April 30th 2008

Hispanic News

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INLAND EMPIRE HISPANIC NEWS-
ANGIE MENDOZA-MOTHER OF THE YEAR

Angie Mendoza epitomizes the Hispanic traditional mother, a role model to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and to her community.

Angie Mendoza celebrated her 90th birthday on September 8, 2007, with her four girls, three boys, 27 grandchildren/step grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren/step grandchildren, her sister, Mary Lou Limon who lives in Sacramento, numerous nieces and nephews and close friends.

Sitting close to her husband, Lalo Mendoza, Mrs. Mendoza calmly responded to congratulatory remarks from family and her many friends, reminiscing with all about past memories, and there were many from throughout the years.

Born in Pirtleville, Arizona to parents Jose and Alvina Aldama, Angie Aldama was the eldest daughter of six children. The family moved to Victorville, where she attended elementary school.

The family made another move and settled in San Bernardino, where Angie Aldama went to Sturges Junior High School and San Bernardino High School.

On April 1, 1945, she married Lalo Mendoza at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, San Bernardino and it was the beginning of a blissful marriage. While raising seven children, she also worked part time, and after they were grown, she went to work full time at the University of California Agricultural Extension Program as a nutrition consultant.

Her seven children are: Rachel Clark, Cecilia Vasquez, David Mendoza, Martha Sack, Robert Clark, Martha Mendoza, and Martha Mendoza.

Gil Navarro announced his candidacy for the 62nd Assembly District, in August of 2007. This Navy veteran and father of three has worked as an education advocate in the Inland Empire for the past 18 years, empowering local families to exercise their educational rights. In November of 2006, Navarro was elected to the San Bernardino County School Board.

With this kind of history, it may surprise some to learn that Navarro never anticipated his career in public service until the tragic death of his wife Diane in 1987. The young mother died of breast cancer, leaving Navarro to raise their 3 sons aged 6, 8, and 11.

As a new single father, Gil was forced to take charge of his children’s education, a task that their mother had previously been in sole charge of. According to Navarro, he quickly realized, that this previous arrangement had been a mistake and he now advocates for the involvement of both parents in their children’s education.

While working as a bookkeeper, Navarro found the time to educate himself on federal and state education laws to ensure that his own children were not denied their right to a quality education. Almost immediately, he saw other families, other children, who needed his help.

Eventually, Navarro was forced to relinquish his bookkeeping job to meet the demands of his advocacy work. Since then, he has represented students with learning disabilities and assisted teenagers and young adults with community college and university enrollment. He has also provided training for parents, educating them on how to advocate for their own children.

Navarro has also been involved in two other important areas. In a collaborative effort with the County Department of Behavioral Health, an outreach informational form in English and Spanish was developed to aid residents to more easily avail accessibility to mental health services.

In order to facilitate the public, and importantly, young persons reaching the voting age, Navarro and community persons coordinated with the Registrar of Voters to develop election criteria and outreach information to high schools and college students, encouraging greater participation of young people to become active in the election process at an early age.

As an active advocate and public official, Navarro saw need for his attention in other areas of the community and believes that as a member of the State Assembly, he can be even more effective in facilitating change.

Navarro is urgently alarmed with water contamination in Rialto and the impending threat of water contamination in Colton, all in the face of California’s 7 year drought and federal cuts in water allocations from the north. According to Navarro, clean water and conservation are vital concerns that affect every man, woman and child in the 62nd district and beyond.

Navarro also sees local transportation issues as a serious problem. According to Navarro, these are safety issues. Traffic heading from the 210 to the 215 south is currently directed off the freeway at State
Mendoza, Danny Mendoza, and the youngest, Kathy Jorge. On April 1, 2008, the couple celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as some of their new neighbors at the Villas at San Bernardino.

Rachel Clark, the eldest in the family, stated, "The example Mom has given to her seven children continues to be emulated by not only her seven children but her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who in their daily lives have inspired and strive to maintain her ideals of being good responsible citizens, rooted in values of a deep faith and strong family ties that keep our family together."

Cecilia Vasquez, the mother of six children commented that "Teaching your children to be proud of whom they are, to trust in the Lord and to do the best they can is so important in life. Just as my mother taught us, I have taught my children to maintain strong family ties and to know that in times of good or bad, family will always be there in full support."

Angie Mendoza's youngest son, Danny stated, "Mom exemplifies her love daily by her faithfulness and unconditional love to dad. In a world where commitment to marriage is being lost, the word 'quit' is not in her vocabulary."

