Enrollment Drives Need for New Schools in San Bernardino City Unified District

United Farm Workers Walk/March Honoring Cesar Chavez

San Bernardino/Highland - Overcrowding in San Bernardino schools has reached new levels and forced the school board and community to take action. On April 27th, residents in the San Bernardino City Unified School District will vote on Measure A - a $50 million school bond designed to allocate funds for school construction and renovation throughout the district.

What the measure may NOT do is fund teacher salaries or pay for educational programs in the district. School bonds like Measure A are strictly designated for school construction and renovation projects, nothing else. If Measure A passes, the district will be eligible to secure state money to build two new elementary schools and perform renovations at 20 schools sites. If the bond does not pass the district will not receive state funds for these projects.

The other projects that will be funded by the bond include a new comprehensive high school, multi-purpose rooms at all the elementary schools that do not have them, a new library and 11 classrooms at Del Vallejo Middle School.

Why did the school board unanimously vote to put Measure A on the ballot? According to School Board President Dr. Marlin Brown, the changes in state funding, increasing student enrollment and too many portable classrooms were the three biggest concerns driving the decision.

"The district is growing by approximately 1,000 students per year," Dr. Brown said. "We're already housing students in 350 portable classrooms and all but three elementary schools are on a year round schedule, increasing student enrollment and too many portable classrooms were the three biggest concerns driving the decision.

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Continued on back page
EDITORIAL:

Vote YES on Measure A

Citizens Should Support Measure A School Bond To Upgrade Existing Schools and Build New High and Elementary Schools.

On April 27, citizens in the Cities of San Bernardino and Highland will be voting on a single issue: whether to approve Measure A, a $50 million school bond. The measure was proposed for renovation projects in 26 elementary schools, 7 middle schools, and 3 high schools. The measure will also finance new elementary schools and one high school.

The renovations include upgrading school buildings, classrooms, and replacing plumbing and ventilation systems, electrical systems, and internal fixtures such as fire alarms, flooring, cabinets, classroom furniture, etc., and provide new multiuse rooms for 14 schools.

The formula established by law allows for $20 for each student. The formula also allows for an additional $10 for each student in the school district, but state legislation has capped the amount at $20. The state also will match the bond vote 20 to state 80.

The measure that increased student enrollment would have on the future educational programs and wisely decided to submit the bond to its citizens.

Inasmuch as quality education has received a high priority at the national and state level, quality education at the local level is equally mandated for students in order that they be prepared to meet the challenges of the new millennium.

Voters and parents must also decide whether quality education is also a priority for their children.

The bond fund on Measure A is based on assessed value of property (not market value). A median assessed value of a home in the School District averages $22 per year over a 25-year life of the bond. A two-thirds vote is required for passage.

Interesting to note, the last local school bond passed was in 1967 when the student population was 35,960.

The Inland Empire Hispanic News strongly supports Measure A and urges the voters and parents to vote for adequate schools and quality education.

Vote yes on Measure A.

Editorial:

New High School on Westside Due to Be Named For An Hispanic Role Model

The San Bernardino School District has started the construction of a new high school to be located in the Westside of San Bernardino to be completed approximately in September, 2001.

The student population is anticipated to be 2,477 in grades 9 to 12.

School districts throughout the United States generally have named elementary to high schools for individuals who have achieved success, acquired fame in varied professions or overcome tremendous challenges, for example: presidents, generals, educators, inventors, civil rights leaders, etc.

This commendable practice gives the public, school districts, and most important, the enrolled students, a "sense of belonging and good feeling" relationship and pride as result of school namesakes.

The San Bernardino School District, specifically, the Board of Education, has a distinct opportunity to recognize the demographics of the major "minority" group residing in the West End area, and for that matter, throughout the school district (and throughout the state).

Simultaneously, the Board of Education would be in a position of recognizing an outstanding role model that many students would honor, enhancing their motivational drive toward higher educational achievements.

