Hispanic activist Felix Diaz seeks Victorville City Council Office

Several of my friends, former classmates and constituents have continuously urged me to assume leadership roles in the community. I was encouraged to run for the Victor Valley High School Board of Trustees in 1985, was elected and re-elected again for a 2nd term this past November. My philosophy has always been, and always will be, that parents, students, small business people and the tax payers should have a voice and get their “Money’s Worth” in all endeavors. I am happy and proud to say that during the past four years on the school board, my past voting record speaks positively about my philosophies and beliefs.

I feel it is time to actively pursue other areas and persist toward positive change for the common tax payer, and not just the big businessmen, and the financially well established. Proposition 13 allowed for cutback in police services, fire protection, recreational and park facilities and spending. However, after

SEE DIAZ , Back Page

Interim Mental Health Director named

San Bernardino County’s Board of Supervisors announced the appointment of Mr. Manuel Ahuero as Interim Director of the Department of Mental Health to replace Mr. Bob Martinez who resigned to accept the position of Director of Mental Health for the County of Santa Clara. The Board of Supervisors have begun a nationwide recruitment drive for a director and anticipate a 90 day period for completion of the recruitment process.

Prior to the appointment, Mr. Ahuero was Deputy Director for four years with the County of San Bernardino’s Office on Aging. Previous professional positions include Project Director - Volunteers of America/Senior Nutrition Program, Deputy Director-National Association for the Hispanic Elderly, Project Director-Los Angeles Unified School District/Active Senior Citizens Program, Senior Planner-Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging, Associate Planner-National Chicano Social Planning Council, Inc., Medical Social Worker-Los Angeles County Department of Health.

Mr. Ahuero’s professional affiliations are National Association of Social Workers, Trabajadores De La Raza, National Council on Aging, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Senior Citizens’ Foundation, American Society on Aging and East Los Chicanos Education Training and Resource Organization. Married to Mary Ahuero for 19 years, who graduated from UCLA Graduate School of Social Work with a MSW Degree and is District Supervisor for the Eastern Los Angeles center for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc., Whittier.

They have one son, Stephen, 16, a junior at Wilson High School.

San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors has begun a nationwide search for the County of Santa Clara. The Board of Supervisors announced the appointment of Mr. Manuel Ahuero as Interim Director of Mental Health to replace Mr. Bob Martinez who graduated from UCLA Graduate School of Social Work with a MSW Degree and is District Supervisor for the Eastern Los Angeles center for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc., Whittier. They have one son, Stephen, 16, a junior at Wilson High School.

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Nicaragua's elections will decide more than presidency

By: Emma Lechuga

Nicaragua's population of three million will vote their democratically elected president on February 25, 1990. Their choices are incumbent President Daniel Ortega, Sandinista National Liberation Front, (FSLN) and Violeta Chamorro representing the National Opposition Front (UNO) and owner of one of the three largest newspapers in Nicaragua, La Prensa. Various other political parties are pursuing cabinet positions in these country wide elections.

After a decade of United States Congress approved aid to the contra forces in Nicaragua whose primary objective has been to destabilize Nicaragua's economy and overthrow the ruling Sandinista government, Daniel Ortega is faced with the challenge of convincing the Nicaraguan people of the solvency of his administration. The lack of economic, industrial and technological advancement is surely a point that will be uppermost in peoples minds when they cast their ballot. As pointed out by President Ortega, it has been difficult to implement the necessary economic changes in light of the fact that the Nicaraguan government had had to defend itself and its populace against contra armed aggression and the U.S. imposed economic blockade.

Election strategists and observers, which include former President Carter will be on hand to ensure that electoral principles are observed. Nicaragua and the United States are faced with possibly the biggest and most decisive effort in both government's attempts to bring peace to the region. On one hand, the U.S. administration has been funding the U.S. backed 12,000 contras at a tune of 4.5 million dollars a month to continue their armed insurrection to topple the Sandinista run elected government. The challenge facing the United States is post election action. As reported this month, U.S. administration spokespersons have told Nicaragua contras, not to continue to expect U.S. aid after the Nicaragua election and have hinted that they should commence demobilization efforts. The U.S. is considering providing aid to assist the contras in their repatriation into Nicaragua and neighboring countries. The resettlement effort may possibly include the United States. Still to be decided is the awarding of political refugee status to Nicaragua contras wishing to settle in the United States.