Mrs. Mendoza's youngest daughter, Kathy, said "Even though we didn't have much in material things, that didn't matter because we were and continue to be so rich in family and love." She thanks her mom for her love and for teaching her the love of God and how to live for Him everyday of her life. Kathy says that she continues to pass this on to her son and she thanks her parents for instilling in her the beautiful teachings of how to raise a family.

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**Manny Acosta**

President

Celebrating 30 year of service in the Inland Empire

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Pepe's Towing Service joins the Mexican Community in celebrating the Cinco de Mayo—a memorial event in the history of Mexico and its defense against aggression.

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**NOTICE OF HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 5:30 P.M. in the Chambers of the Board of Supervisors, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor, San Bernardino, CA. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the proposed substantial amendments to the County's 2007-2008 CDBG Action Plan listed below, and to solicit citizen comments regarding these amendments.

Each year since 1975, the County of San Bernardino has sought to receive federal housing and community development grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funds are to develop viable communities by providing decent housing, suitable living environments and expanded economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. In 2005, HUD renewed the County's qualification to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Act (HOME) programs for Fiscal Years 2006, 2007 and 2008. The CDBG funds are for eligible projects in the unincorporated communities and 19 cooperating cities. These cities are Adelanto, Barstow, Banning, Bear Lake, Colton, Grand Terrace, Highland, Loma Linda, Montclair, Needles, Redlands, Twentynine Palms, Yucca Valley, and the Town of Yucca Valley. For the purpose of all grant funds, this area is referred to as the "County Consortium." To receive the CDBG, ESG, and HOME grant funds, the County prepares a consolidated granting application. The 2007-08 consolidated application consists of the County's updated 2005-2010 Consolidated Plan and the 2007-2008 Annual Action Plan. On April 17, 2007, the County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors approved the proposed Consolidated Plan and Action Plan. Upon completion of the public review period and after all comments were received and considered, the final Consolidated Plan and Action Plan was prepared, and submitted to HUD on May 29, 2007 for funding approval. HUD approved County's 2007-08 application, which covers the County's July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 Fiscal Year.

PROPOSED CDBG SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS:

The following proposed amendments would substantially change the CDBG portion of the 2007-2008 Action Plan:

- Initiate a new CDBG funded project for construction improvements to the Midway Park Community Building in Lucerne Valley, utilizing $25,000 of CDBG funds from unprogrammed funds for the First Supervisorial District.
- Additional Substantial Amendment Provision Items may be added or deleted from this list of Proposed Substantial Amendments at the Board of Supervisors hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

For a period of thirty (30) days beginning on April 28, 2008 and ending on May 27, 2008, the public is invited to submit written comments on these proposed amendments. Comments received after 5:00 p.m., May 27, 2008 cannot be considered in the preparation of the amended Consolidated Plan. Send comments to the County's Department of Community Development and Housing (CDH) at the address shown below.

Those individuals wishing to express their views on these substantial amendments may present and be heard at the public hearing mentioned above, to the time of the hearing, submit in writing, comments to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, Second Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92410-0130. Due to time constraints and the number of persons wishing to give oral testimony, time restrictions may be placed on oral testimony at the public hearing regarding this proposal. You may make your comments in writing to assure that you are able to express yourself adequately.

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, Department of Community Development and Housing (CDH), 200 North D Street, Sixth Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0040.

Attn: Program and Compliance Section or (909) 384-9964

PAUL BIANE, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

DENA M. SMITH, CLERK
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
I would like to wish everyone a Happy Cinco De Mayo!

I join you in celebrating our rich heritage and culture.

Congressman

Joe Baca
FROM WELFARE TO PH.D.,
THE JOURNEY OF UCR PH.D. CANDIDATE ACELA OJEDA

From Welfare to Ph.D., UCR Student's Journey is Subject of Documentary "Work Harder"
will screen Friday May 2 on the UCR campus, followed by comments from Acela Ojeda. Ph.D. candidate Acela Ojeda graduated from UCR with two Bachelor's degrees.

For one student at UC Riverside’s Graduate School of Education, lifting herself out of poverty required discipline and sacrifice.

In his self-funded documentary film "Work Harder," chronicling two years in the lives of two single mothers, director Ethan Mechare shows the journey of UCR Ph.D. candidate Acela Ojeda.

The film will screen at 6 p.m. Friday, May 2 at UCR in room 1500 Humanities and Social Sciences, followed by comments from Ojeda. Admission is free.

"I'm the first person in my extended family to graduate from college," said Ojeda, a Riverside resident and the mother of two. "I had to overcome the obstacles of being a former high school drop-out and welfare recipient."