One outstanding role model is the late Cesar Chavez, known worldwide for his lifelong dedication to the betterment of the lives of defenseless farm workers who toiled in unhealthy pesticide-ridden working conditions. A disciple of Mahatma Ghandi and admirer of Dr. Martin Luther King, Chavez approached his adversaries in a nonviolent, persistent manner. He literally died as a result of fasting and continual struggle to improve the lives of the farmworker.

Heila, a resident of San Bernardino, a resident of San Bernardino, who was, according to observers, relatively successful in the achievement of his goal in the latter part of his life.

The Board of Education has wisely named schools for outstanding and famous persons: Anderson, Barton, Carmack, Ingham, Lincoln, Oehl, Roberts, Dr. Ernest Garcia (Rialto), Curtis, Dr. Martin Luther King (named from Franklin Junior High School), etc.

In reviewing high schools throughout the County of San Bernardino, the following names are identified: High, High Eisenhower High, Chaffey High, Barstow High, Ruben Ayala High, Don Antonio Lugo, A. B. Miller High, are listed in reference for distinguished names at the high school level.

The Board of Education is in an enviable position, and has a once in a lifetime opportunity, to exercise leadership and authority in directly authorizing the naming of an Hispanic role model to the high school currently under construction. This action would, in effect, reflect an American practice of recognizing historical heroes.

Additionally, the Board would recognize a segment of our population, presently at approximately 40% that has significantly contributed to the socioeconomic wellbeing of our city and importantly, stimulate the student population (at 52% of student population), to higher educational achievements.

The Board would not violate a pre-scribed process or precedent, inasmuch as new or renovated schools have previously been directly named or renamed.

The impact of this positive action by the Board would, without a doubt, continue to augment a sense of pride in the district's school system, and enhance the current involvement of parents in the education of their children.
SAN BERNARDINO—What's best for San Bernardino County's 360,000 public school students? County Superintendent Herbert Fischer, in charting a course for improving student performance and academic achievement, made that question the cornerstone of his report to the public.

Fischer spoke to an audience of over 200 individuals at the Feldheym Library who came to hear the educational leader report on the state of education on his 100th day in office. "I am here today as promised," said Fischer. "With a report of what I found and the road I think we should travel together in the future." Fischer made the commitment at his swearing in ceremony last January to report back to the public 100 days after taking the oath of office, his goals for San Bernardino County's public schools.

"If we make our top priority what's best for students, we can prepare all of our children to be successful adults in the 21st century," stated Fischer, as he began with the theme he carried throughout his remarks.

After having spent hours visiting classrooms, inspecting programs operated by the County Schools office, and talking with board members, district superintendents, teachers and community leaders countywide, Fischer has put together a plan which focuses on improving student performance and providing opportunities for academic excellence for all students. Fischer outlined goals in three areas: County Schools office administrative support services to districts, County Schools operational classrooms for alternative and special education students and support services provided by the County Schools office to students in district classrooms.

In review of County Schools support services to districts, one area Fischer felt the system and staffing needed to be improved was in regards to the budget oversight and fiscal services provided by his office. "Although it is not as visible as some of our other services, it is extremely critical. If a district is not solvent, it cannot educate its children." One of his first actions as county superintendent was to hire an assistant superintendent of business with extensive district level experience to help provide this fiscal support to districts. "This was essential in order to provide district boards and managers with the complex data they require to establish balanced budgets and adequate reserves."

To those students served in County Schools operated classrooms, the county superintendent pledged adequate learning environments, the same opportunities for instructional support provided to district programs and investment of generated lottery funds back into their classrooms. "I have spent many hours visiting the students and teachers in our classrooms. I have found children with a profound potential and teachers with a deep commitment. I propose we help them by providing them the educational facilities they deserve and the educational programs to make their dreams come true," he stated.

Fischer then focused his plan on the five areas he sees critical to improving student achievement for all students: improved reading and math skills; college and workforce preparation; safe learning and working environments; improved standardized test results; and the end of social promotion. "The simple truth is, the public is demanding we improve student performance in our county. I will apply my plan for success to all of our classrooms, district and county."