The U.S. administration publicly supports Violeta Chamorro in this election and their high powered plans for demobilization are dependent on her victory. However, what if Daniel Ortega wins and continues as a president who has repeatedly called for non-U.S. intervention in Nicaragua and Central America matters? Will the U.S. take heed and pull out military advisors and stop contra aid as present discussions seem to indicate if Violeta Chamorro wins? Will the United States lift the present economic blockade and normalize domestic and international relations with Nicaragua if Daniel Ortega wins reelection?

U.S. foreign policy post election actions must be carefully analyzed in order to not appear contradictory in our foreign policy stance. After all, regardless of who wins the elections, does the United States have the right to intervene in domestic and international affairs of our Central American neighbors because we dislike that candidate and because we are not allowed to handpick their country's presidents?

Emma Lechuga returns from Nicaragua with a personal narrative.
The curtain goes up on the State's budget drama

By: Senator Ruben S. Ayala

SACRAMENTO - Governor George Deukmejian has prepared his eighth and last record budget. The State Capitol's yearly budget drama is center stage in early January when the Governor unveils his spending package and, once again in late June, when he signs the budget bill for the ensuing fiscal year.

Student interns sought by NALEO

WASHINGTON -- An intensive five-week public policy program is seeking applications from interested Latino students in California, Texas and Florida, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) announced.

"NALEO's innovative program gives students a behind-the-scenes look at how public policy is developed and implemented at the state and federal levels," says NALEO National Director Harry Pachon, Ph.D.

NALEO's State Legislative Interns will spend four weeks in their respective state capitals working in the offices of Hispanic elected officials. Previous interns have researched legislation, attended hearings and written reports on major public issues.

Interns then spend one week in Washington, D.C., where they will be exposed to the inner workings of the federal legislative and administrative systems. Interns have met with Members of Congress, the administration and the media during this segment of the program.

"The interns have an opportunity to meet and interact with public figures that have a direct impact on the people in their community," says Dr. Pachon. NALEO's program, which is sponsored by Shell Oil Co., is now in its third year. Interns are provided with a $1,500 stipend and certain other expenses are covered by the program.

Application information can be obtained by contacting: Kristin Stenberg, NALEO, 708 G St., SE, Washington, D.C. 20003. Telephone: (202) 546-2536.

NALEO is a non-profit, non-partisan civic affairs research organization. Its members are the nation's more than 3,700 Hispanic elected officials and their supporters.

Vallarta's Bakery Relocates

Mr. Jorge Sanchez, proprietor of Vallarta's Bakery, and Ignacia Bojarguez in front of the new Vallarta's Bakery at 2874 West Rialto Avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Jorge Sanchez announced the relocation of the new Vallarta's Bakery at 2874 West Rialto Avenue, San Bernardino (corner of Pepper Avenue).

The original Vallarta's Bakery was situated on Sixth Street, San Bernardino for 24 years. During that time, it had gained a reputation as one of the best bakeries in producing Mexican pastries in the Inland Empire.

Mr. Sanchez stated that the bakers working in his establishment are considered to be the best. He further stated that they will continue to use the best ingredients to produce quality pastries.

Vallarta's Bakery will be opened daily from 7:00 A.M. to 9:30 P.M. and Sundays from 6:00 A.M. to 8:30 P.M.

Mr. Sanchez indicated that special orders will be accepted. For further information call (714) 820-9943.

The California Constitution says the Legislature must send a budget to the Governor by midnight, June 15. Until that happens, lawmakers are prohibited from passing appropriations bills, except emergency measures recommended by the Governor.

Each house will approve its version of a budget, after which an Assembly/Senate conference committee is formed to work out differences. This panel can reduce an item, but cannot increase one. Its compromise must be okayed by both houses and then goes to the Governor.

Before affixing his signature, the Governor gets a chance to edit the final product - referred to as "blue-pencil." He can eliminate or pare down items, and his decision stands unless the Senate and Assembly muster a two-thirds vote to override the veto.

Since 1983 the present Governor and the Legislature have been involved in a number of spirited budget engagements. I don't expect his 1990 closing act to be any less stimulating.

