September 29th 1999

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Romelio Ruiz, 60, Moreno Valley community activist, dies of heart attack in Mexico

Ruiz was recognized in the Moreno Valley region for his civil rights activism working for farm workers rights primarily in the Hispanic community. Luz Maria Ayala, director of the Hermandad Nacional Mexicana, stated that Mr. Ruiz worked for the disenfranchised for over 30 years. "The death of Romelio is a tremendous loss to the Hispanic community and a personal loss of a dear friend," she said.

As a result of his participation in helping Hispanic students to stay in school and intervention when they (the students) were in trouble, Ruiz organized and became president of the Hispanos Unidos, a community and parent group that advocated quality education for all students in the school district.

As president of the HU, Ruiz was actively involved with the school district and became president of the Moreno Valley School District's Bilingual Advisory Board. He became the liaison between the community and school officials.

Through his leadership, clothing was collected for distribution to poor families in Tijuana, which became a traditional project of the community. He was also instrumental in the school district and parent group that advocated quality education for all students in the school district.

Continued on page 4

Romelio Ruiz, civil rights activist and president of the Hispanos Unidos in Moreno Valley, died of a heart attack in San Juan De Los Lagos, Mexico.

The community of Moreno Valley was devastated when word was received from San Juan De Los Lagos, Mexico, that Romelio Ruiz, 60, community activist and leader, had succumbed from a heart attack on Wednesday, September 22, 1999.

Baca will be Democratic candidate in November

In a suspenseful election evening on September 21, State Senator Joe Baca narrowly won the Democratic nomination against Maica Macias Brown to succeed Congressman George Brown in the 42nd Congressional District. Brown, widow of the late congressman, was within 11 votes behind Baca, and throughout the evening the returns seesawed between the two candidates. When all the precinct were in, Baca was 488 votes ahead.

The election night vote count was 11,689 for Baca, 11,201 for Brown and 10,526 for Pirozzi, with Eshleman receiving 1,629. The Registrar of Voters office announced that 1,750 votes consisting of write-ins or absentees either voted or turned in at the polls were still outstanding and the final official count would be announced on Friday, September 24.

The official count, including outstanding votes, was 12,089 for Baca, 31.5%, Macias Brown 11,571, 30.2%, Pirozzi 10,526, 27.5% and 1,676 for Eshleman 4.3%.

Brown conceded defeat on Friday with a statement commending the committed citizens who came together to fight for a tradition of service, excellence and caring. She also stated that she sees Democratic forces unifying to hold the seat and "support that effort."

In a final statement, Baca said that now it's a matter of coming together and staying at the polls that effort."

Continued on page 6

Casa Blanca Elementary School Reunion Planned at Villegas Community Center

The Casa Blanca Elementary School Reunion Committee is currently seeking former students that attended the school from 1924 to 1967.

Ed Martinez and Rudy Chavez, co-chairs, have been researching school files, attendance records and (old) photos of students and talking to neighbors and relatives of students. "Our research tells us that many of those students are scattered all over the state, country and even in foreign countries," stated Chavez.

The reunion event will be held at the Villegas Community Center, 7398 Peters Street, Riverside (Casa Blanca) on November 14, 1999. The co-chairs stated many reservations have been made and tickets are available.

Martin Valdez honored by League of Women Voters with Citizen of Achievement Award

Martin Valdez, Assistant to the County Superintendent of Schools, San Bernardino County, has received the League of Women Voters' Citizen of Achievement Award at the San Bernardino County Administration Building.

Valdez was recognized for his many years of involvement in community and youth organizations, and his participation with youth safety in the schools. Valdez is a candidate for the San Bernardino School District Board of Trustees.
A Message from Dr. Arturo Delgado
Superintendent of San Bernardino City Schools

It's a great day in San Bernardino! I've been superintendent since August and this is my first address to the entire San Bernardino community. Reaching out to the community is very important to me, and you can expect to see me out and about a lot. I want to get to know you; I want you to get to know me. I truly believe that communication with the community should start at the top, with the Superintendent.

I want our community to be aware of the many fine programs we have going on in our schools. Our District should never be known as "the best kept secret in town". If the high quality of the San Bernardino City Schools is a secret to most of you and your neighbors, then I want to find ways to let you know more about what's going on inside our school doors.