Women of Hope, African-Americans and Latinas

"Women of Hope: African Americans and Latinas Who Made a Difference" is now showing in the Fisk Gallery of the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands. The exhibit, free with Museum admission, runs through May 15.

The exhibition features 24 posters commissioned by 1199's Bread and Roses Cultural Project in New York City to showcase African-American and Latina women who have had a profound impact on American life. Each poster is designed to provide unique insight into women who have played major roles in bringing about social and political change in government and law, in literature, the arts, and in medicine and science.

The women featured in the African-American series include Nelly Angelou, poet, playwright, and professor; Ella Baker, civil rights organizer; Alexia Canady, neurosurgeon; Septima Clark, teacher; Ruby Dee, author and actress; The Delany Sisters; Marian Wright Edelman, President, Children's Defense Fund; Fannie Lou Hamer, Mississippi freedom fighter; Mae C. Jamison, astronaut and physician; Toni Morrison, author; Alice Walker, author, and Jada B. Wells-Barnett, editor and anthologizing crusader.

The women featured in the Latina posters are: Julia Alvarez, novelist and poet; Sandra Cisneros, novelist and poet; Marian Colon, actress and founder of the Puerto Rican Traveling Theater; Ana Sol Gutierrez, aeronautical engineer and school board member; Antonio Hernandez, civil rights lawyer, former Mexican American Legal Defense Fund; Dolores Huerta, cofounder and vice president United Farm Workers Union; Tania Leon, conductor and composer in residence, the New York Philharmonic; Amelia Mesa-Bains, installation artist; Adriana Ocampo, planetary geologist, NASA; Dr. Antonia Pantoja, educator and founder of ASPIRA and Boricua College; Dr. Helen Rodriguez-Trias, physician and women's health advocate; Nydia Velazquez, first Puerto Rican Congresswoman.

The San Bernardino County Museum is at the California Street exit from Interstate 10 in Redlands. The Museum is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. During the special exhibit, "Dinos to Rhinos, Life Through Time," admission is $6 (adult), $5 (senior or student) and $4 (child 5-12). Children under 5 and Museum members are admitted free. Parking is free, and the facility is handicap-accessible. For more information, call the Museum at (909) 307-2669 or, toll-free, 1-888-BIRD-EGG.
Inland Empire Hispanic News

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Board of Supervisors Appoints Randolph as New CAO

The Board of Supervisors appointed Fresno County Administrative Officer (CAO) Will Randolph to assume the same top staff position in San Bernardino County.

Randolph, will oversee the County’s $1.8 billion annual budget. Randolph will replace James Hlawek who resigned from the post last August.

Randolph, 54, has successfully led local government through very difficult years of major fiscal and program challenges. He served as CAO in Fresno since 1992. Prior to that, he was Butte County’s CAO from 1989-92, including the period when rural Butte, hit hard by funding cuts and the recession, very nearly went bankrupt. In his early career, Randolph held the position of city administrator in Oroville. Throughout his public service career, Randolph has earned a statewide reputation as a soft spoken, hard working, leader of outstanding integrity.

“We couldn’t be more pleased,” said Supervisor Jon Mikels, Chair of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisor. “When we set out on a nationwide search for a new County Administrative Officer, we were in agreement about our priorities. We needed a proven leader with a track record for hard work, fiscal prudence and integrity. Will Randolph has a reputation for those very qualities and for using them to get results in the counties he has served.”

“He also brings a breadth of experience with many of the specific issues we face in San Bernardino County and has lead counties that are home to both rural and urban communities. That’s important to us and even more important to our residents.

