mail notifications. As a result, Ana obtained the maximum amount of financial aid for which she was eligible.

Sanchez quickly found student employment in the university’s School of Computer Science and Engineering. There, she met professor George Georgiou, who then served as chair of the department, and Alice Martinez, who was her office supervisor. They instantly took Ana under their wing, encouraging her to work hard in school and stay on track toward graduation.

In summer of her second year at CSUSB, she became pregnant. Ana was terrified to tell her mother because she knew she’d be disappointed. Her mother was fearful that marriage and a baby would mean dropping out of college. Discouraged by her mother’s attitude, it was a very stressful time for Ana, because she married her high school sweetheart, Bernardo, against her mother’s wishes.

Embarrassed about her pregnancy, Ana was reluctant about returning to work at the computer science department. “Alice Martinez really supported me through my pregnancy and encouraged me to stay in school and return to work,” said Sanchez. Ana gave birth to daughter Jocelyn in March 2009.

The next challenge was finding day care for her daughter, but Martinez once again helped her by referring her to CSUSB’s Infant Toddler Lab on campus, where her baby was accepted. “Alice has been like a mom to me,” she said.

Getting into credit card debt to finance day care, Sanchez was struggling with finding day care. Fortunately, her mother-in-law moved from Arizona to San Bernardino, providing some relief. Ana experienced much anxiety, affecting her class work—to the point of failing classes. Unable to cope with the demands of managing a marriage, a child, day care and college, she considered dropping out of school.

But Georgiou stepped in and encouraged her to stay in school. He helped her set manageable goals that she could accomplish. She said Georgiou told her “she was like his adopted daughter.” Ana said she did not want to disappoint him and felt a renewed strength to continue her education.

Sanchez is now a mentor to her younger sister, Lucerito Garcia, a CSUSB math major who will begin her final year in the fall; and her brother Johnny Garcia, who attends Riverside Community College.

“I’ve met many wonderful people who helped me along the way,” said Sanchez. When she recently thanked Georgiou, he said, “You’re welcome, but don’t thank me. You made the commitment and you made it happen. Now with your college degree, you are in good position to help and mentor others.”
The following person(s) is (are) doing business at:

JIM LACOMBE

5555 Canyon Crest Drive, Unit 1D
Riverside, CA 92507

Riverside County Clerk

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

MANN L BUILDING MAINTENANCE CONTRACTORS

20045 Hunter St.
Perris, CA 92570

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: GARRACSO SALVADOR MORENO, Jr. filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: SALVADOR MORENO, JR. to SALVADOR GUTIERREZ CATHARINE. All persons who are interested in this matter, in order to appear before this court, are hereby given notice to file their objections in writing with the Respondent, with proof of service, no later than the date indicated below. Notice of the date of hearing, above, and any objections filed with this court, may be obtained on file in the Office of the County Clerk. Notice of these proceedings will also be published within five (5) weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER RIC 1306209

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: SHANNON J WATERS, Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Riverside, CA 92501.

AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER RIC 1305219

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: MARY ROMERO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: SAMANTHA RACHAEL to SAMANTHA ROMERO. The Court orders that all persons who are interested in this matter, in order to appear before this court on the hearing indicated below to show cause, file any objections in writing with the Respondent, with proof of service, no later than the date indicated below. Notice of these proceedings will also be published within five (5) weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

DISPOSAL ORDER
CASE NUMBER RIC 1305219

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: JAMES R MCDONOV, Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Riverside, CA 92501.

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: WALTER S AUSTIN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: WALTER S AUSTIN to WALTER S AUSTIN JR. The Court orders that all persons who are interested in this matter, in order to appear before this court, are hereby given notice to file their objections in writing with the Respondent, with proof of service, no later than the date indicated below. Notice of these proceedings will also be published within five (5) weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

ORDNER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER RIC 1305219

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: JAMES R MCDONOV, Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Riverside, CA 92501.