I pledge to work with our entire community and not just a few chosen segments of our community. The schools serve everyone, and we ought to be listening and working with everyone.

For those that may not know, I have been Assistant Superintendent in the district for the past two years, in charge of human resources. I was deeply involved in seeing that our students have the best possible teachers because they deserve the best. We hired 400 new teachers last year, and I am proud to say they all met the very high standards we set. I am very, very excited to be the new Superintendent of San Bernardino City Unified District. This is a good district with a lot to offer students. We have many excellent employees and some exceptional programs. But even a good district can be enhanced, and together with the community, staff and Board of Education, we will be improving on what is already being done.

I've done quite a bit of thinking over the past few days, and there are several areas I plan to begin working on immediately.

Reducing the dropout rate is certainly a priority. During the 1995-96 school year our dropout rate was 8.1 percent, the following year 1996-97, 9.0 percent. But programs put into place to encourage students to stay in school, began showing some effect in 1997-98, and the dropout rate went down to 7.1 percent. I'm happy with the decrease, but this is still unacceptable.

My staff and I, working with administrators and teachers, must bring the rate down even further and as quickly as possible. To succeed in today's technological society, our young people must first graduate from high school. We know there is a strong correlation between lack of education and crime, and we want better than that for our students. We must keep students in school.

My next area of concern, the college going rate, goes hand in hand with keeping students in school. While we think it is important to prepare our students for good jobs after they graduate from high school, we are also concerned that they be open to getting more education. Whether they go to San Bernardino Valley College, Cal-State, San Bernardino, University of California, or a technical school, it is our job to get them a solid foundation to be able to succeed. Currently about 64.5 percent of our high school graduates are going on to higher education. This number has risen over the past few years, and I'm happy to see that. I am not satisfied, however! The number needs to be much higher. The future is going to belong to the students who have met the academic challenges of colleges, universities, and other specialized training schools, and have succeeded.

Right now, we have in place a number of alternative programs for students who may need a less structured educational program. Again, working with staff, I am planning to continue and even increase these offerings. I want all of our students to find a place where they can make progress and be successful.

While I am very proud that the test scores for most of our schools are keeping pace with school districts across California, I am deeply concerned that we have schools whose scores place them close to the bottom in the state. ALL of our schools must do better than this. San Bernardino may be a large urban district with students whose families are struggling financially or face language barriers, but this is no excuse for lowering our expectations. Our students are as capable and bright as any youngsters in California, and we will find ways to help them improve and raise their test scores. We are fortunate to have the kind of teaching and administrative staff that can handle tough challenges - and this is a tough challenge, but I have every confidence that we are going to face these challenges squarely and overcome them.

Cultural diversity is a major concern and is an issue I intend to look at long and hard. We are located in one of the most culturally diverse areas in California, not only in terms of community but in our student population as well. Seventy-seven point three percent of students in our district are minorities; they speak more than 40 different languages. In everything we do, we have to take these factors into account: in our hiring, recruiting, training, and in planning for the future.

I am aware that there is much concern in the community about the need for a diversified staff particularly in the management and teaching positions. We're compiling statistics for teachers, but I can tell you where we are with management hiring. Since my arrival to the San Bernardino City Unified School District, we have made concerted effort to recruit and hire a management and teaching team that more closely reflects our community. Fifty percent of our management team and 33% of the teaching staff we have hired in the last two years are minorities. We're not where we want to be yet, but we are working on it.

Just this past Spring, we established a cultural diversity committee. The committee will look at the perceptions and effects of cultural diversity within the district. Surveys will be used to gather baseline data to help us chart a course of action. Among the things the committee will look at are current policy, staff development and curriculum needs, and student achievement. We need to know if there is a correlation between achievement and cultural differences, between achievement and staff diversity. If there is a correlation, what are we doing about it? How can we effect change? If we sincerely want our children to learn and be the best that they can be and we do, then we need to take a look at anything and everything that might affect their achievement.

The committee will recommend goals and guidelines and will develop a plan of action to deal with cultural diversity.

Continued on page 6
Nydia Rojas

At a mere 19 years of age, Nydia Rojas is accomplished well beyond her years. On her Hollywood Records debut, Si Me Conocieras, the musical prodigy reveals her maturity by bringing a contemporary flair to mariachi without compromising the music's beloved heritage.