Among his achievements, Randolph says he is especially proud of two major efforts. One was the restructuring of health services in Fresno to ensure that the fiscally strapped county could continue to provide quality care for the poor. And, he is proud of his track record for promoting professionalism within the Fresno County organization as it grew from a farming community to a major city and county of more than 800,000 people. In Fresno, he also confronted many of the challenges that often face rapidly growing counties that include a vast geographic area: locating and opening juvenile facilities, providing services to a widely-scattered jurisdiction and successfully developing an innovative general plan that used approved economic development goals and tenets to help drive planned growth guidelines.

Randolph is very active in statewide and national efforts to promote the needs of county government and the services it provides the public. He serves on several committees with other county administrators and the California State Association of counties to find long term solutions to the challenges facing county services.

Randolph earned his Bachelors Degree at the University of California, Berkeley, and his Masters in Public Administration from California State University, Chico. Earlier in his career, he was director of a state grant program, managing director of the Northern California Institute of Local government, and district and legislative director for the Second Congressional District in Northern California.

Randolph will earn $155,000 a year in his new post. He is expected to assume the position on April 12, 1999.

National Crime Victims’ Rights Week

When a crime occurs in our community, it’s an individual person who is most directly affected - a mother or father, somebody’s child, a neighbor or beloved friend. But our entire community feels the devastating impact of any criminal act, as evidenced by our feelings of increased vulnerability and fear for our personal safety. Nearly 37 million people in America are touched by criminal victimizations annually, with over nine million falling prey to violence. Yes, crime is down, but the countless needs of crime victims have never been greater... counseling, compensation, information, input, restitution and protection, to name just a few.

April 25th to May 1 is National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, a time to recognize that victims’ rights are right for America, and right for San Bernardino County. Please join the San Bernardino County District Attorney’s Office, crime victims and those who serve them in our community at the 4th Annual Victim’s Candlelight Remembrance on Monday, April 26th at Court Street Plaza in San Bernardino. For more information, please contact (909) 387-6540. Your commitment to victims’ rights is a commitment to improved safety for us all.

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Latino ImPACt says:

Yes
On Measure A
Support our schools!
Support our children!
Vote Yes
On April 27, 1999

"Yes" by the James Hlawek campaign.

Anheuser-Busch Sales Company
San Bernardino • Riverside

Latino ImPACt says:

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"Yes" by the James Hlawek campaign.
Agreement is Approved Releasing $15,000,000 Neighborhood Initiative Grant

At a press conference, Congressman Jerry Lewis, Third District County Supervisor Dennis Hansberger, and Fifth District County Supervisor Jerry Eaves announced the approval of an agreement with the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) releasing $15,000,000 in Neighborhood Initiative Program funds for use in revitalizing neighborhoods in the cities of Highland, Redlands and San Bernardino, and intervening County unincorporated areas.

The grant funds were secured by Congressman Lewis through H.R. 2158 - HUD's 1998 Appropriations Bill.

The loss of two military bases and defense related industries combined with a national recession caused thousands of homes to be foreclosed upon. These vacant dilapidated properties negatively impacted neighborhoods.

Congressman Lewis and local officials held a series of public meetings on housing conditions and receiving citizens input on how to assist them in revitalizing their communities. Armed with this information, Congressman Lewis introduced legislation that established a $25,000,000 Neighborhood Initiative Program with $15,000,000 of that amount awarded to the County of San Bernardino to carry out intensive neighborhood revitalization activities.

"Today's agreement with HUD ensures that this area has access to millions of dollars on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis to intensify the revitalization process that began in earnest over the last couple of years," Congressman Lewis remarked. "And we will have the first program in the nation to take advantage of up to 50% discounts on over 150 FHA owned units, which we will rehabilitate and resell to turn these neighborhoods around."

As a result of intensive negotiations, the rules, regulations and reporting requirements that govern the $15,000,000 Neighborhood Initiative Program have been agreed to and thus allowing the County to be the very first in the nation to implement a revitalization program using Neighborhood Initiative funds. A final agreement with HUD/FHA on a new disposition program of HUD/FHA owned properties will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in April with an anticipated start date of May 1, 1999. The County will also be the first in the nation to implement the new program for disposal of FHA/HUD owned properties.