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Carlos Renedo (left) and Alfredo Lopez, proprietors of La Fuente Bakery, gambled on San Bernardino Northside location - and won.
By Arturo Vargas

In an unprecedented effort, Hispanic communities across the country are organizing for a full census count. For the sake of our nation's future, they must succeed.

Ten years ago, the Hispanic population was undercounted by at least six percent, and in some urban areas by up to 10 percent. Several factors contributed to this undercount. Because the census was conducted by mail, families that "doubled up" in apartments or lived in residences with no addresses, such as converted garages, were often missed. Someone who feared that census information would not be kept confidential and used against them avoided being counted. In addition, some people simply refused to respond to the census and never knew they had an obligation and a right to be counted.

The Hispanic undercount of 1990 denied the communities where Hispanics live a fair share of public resources and full political representation, affecting everyone living in these areas. States with large Hispanic populations report that the heavily Hispanic 1990 undercount cost them millions of dollars in federal funds. And even though mainland Hispanics were 6.4 percent of the population in 1980, today they make up only 2 percent of the voting members in the U.S. House of Representatives. Present congressional districts were determined based on that census. Another undercount of this population will cost the nation in many ways.

Accurate census information is critical for determining even the most basic policies. Schools need it to assess the need for more teachers and schools. Employers need it to determine the potential pool for new hires. Cities need it to determine policies ranging from public transportation to waste disposal. Reducing the Hispanic undercount in 1990 is a formidable challenge. Unfortunately, the evidence so far is that nearly enough is being done to meet this challenge.

For instance, the Census Bureau will again use the flawed mail-out/mail-back counting method. And there are reports that the bureau is not hiring enough Hispanics to conduct the count in Spanish. The Spanish-language census form will not be readily available. Disturb of the bureau's promise of confidentiality remains a concern.

Poverty and homelessness, increasing problems for Hispanics during the 1980s, will be contributing factors to an undercount. Since 1980, the rate of increase in the number of Hispanics living in poverty has outpaced the rate of increase in the Hispanic population overall. In California alone, families living in Los Angeles said row hotels, farmworkers living in caves in the northern San Diego County hills and the newly homeless among Watsonville's earthquake victims are all at risk of being missed by census workers. Finally, some members in Congress have proposed -- unconstitutionally -- to exclude persons from the census based on immigration status, knowing this will only exacerbate the Hispanic undercount. Since July, the Senate on three occasions has passed legislation to exclude the undocumented from the census. A majority of the House of Representatives, however, has shown it understands what it means to count all persons, including Hispanics, and has rejected the Senate's proposals.

Sole responsibility for accurately counting the nation's population lies with the Census Bureau, and it must be held accountable. Hispanics are committed to meeting this challenge. For the well-being of our country, so must everyone else.

(Artoo Vargas is national director, 1990/Census Program, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.)

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Seniors Crime Prevention Pamphlets Available

Residents concerned about their personal and home safety can get two pamphlets on these issues from the local office of State Senator Ruben S. Ayala (D-Chino).

"The booklets offer crime prevention tips for seniors and methods to protect your home while away on trips or vacation," said Ayala, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Water Resources Committee.


To get either brochure residents can write to Senator Ayala at 254 S. Euclid Ave., Ontario, CA 91762 or call (714) 983-3566.

In the San Bernardino area residents can write to 505 N. Arrowhead, Suite 100, 92401 or call (714) 884-3165.

Parents Anonymous

Being a parent is a tough job. If you sometimes feel out of control with your children, Parents Anonymous can help. Free, weekly support groups are being held in Fontana, Colton and Redlands. Contact Penny Mitchell, Parents Anonymous Coordinator at Inland counties Family Learning Center, 370-0372.
Volunteers are sought for "Friends in Deed Program"

Volunteers in the San Bernardino County area are needed to work in the S.B. County Department of Mental Health's Friends InDeed program. Volunteers serve as supportive friends to Mental Health clients who are in the Continuing Care Program. "Volunteers can be extremely important in the life of a mental health client by helping to provide the companionship and reassurance needed to overcome the fight against mental illness," said Bill Berwald, coordinator for the Friends InDeed Program.