After receiving two bachelor's degrees from UCR, she decided to continue on to earn a graduate degree, even though the decision not to look for full-time work meant that she could no longer collect welfare benefits. "There were times when only my children could eat and bills went unpaid," Ojeda said. "It has been a long road and the struggles continue. However, they are no longer financial. They are learning how to balance work, home, children, and my programs."

Ojeda received guidance on her path to higher education from Robert Ream, assistant professor, UCR Graduate School of Education and Ellen Reese, associate professor of sociology at the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

"Although I do research on welfare issues, Acela helped me to understand, on a very personal level, the enormous challenges and degrading experiences that single mothers and college students face with the current welfare system," said Reese, author of "Backlash Against Welfare Mothers, Past and Present."

GIL NAVARRO 62ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT CANDIDATE

Continued from page 1

Street, down California Street and past Rio Vista Elementary School. Navarro plans to address these issues and improve transportation safety for everyone.

On April 9th, Navarro organized a protest and press conference, responding to complaints from local Colton business leaders about an incident that took place on April 2nd, involving the Colton Police Department. His quick action resulted in local residents stepping forward and getting involved.

Navarro plans to bring his energy and passion for improving this community to the State Assembly because he says, to quote Martin Luther King Jr., "Injustice Anywhere is Injustice Everywhere."

Felicidades!

Mr. Kenneth M. Young
Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

And

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The Battle of Puebla
The Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Benito Juarez, who can be compared to Abraham Lincoln, led Mexico through the most crucial period of its history, a history which was marred with violent clashes between the conservative and liberal factions, and invasions of foreign powers on Mexican soil. Like Lincoln, Juarez had humble beginnings. An orphan at three, Benito Juarez was born on March 21, 1806 in the village of San Pablo Guelatao, Oaxaca. A full-blooded Zapotec Indian who eventually raised himself out of poverty and illiteracy to become a lawyer. Juarez represented Mexico's persevering spirit of the native Mexican. He began his legal career defending groups of poor campesinos against injustices brought about by the privileged classes mainly the “hacendados” and the clergy.

In 1848, Juarez was elected governor of Oaxaca launching his historical political career. Benito Juarez served three terms as Mexico’s president. He faced constant political struggles between the liberals and the conservatives who were represented by the “hacendado” class and the clergy. The latter faction welcomed an invasion of the French hoping that a restoration of a monarchy would mean the restoration of their own power. But the president kept alive his government during the French intervention. In the end, Juarez had the Emperor Maximilian executed as a warning to all other foreign countries that Mexico would not tolerate foreign invasion again. Despite American and European pleas for clemency on behalf of the hapless emperor, Juarez sought retribution for all his followers who were executed on the orders of Maximilian.

For a long time the Mexican people lived with civil strife, poverty, and violence. Now news circulated around the countryside that English, French and Spanish soldiers occupied the east coast to collect debts and reparations from the government of President Benito Juarez. Though his liberal government won the violent civil strife with the Conservatives and the Church, Juarez found his treasury bankrupt and the people becoming increasingly discontented. Realizing they could not possibly collect anything from a bankrupt treasury right away, the two queens, Isabella II of Spain and Victoria of Great Britain, recalled their troops. But Napoleon III had other plans. The French emperor with a “deadly” scheme to bring all of Latin America under several established monarchies sent his troops towards Mexico City. But the French first had to pass through the city of Puebla which lay before the national capital itself the inhabitants of Puebla prepared to stop them.

Juarez’ followers, also called “Juaristas,” mixed in with some conservatives and proclericals, waited for the first sign of the invaders. It was dawn and the sun barely peeked out over the horizon. All business had come to a halt. Then two young women came running from the direction of the rising sun, “Ay vienen los Franceses,” they cried out! The women had just given General Ignacio Zaragoza the signal to mobilize his troops. They had just given the alarm for the Battle of Puebla on the morning of the 5th of May, 1862.

In his temporary headquarters, an abandoned church rectory, Zaragoza gave orders to his officers. A young Brigadier General Porfirio Diaz and infantry Captain Camacho stood by to receive their orders. “The French general Latrille expects us to welcome him and his troops with open arms and magnolia flowers,” Zaragoza said.

“Then let the French believe that,” Porfirio Diaz said. “Then when they least expect it, we’ll surprise them with such an attack, they will wish they had never left Mother France.”