For the first time since we seriously started taking on the blight problems we have control over the houses that have been a major cause of the visual and structural blight found in the east valley area of the County," stated Third District Supervisor Dennis Hansberger, "and now that the funding is in place we can truly join with community groups and the three cities' officials and make an impact in the affected neighborhoods."

Now that the funds are released the County and officials from the three cities of Highland, Redlands and San Bernardino will complete the detailed work plans for the neighborhood revitalization efforts that will include comprehensive improvement programs addressing the housing and community development needs on a block by block basis. This approach responds to comments made by residents participating in the meetings requesting that sufficient resources have to be available to do total neighborhood revitalization.

"What we have here is an opportunity to combine all of our tools that communities use to benefit distressed neighborhoods such as intensive code enforcement, public services, housing rehabilitation and beautification programs, and home purchasing assistance and take back our neighborhoods," said Fifth District Supervisor Jerry Eaves, "and this time our focus is increasing the percentage of homeowners in those neighborhoods which is the foundation for successful revitalization efforts."

The mission of this program is to stop deterioration, rekindle, investment and improve the conditions of our neighborhood by addressing all the blighting influences in the targeted area through the use of all existing programs and resources available to achieve measurable long-term impacts.

Tom Laurin, Director ECD

Gents Organization Installs Officers

The Gents Organization held its 16th Annual Installation of Officers Dinner/Dance at their Community Center in March. Newly installed officers (l to r) are President, Joe Rodriguez; Director, Pete Ramos; Vice-President, Frank Rodriguez; Treasurer, Steven Martinez; Secretary, David Martinez; Director, Luis Bravo Jr; Scholarship, Chair Sal Flores; Correspondent Secretary, Anthony Diaz; and Sergeant at Arms, Luis Bravo; Sr. The Gents Organization, a former group with roots in the Westside of San Bernardino, were organized as a community-based organization in 1961 and have established a community center for youth and civic activities. The Gents have an enviable reputation for helping youth, the homeless, and granting annual scholarships.

Cecilia Carrasco Memorial Scholarship FUNDRAISER

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For Information Regarding the Jobs and Employment Services Department, Call 1-800-461-JOBS

The San Bernardino County Jobs and Employment Services Department is located through the entire county.

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Inland Empire Hispanic News

Wednesday, April 14, 1999
Services for Families and Children, Inc., which is based in Pomona, serves more than 10,000 people through private, confidential counseling. The organization has a strong presence in the Inland Empire, with offices in San Bernardino, Rialto, and Colton.

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COST), PLUS YOU STILL HAVE THAT $200 HARD EARNED CASH IN YOUR POCKET. Now

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United Farm Workers Walk/March Honoring Cesar Chavez
See Photo on Page 1

Los Angeles - Senator Richard G. Polanco, Chair of the Legislature's 20 member Latino Legislative Caucus today urged Latinos to participate in the April 17 march honoring Cesar Chavez and raising funds for the United Farm Workers.

The march will begin at the corner of Cesar Chavez Avenue and Soto Street in Boyle Heights. Registration for the march begins at 8:30 AM and a rally will be held at 10:30 AM followed by the march at 11:30. For more detailed information concerning the event call the UFW at (213) 381-5611, ext. 17.

"This is an opportunity for everyone to honor the memory and legacy of Cesar Chavez by supporting the organizing of the United Farm Workers," said Polanco in Los Angeles.

Soto Given "Children in California" Committee Chairmanship

In recognition of Nell Soto's expressed interest in making Children, Children the first three priorities as a legislator, Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa has named Soto as Chairman of the Assembly Select Committee on California's Children. This assignment will give Soto the opportunity to deal with issues ranging from social services, health care, and truancy.

"I am delighted and thrilled at this opportunity," said Soto. I campaigned on the premise that our biggest challenge on California will only be solved when given our youngest citizens the quality education, health care, and employment skills that we were given as youths. If I can play just a small part in making this happen, I will be very pleased with my tenure in the Assembly" added Soto.