Volunteers will be selected for their sensitivity and compassion and should be over 18 years of age. Volunteers do not need any previous experience. They will receive free, comprehensive training and function under close supervision of mental health professionals, Berwald said. Following training they will be matched with an appropriate client to visit with for approximately an hour a week. Visits can include anything from conversation to attending various community activities.

Training for volunteers will begin in February. For more information call Bill Berwald, (714) 387-7153 Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

S.B. PIC still seeks candidates

The Private Industry Council (PIC) of the City of San Bernardino, an organization of business and government leaders appointed by the Mayor of San Bernardino to direct job training programs in the city, is seeking individuals interested in serving on the PIC.

There are four public sector openings on the PIC and applications for membership are now being accepted. To qualify for membership as a public sector representative, a person must be a leader from either a private education agency, labor organization, community based organization, or an economic development agency.

Persons interested in applying for membership on the PIC must complete a membership application and be nominated by an appropriate nominating organization. Applications to the PIC are made by the Mayor of San Bernardino.

For a membership application or further information, contact:
Cynthia Cervantes
San Bernardino Employment and Training Agency
646 North Sierra Way
San Bernardino, CA 92401
(714) 888-7881

G.T.E. extends business office hours

As a convenience to residential customers in the San Bernardino and surrounding communities area, GTE California, starting January 15, extends its business hours from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., weekdays.

"We realize that many of our customers work during normal business hours," said Robert Traister, District Manager.

"We're extending our business day to help accommodate these customers," said Bill Berwald, coordinator for the Friends InDeed Program.

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For a membership application or further information, contact:
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157 W. Fifth Street
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0440
(714) 387-5590
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If you or someone you know is interested in a challenging career as a Deputy Sheriff, now is the time to apply. We want qualified people who enjoy working with others and who are dedicated to the law enforcement purpose.

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Inland Empire HISPANIC NEWS

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DIAZ (from page 1)

almost 12 years the negative effects have almost been overcome, and other income sources are available via federal and state funding whereby citizens should be realizing savings and cutbacks in other areas relative to over-spending.

It is time, ladies and gentlemen, for the people to have a voice; it is time for the people to begin to get their tax dollars worth; it is time for changes, and go forward for more positive government and leadership.

Therefore, I wish to announce my candidacy for the office of City Councilman for the City of Victorville in the upcoming April election. I realize this will be a difficult uphill race especially financially. However, it doesn’t cost any money to vote. I urge as your voice, your representative. It can happen. It will happen. Ya es tiempo! Ya es tiempo! It is time! It is time!

Mr. Diaz received his B.A. in Elementary education from Cal-State, Los Angeles and M.A. in Education/Counseling from Chapman College in Orange, CA. He has attended UCR, Kent State University, Ohio; Cal-Poly, San Luis Obispo; and Azusa Pacific College.

He was counselor at Victor Valley College and George Air Force Extension College, 1971-1978; academic.

CRY - ROP Class Registration

The Colton-Redlands-Yucaipa Regional Occupation Program will register adults and out-of-school youth for its spring classes from 8 am to 7 pm on January 29 - February 2 at the ROP office, 105 Tennessee Street, Redlands.

The spring catalog, which outlines more than 50 vocational programs, is available now from 8 am to 4 pm at the ROP office.

Operating since 1971, the ROP offers a wide variety of tuition-free vocational education opportunities for jobs in automotive trades, banking, business, child care, computers, cosmetology, electronics, graphics/printing, health/medical, restaurant, warehousing and many others.

Three new courses have been added to the Spring schedule. Sports Injury (Care and Prevention) is being offered from 6:00 - 9:20 pm on Monday, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Students will learn to evaluate and treat the special physical problems of amateur and professional athletes. Automotive Electrical and Air Conditioning Service, qualifying a student for a job as an automotive air conditioner service person or auto electrician's helper, will be offered from 6:00 - 9:20 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Legal/Clerical Occupations will prepare students to work in private, corporate, or governmental law offices where a knowledge of legal terms, procedures, and forms is required. The class will meet Monday - Thursday from 1 pm to 3 pm with a lab from 8:30 am to 11:30 am on Friday.

CRY-ROP provides placements assistance to ROP students who have completed specific skills that qualify them for employment.

For further information, call 793-3115 or 825-8060.

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