For weeks when the news of the European occupation spread, the Mexicans prepared for an impending battle. A wall was built around the strongest part of the city. Between the fortified city and the little steep hill called the “Cerro de Guadalupe,” the men dug out a wide deep trench. President Benito Juarez sent his ambassador, the young articulate Matias Romero, to Washington, D.C. to secure a loan from Lincoln’s government. But not wanting to offend France who had always been an important ally to the United States, Lincoln’s cabinet reluctantly refused to aid Juarez and his fledgling government. The United States with the Civil War at hand would not even give Juarez one rusted musket. Matias Romero then made several attempts to smuggle weapons in through California and Texas, but they were always confiscated by Union troops who feared that such a cache of weapons would be intercepted by Southern Confederates.

Now General Zaragoza had to fight with what he had, but his troops were determined to fight in spite of the inferiority of their own weapons. But Puebla was well fortified and protected by both the trenches and the Cerro de Guadalupe. If the city was taken then Mexico City was at hand. A prize for the taking. President Juarez and his government still occupied the Capital.

Zaragoza, with a spy glass, scanned the eastern horizon and saw an approaching dust cloud then the tops of the concentrated rifles and soldiers marching towards the Cerro de Guadalupe. With a signal from his general the bugler sounded the alarm. The first column of men and a few women rushed up to the highest point of the Cerro and lay down on their bellies aiming their muskets towards the intruding troops. Behind the first column another line of marksmen stood ready. The infantry captain watched the horizon intently. Thirty two men and a few women were all he had time to train to shoot in volley formation. The captain gave his last instructions: “Check your targets and make your shots count! Then fire at my command!”

The first column of enemy troops marched over the horizon with their rifles hung on their backs not expecting a battle but a peaceful march into the city. Captain Camacho shouted his command to fire. The first column let out a loud smoking volley of lead that sent French soldiers scrambling for cover against the smoke and dust.

The first column moved back behind the second column which had already taken their position. At the captain’s command another round of fire shot down more surprised French soldiers. From his vantage point General Zaragoza had seen the first assault and was proud of how skillfully Camacho’s men and women fought. He remembered what Juarez had said in a letter to the Juaristas: “They will defend with honor the cause of their autonomy and liberty.” The President was speaking of the...
The Cinco de Mayo Celebration

S. B. LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HONOR 2008 CITIZENS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Thirteen individuals and a youth organization were selected to receive awards at the League of Women Voters 33rd Citizens of Achievement Ceremony in the San Bernardino County Government Center attended by LOWV members, families of honorees and public.

Gloria Anderson, League President and mistress of ceremony, welcomed elected official, administrative officers and the audience. She briefly reviewed the mission of the League of women voters, stating that the women's group had been recognizing citizens of achievement for 33 years in the San Bernardino area.

The following citizens of achievement were recognized in a myriad of professional and community activities: church, education, health, parent, homeless, environmental projects/programs:

- Narciso M. Cardona, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
- San Bernardino City Schools, Brenda Dowdy, program specialist
- San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, Aurora Mendoza, Senior Administrator
- San Bernardino City Library, Danny Tillman, Board of Education
- San Bernardino City Schools, (community activists)
- Mary Cox, Marjory L. Feldman, Margaret R. Foss, Albert Gomez, Glenn Hammann, Joseph Mena, Beverly Powell, Betty K. Villani, and Diane Dragotta Williams.

A special award was awarded to the Inland Congregation United for Change-Youth Organizing Project (YOP). The YOP started with six youth to more than 100 active participants, meeting every two weeks in five high schools and eight churches. YOP has addressed issues affecting youth in schools/neighborhoods, with a focus on violence against youth, social conflict, organizing youth groups, and activating youth vote in the city.

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Filing Deadline: Open until filled.
Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) gathered in a press conference to challenge the U.S. Congress to put politics aside, aim for solutions that go beyond piecemeal and deportation-only policies, and move forward a bipartisan effort to truly fix immigration issues.

Over the last several months, a failure to reach consensus on immigration reform has resulted in characterizing the CHC as the blockade to progress. In reality, for each of the last three consecutive congresses, the CHC has introduced comprehensive immigration reform that is more aggressive in its security and enforcement provisions than any other proposal on the table, provides businesses with the friendliest and most flexible worker program, and creates sustainable solutions for the undocumented already living and working in this country.

As House committees prepare to hold hearings on piecemeal immigration legislation, the CHC emphasized the public that comprehensive immigration legislation already exists — the STRIVE Act, H.R. 1645-75 cosponsors — would more thoroughly address the security and labor concerns at hand.

"We come together to remind our critics of the reality. The CHC has been the leader in promoting realistic comprehensive immigration reform for many Congresses now, and has invited all sides to the table," said Congressman Joe Baca, Chair of the CHC. "We are here to stand up for the people and families already in our country, and for the people and families that the CHC will do everything in its power to integrate, and we will do so as a Congress that is focused on the policies and programs that will truly benefit our country and the American Dream."