The committee's first meeting is scheduled for early spring.

EXCHANGE PROGRAM APPOINTS LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE

Rita Arias of Highland has been appointed Community Coordinator for this region by PAX - Program of Academic Exchange. Headquartered in Greenwich, Connecticut, PAX is a nonprofit educational organization which invites international high school students to the United States for an academic homestay.

Ms. Arias was selected to represent PAX due to a demonstrated enthusiasm, interest in foreign cultures, and desire to become more active in the community.

Ms. Arias is currently interviewing families in this area interested in sharing their lives with a young person desiring to become more active in the PAX due to a demonstrated enthusiasm as an organization called "We Support San Bernardino Schools" to work toward warding the bond. Shelby Obershaw, former School Board President and Campaign chair, is hopeful that the bond will pas because the district's need is so great and the impact on local taxpayers is low.

"Overcrowding at our schools is a serious issue, Mrs. Obershaw explained, "and, the costs associated with Measure A are low. The average home owner in San Bernardino will only pay $25 per year, that's not a lot to ask for adequate facilities to educate our children and reduce overcrowding."

Local school bonds like Measure A are paid off through property taxes on the assessed value of the property, not its market value. For example, the owner of a median assessed value home in the San Bernardino Unified School District will pay an average of $25 per year over the 25 year life of the bond funding program. The tax amount fluctuates from year to year, depending upon the sale of the bonds.

To request additional information contact Mrs. Shelby Obershaw, "We Support San Bernardino Schools" at (909) 381-4905.

Reception for Ray Quinto

Friends of Ray Quinto to host a reception honoring Mr. Quinto at the Calimesa Country Club in Calimesa, California on Thursday, April 15, 1999 beginning at 6:00 pm. For reservations and information, please call 760/365-7216 or 909/795-4428. State Senator Joe Baca, 32nd Senatorial District, will be the guest of honor. Gary George, Redlands Councilman, will be the Master of Ceremonies.

Friends of Ray Quinto request a contribution of $35.00 or more per person. Proceeds will be used to further the candidacy of Quinto for the California State Assembly, 65th District.

Enrollment Drives Need for New Schools

Continued from page 1

overcrowding issues on our hands." According to a demographic study conducted by Davis Demographics, in five years there will be an estimated 53,000 students needing to be housed by the school district. The actual enrollment as of February 1999 is 47,976 students. New state law requiring school districts to contribute half of the costs of new school construction went into effect in August 1998 with the passage of Senate Bill 50. In addition to the state's changes in how to qualify for new construction funds, local school districts are now also required to provide a portion of the funds necessary for renovations of school facilities, like air conditioning, plumbing, lighting and electrical systems.

Funds from Measure A secure the necessary local funds to qualify for state money through both the New Construction Program and the Modernization Program as it is outlined by the new laws. The district's successful effort to be one of the first in line for state money (made available from the recent November 1998 state school bond election), secured them the matching funds to build the new high school. The bond will pay off the loan the district used to secure those funds, saving taxpayers over $1 million in interest charges.

In recent years, the school district received state funding for all needed school construction and renovation. The last time the district needed to put a local bond measure on the ballot was over 30 years ago. The community passed the bond with more than 50% support. According to current law under Proposition 13, two-thirds of the voters must support Measure A on April 27 for the bond to be approved - much more difficult task than 30 years ago.

A group of private citizens formed an organization called "We Support San Bernardino Schools" to work to

Cinco de Mayo Special Edition

The Inland Empire Hispanic News is requesting government agencies, community-based organizations, cultural groups and educational districts to submit news releases and announcements on the forthcoming Cinco de Mayo events no later than April 23, 1999, either by mail or fax.

Address is: 1558 N. Waterman Ave., Ste. D, San Bernardino, CA, 92404 or fax: (909) 384-0419. Publication of events will be on April 28, 1999. For further information call IEHN at (909) 381-6259.