Born in Southern California and raised in Guadalajara, Mexico, Rojas quickly developed an affinity for the musical styles indigenous to the land that nurtured her formative years. When she was only ten, Rojas decided that she wanted to pursue music professionally; and at the age of eleven, she had her first paying job as a mariachi musician singing in a local Southern California restaurant. By the time she was 16, Nydia Rojas was playing to sold out arenas and crowds of over 18,000 fans.

Recorded in Mexico City and brimming with Mexico's finest mariachi musicians, Si Me Conocieras was helmed by producer Carlos Cabral "Jr.," acclaimed for his work with Ana Gabriel, Ana Barbara, Marco Antonio Solis and Los Temerarios, among others. For Si Me Conocieras, Cabral drew from the talents of the field's top arrangers, including Rigoberto Alfaro (Alejandro Fernandez, Vicente Fernandez), Javier Carrillo (Pepe Aguilar) and Manuel Cazares (Juan Gabriel), the arranger behind the album's first single, "No Se Mas De Mi."

What gives Si Me Conocieras its truly distinctive thumb print, however, is Nydia Rojas herself, who, for the first time, took much more active and assertive role in the recording of this, her third major label release. As she describes it: "I was much more vocal in offering my input. The first two albums people told me, 'Okay, we've got the arrangements. You're going to go into the studio and sing them.' I was 15 and 16, and was very timid and intimidated. The albums turned out really good, but for this one I said, 'All right, not it's my turn. This is my chance to show everybody my ideas.'"

Rojas further inscribed her own mark on Si Me Conocieras by penning two original songs - the title track "Si Me Conocieras" and "Nuestra Fiesta," which was written as the theme song for Fiesta Broadway, the nation's largest Cinco de Mayo celebration held annually in Los Angeles.

The combination of mariachi's master minds and Rojas' distinctive voice and style results in a record as rich as it is lustrous, but with a few twists - the flamenco flavoring of "Te Volvere A Encontrar," featuring accompaniment by Gipsyland; the rock edge of "Luna Blanca," with guitar and vocal help from Miles Zuniga of the pop sensation Fastball; and the surprisingly sweet Nat King Cole cover "Smile." It should come as no surprise, though, that Rojas is capable of creating such beauty. For even at nineteen, she has spent almost her entire life making music.

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BASKING RIDGE, NJ - Thanks to a $100,000 donation from the AT&T Foundation, the ASPIRA Association looks forward to an expansion of its Math and Science Academy program. The first national organization of its kind, ASPIRA is dedicated to encouraging and promoting education and leadership development among Hispanic youth.

Funds will be used to implement program curriculum activities, further Web site development, and help increase awareness, knowledge and motivation of Hispanic youth in mathematics, science and technology. The program will also provide academic support, counseling and promote parental involvement.

Pictured: (fourth from right) Roberto Cruz, AT&T Corporate Affairs Director, presents the $100,000 AT&T grant to young members of ASPIRA.

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CITY OF RIVERSIDE
PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE
Romelio Ruiz Dies in Mexico - From P. 1

Inland Empire Hispanic News

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Romelio Ruiz Dies in Mexico - From P. 1

As president of the Hispanos Unidos, the group raised scholarships for students and organized citizenship classes for adults. The student activity resulted in Moreno Valley becoming sister city to San Juan De Los Lagos, Mexico, through the efforts of Ruiz, the town where he was born. He became the liaison for the sister city program.

Ruiz was in San Juan De Los Lagos, relating to sister city business, mainly, the project of the temporary visit of the Virgin de San Juan De Los Lagos in Moreno Valley, when he was stricken with a heart attack.

The visit of the Virgin is scheduled for October 15th through the 18th at Saint Christopher Church, Moreno Valley.

A memorial Mass is scheduled at Saint Christopher Church on Saturday, October 2.

Ruiz is survived by his wife, Isaura, children Natalie, Irais, Jairo, Vet, Marta, Alma and Romelio, Jr.

In a telephone interview with the IEHN, his widow stated that the family will continue to practice the ideals of her late husband.

“His goal in life and this is the goal of our family.”