Congressman Solomon Ortiz added, "Discussions about border security should be a priority for Congress, but a comprehensive reform package that addresses the realities of the immigration crisis in the U.S. cannot be excluded. Trying to solve our nation's immigration debate piecemeal will only lengthen the issue and get us further from a constructive solution."
S.B. COUNTY ENGLISH LEARNERS AHEAD OF STATE AVERAGES ON CELDT

SAN BERNARDINO - English Learners in San Bernardino County scored better than the state proficiency averages for the second consecutive year on the annual California English Language Development Test (CELDT), released by the California Department of Education.

With 38 percent of English Learners scoring proficient or 31,685 students for 2007-08, San Bernardino County was above the state average of 36 percent. The county proficiency rates were the combined totals of those who scored at advanced (8 percent) or early advanced (30 percent).

“We are pleased that English Learners in San Bernardino exceed the state averages, but there's more work to do so that more of them can achieve and reach the state standards,” County Superintendent Herbert Fischer said.

The county results also saw a 4 percent improvement from 2006-07. Among grade levels from kindergarten to seniors in high school, 12th-graders in the county had the greatest proficiency rates at 55 percent, followed by eighth-graders at 54 percent.

In addition, the percentage of county English Learners who met the State Board of Education’s criterion for English proficiency was 35 percent, which was 2 percent above the state average. It also was a 2 percent increase from 2006-07.

The CELDT is one of four criteria for determining whether or not students should be reclassified to fluent English proficient. Other criteria include performance on the California Standards Test in English language arts, teacher evaluation, and parent opinion and consultation. Each school district establishes its own local reclassification procedures using these four criteria.

While the state saw a 2 percent increase after three years of 1 percent declines of students taking the CELDT, county figures have risen well above the state averages for the past six years. In 2007-08, the number of students in San Bernardino County taking the CELDT rose 6.5 percent after rising 2.6 percent last year.

WHERE THE TAXES GO

BY FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE:

Fully 43% of the 2007 federal income taxes that people turn in this tax season pay for war. That includes 29% for current military spending and 14% for past United States military operations, including veterans programs and the military portion of the national debt. (See spending data from the Friends Committee on National Legislation: http://www.fcnl.org/pdfs/taxDay08.pdf. For definitions and data sources, see http://www.fcnl.org/issues/item.php?item_id=2423&issue_id=18).

After 43 cents of each federal income tax dollar pays for past and present wars, just 57 cents is left for everything else: twenty cents for health care programs, twelve cents for responding to poverty in the United States, three cents for education, job training, and employment programs in the U. S., and one cent for non-military international programs.

Federal spending reflects our nation's values and policy choices. We believe that the federal budget should invest in people - quality health care (including health care for veterans), schools, job training, and housing - not destruction or warfare.

War and occupation in Iraq is costing $720 million a day, just counting the costs to the United States. Let's spend that money on health care, education, and diplomacy. For details on the cost of war, see the American Friends Service Committee web site: http://www.afsc.org/cost/facts-and-figures.htm

Not counted in the above are death and destruction tax dollars to the Dept. of Energy for nuclear weapons research, development, maintenance and upgrades. Also not counted are the “supplemental” (aka outside the budget) funds for invasion and occupation, and the funds for overt and covert action of the CIA, NSA and the eight other govt. depts that feed into the war machine. And don’t forget our war colleges, military “academies”, and university “research” grants.
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If you’re celebrating Cinco de Mayo this year, choose a designated driver or be one yourself. More than 154 million American adults already have.*

Thanks for being responsible.

www.designateddriver.com

*Source: Nielsen Media Research, 2007

CINCO DE MAYO
NEW CHARTER SCHOOL OPENING IN AUGUST 2008

Norton Space & Aeronautics Academy (NSAA)
NSAA will open with K-2 in August 2008.
Informational meeting are scheduled for
May 5 and 6, 2008 at 6 pm.
Meetings will be held at the
Feldhem Library
555 W 6th Street,
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For information call 909-233-9351

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Ernest B. Dowdy - Executive Director

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INLAND EMPIRE HISPANIC NEWS
Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Norton School & Aeronautics Academy (NSAA)
NSAA will open with K-2 in August 2008.
Informational meeting are scheduled for
May 5 and 6, 2008 at 6 pm.
Meetings will be held at the
Feldhem Library
555 W 6th Street,
San Bernardino, CA
For information call 909-233-9351

NEW COUNTY RECRUITMENTS THIS WEEK:

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