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: WALTER S AUSTIN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: WALTER S AUSTIN to WALTER S AUSTIN JR. The Court orders that all persons who are interested in this matter, in order to appear before this court, are hereby given notice to file their objections in writing with the Respondent, with proof of service, no later than the date indicated below. Notice of these proceedings will also be published within five (5) weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

DISPOSAL ORDER
CASE NUMBER RIC 1305219

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: WALTER S AUSTIN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: WALTER S AUSTIN to WALTER S AUSTIN JR. The Court orders that all persons who are interested in this matter, in order to appear before this court, are hereby given notice to file their objections in writing with the Respondent, with proof of service, no later than the date indicated below. Notice of these proceedings will also be published within five (5) weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: WALTER S AUSTIN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: WALTER S AUSTIN to WALTER S AUSTIN JR. The Court orders that all persons who are interested in this matter, in order to appear before this court, are hereby given notice to file their objections in writing with the Respondent, with proof of service, no later than the date indicated below. Notice of these proceedings will also be published within five (5) weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: WALTER S AUSTIN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: WALTER S AUSTIN to WALTER S AUSTIN JR. The Court orders that all persons who are interested in this matter, in order to appear before this court, are hereby given notice to file their objections in writing with the Respondent, with proof of service, no later than the date indicated below. Notice of these proceedings will also be published within five (5) weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: WALTER S AUSTIN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: WALTER S AUSTIN to WALTER S AUSTIN JR. The Court orders that all persons who are interested in this matter, in order to appear before this court, are hereby given notice to file their objections in writing with the Respondent, with proof of service, no later than the date indicated below. Notice of these proceedings will also be published within five (5) weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: WALTER S AUSTIN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: WALTER S AUSTIN to WALTER S AUSTIN JR. The Court orders that all persons who are interested in this matter, in order to appear before this court, are hereby given notice to file their objections in writing with the Respondent, with proof of service, no later than the date indicated below. Notice of these proceedings will also be published within five (5) weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: WALTER S AUSTIN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: WALTER S AUSTIN to WALTER S AUSTIN JR. The Court orders that all persons who are interested in this matter, in order to appear before this court, are hereby given notice to file their objections in writing with the Respondent, with proof of service, no later than the date indicated below. Notice of these proceedings will also be published within five (5) weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: WALTER S AUSTIN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: WALTER S AUSTIN to WALTER S AUSTIN JR. The Court orders that all persons who are interested in this matter, in order to appear before this court, are hereby given notice to file their objections in writing with the Respondent, with proof of service, no later than the date indicated below. Notice of these proceedings will also be published within five (5) weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: WALTER S AUSTIN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: WALTER S AUSTIN to WALTER S AUSTIN JR. The Court orders that all persons who are interested in this matter, in order to appear before this court, are hereby given notice to file their objections in writing with the Respondent, with proof of service, no later than the date indicated below. Notice of these proceedings will also be published within five (5) weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: WALTER S AUSTIN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: WALTER S AUSTIN to WALTER S AUSTIN JR. The Court orders that all persons who are interested in this matter, in order to appear before this court, are hereby given notice to file their objections in writing with the Respondent, with proof of service, no later than the date indicated below. Notice of these proceedings will also be published within five (5) weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: WALTER S AUSTIN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: WALTER S AUSTIN to WALTER S AUSTIN JR. The Court orders that all persons who are interested in this matter, in order to appear before this court, are hereby given notice to file their objections in writing with the Respondent, with proof of service, no later than the date indicated below. Notice of these proceedings will also be published within five (5) weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.
We specialize in newer, emerging, entrepreneurial small businesses and organizations. Small budgets are not a problem. Our approach works with you to accomplish your goals.

Our services include:
- brand market strategies
- logo design
- graphic design
- print ad design
- corporate identity packages
- web site design.

p: 951.368.4086
e: ctgraffixdesign@gmail.com

Creative Director for Voice newspaper
Ben Johnson II, Alvord School District, Board of Trustees

Over your 17 years on the Alvord School Board what do you consider the district’s biggest challenges and greatest accomplishments?

Challenges: Adequate funding is the biggest challenge facing most districts. The state of California spends approximately $8000 per student a year. However, there is significant disparity from one district to the next. In addition to the disparity in funding a significant portion of the funds are restricted. Providing a higher degree of true local control will allow districts to determine the most effective use of the funds.

Accomplishments: The economic downturn has significant impact on our district. We have more families struggling financially with other transitional families moving from school to school. In addition, our ELL population has almost doubled from fifteen years ago. Even with all of these challenges almost every school in our district is making progress to the API goals with eight schools over 800, four schools less than 10 points from hitting 800. There are many wonderful things happening in our classrooms on a daily basis. We have dedicated employees that give their talent, time, and resources to ensure that all children are successful. Of all the positive things we do in education what really matters is the academic success of our children. Hence our district motto: “Student Achievement is Our #1 Priority”

Challenges: We must reduce our dropout rates and find programs to keep students engaged. Students need to understand the relevance of their classes to their future. Helping them bridge the gap between the theoretical to the practical is essential if we want them to care about their K-12 experience.

Accomplishments: The economic downturn has significant impact on our district. We have more families struggling financially with other transitional families moving from school to school. In addition, our ELL population has almost doubled from fifteen years ago. Even with all of these challenges almost every school in our district is making progress to the API goals with eight schools over 800, four schools less than 10 points from hitting 800. There are many wonderful things happening in our classrooms on a daily basis. We have dedicated employees that give their talent, time, and resources to ensure that all children are successful. Of all the positive things we do in education what really matters is the academic success of our children. Hence our district motto: “Student Achievement is Our #1 Priority”

We now have a fourth high school, modernized schools, and improved security. These are sacrifices that our community made because of their belief in our previous financial stewardship and the good work that is occurring throughout the district.

What is the district doing to prepare students to be competitive in the new more global economy?

The skill sets that our children need to be competitive today are much different than those of the previous generation. Our children need to have similar skills whether they are headed to college, the military, or the workforce. Regardless, of their career choice they will need to be able to demonstrate critical thinking and continue to be lifelong learners. Our AVID and International Baccalaureate programs as well as our academies are just a few examples of how we are preparing our students. However, we need to do more. We are focused on ensuring that we are aligning our curriculum with the State and Common Core Standards, expanding of our CTE programs, and hopefully, developing a JROTC program.

Explain why the Board had to vote earlier this year to move to a by-trustee-area method for elections? Do you believe it will encourage civic engagement in more diverse communities within the Alvord district?

We all support the spirit of the Voter’s Right Act to have engagement of all of the community in the electoral process. However, I do not believe that the current process directed at local school boards to move to trustee areas is in the best interest of the community or students. Most Boards are moving to trustee areas because they are concerned that they are violating the Voter’s Rights Act. In Alvord, we have heard from various community groups, representatives from both of our associations and members of the community that do not feel this is in the best interest of Alvord. Additionally we held three well-advertised community meetings throughout the district and had a total of 12 people attend. We have a diverse Board that does a good job representing the entire district. I have served Alvord for seventeen years with an African American population that is less than 10%. My fear is that we are no longer discussing content of character but we have made ethnicity the primary discussion point.

Late last year you posed a question to members of your Facebook community regarding student achievement. “What do you think would have the greatest impact on our schools and student achievement?”

There is no question that increased funding, innovative programs, and well trained staff has a positive impact on students. However, I still believe that having parents that are engaged and involved have the greatest impact on a student’s success. Neither one of my parents went to college. My father had to leave school in the 5th grade to work on the family farm and my mother completed high school. However, they both made it clear to me from an early age that a good education would lead to success. We must make our schools welcome environments for parents. The school system can be intimidating, especially for those who did not experience it themselves. There are a variety of methods to engage our parents. But providing parent training programs that will enable parents to assist with homework, understand their rights, and support the expectations of their children at school is essential. My parents also knew that I was not perfect. If the school gave my parents feedback that I was being mischievous or talking too much in class they supported the teacher. My parents were focused on being my parents not my friend.
SAN BERNARDINO CITY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
4TH OF JULY
A GRAND REASON TO SAY NO!
$1,000.00 FINE
FOR DANGEROUS/ILLEGAL FIREWORKS IN
THE CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO
(FOR EACH VIOLATION)

THE CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO WILL
STRICTLY ENFORCE THE DANGEROUS/
ILLEGAL FIREWORKS ORDINANCE.

INAPPROPRIATE USE OF SAFE AND SANE
FIREWORKS: UP TO $$1000.00 FINE

NO FIREWORKS ALLOWED IN:
PUBLIC PARKS, PUBLIC STREETS OR
PUBLIC PARKING LOTS

NO FIREWORKS ALLOWED
WITHIN CITY AREAS
NORTH OF THE 210 FREEWAY
(request a map from fireworks vendor for other restricted areas)

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL 909-384-5388

4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR
SAN MANUEL STADIUM
280 South E St. San Bernardino
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 66ERS GAME
DIAL 9-1-1- FOR EMERGENCY CALLS!