Amado (Doc) and Rosie Arellano receive the League of Women Voters Citizens of Achievement Award

Amado (Doc) and Rosie Arellano, recently received the League of Women Voters’ Citizens of Achievement Award for their contribution to St. Anthony’s Catholic Church. Their activities with the church and parochial school for the past 15 years has included fund-raising projects, bingo operations, collect and distribute food baskets on Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Arellanos are also very active with the Knights of Columbus-Dei Rosa Council, helping the members in need and participating in the various fund-raising and charitable projects.

Mary Zaneski, (fourth from left) Director-External Affairs for Pacific Bell, poses with the board of directors of the Inland Empire Hispanic Education and Scholarship Foundation after presenting a check for $9,000 for the newly-formed education group. Pictured (l to r) are Martin Vaidez, Ofelia Valdez-Yeager, Graciano Gomez, Zaneski, Joe Rodriguez, Linda Boswell and Ralph Hernandez. The check was presented at the Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino meeting held at Mitla’s Cafe, San Bernardino.

The IEHESF is targeted toward students planning to attend a college or university or currently in an educational institution setting.

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Record New Student Enrollment

When the University of Redlands begins the academic year Tuesday, a record number of new students will be attending classes. For the fourth straight year, new student enrollment has set a record with 600 new students - 478 freshmen and 122 transfers at last official count. Last fall, the university enrolled 532 new students.

The number of new Hispanic students nearly doubled this fall - from 44 to 73, making up 12 percent of the new enrollment. Total enrollment for the College of Arts & Sciences is estimated at about 1,700, bringing the university closer to the list of schools to take a look at, they weren't five years ago." The university, which ranks in the Top 5 Western Regional Universities according to U.S. News and World Report, has focused its recruitment efforts on California and added two more admission counselors.

Driscoll said the overwhelming growth in Hispanic students is reflective of the demographic changes in the state and increased interest from within the Inland Empire. Thirty percent - or 123 - of the 410 new students from California come from the Inland Empire.

"We're very proud of this enrollment increase," said John Lujan, assistant to the president for diversity programs. "It's the sign of the times. As we turn the corner on the century and the state has become as diverse, we want to reflect the communities that we serve. We want to see the same success with other groups."

Minorities make up 27 percent of the new students, with Latinos at 12 percent, Asians at 7 percent, African-Americans at 4 percent, Native Americans at 1 percent and multi ethnic at 3 percent.

Fair Housing Workshop, Thursday, October 7 at Kellogg Room, Norman Feldheim Library

You are invited to attend these informative fair housing workshops for tenants, rental owners and managers, home owners and Realtors to learn about your Fair Housing rights and responsibilities. These workshops will be held on Thursday, October 7, 1999 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the San Bernardino Norman Feldheim Library - Kellogg Room A, 555 West 6th Street, San Bernardino, CA 92410.

A well rounded program is planned by Inland Fair Housing and Mediation Board with emphasis on housing discrimination and landlord/tenant rights and remedies. Other topics include housing mediation and FHA default/foreclosure counseling. Presentations will be made and questions answered. An exchange of ideas will be encouraged throughout the open workshop.

Inland Fair Housing and Mediation Board is a nonprofit organization which promotes Fair Housing and housing dispute resolution and disseminates information to the general public.

For more information call (800) 321-0911 or (909) 984-2254.

MALDEF's Census 2000 Outreach Campaign

Once every ten years, the United States Census Bureau undertakes the process of counting every single person who lives in the United States. This process is called the census and is specifically mandated by the US Constitution. The last census was taken in 1990, and the next one is scheduled for the year 2000.

MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund) has a thirty year history of national, multi-media, outreach campaign designed to educate Latinos about the census, and encourage their participation. The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) has a thirty year history of working to advance the rights of Latinos living in the United States. Making sure that all Latinos are properly counted in the Census has always been one of MALDEF's key priorities. In fact, MALDEF has taken a leadership role in reaching out to Latinos in each of the last three censuses. The 2000 Census will mark the beginning of the fourth decade of MALDEF leadership on this issue.

The Importance of the Census

The census is our country's most basic source of demographic data. It is used by virtually all federal, state and local governments in areas such as distributing government services in areas such as distributing government services, demographic changes in the state; and increased interest from within the Inland Empire. Thirty percent - or 123 - of the 410 new students from California come from the Inland Empire.

"We're very proud of this enrollment increase," said John Lujan, assistant to the president for diversity programs. "It's the sign of the times. As we turn the corner on the century and the state has become as diverse, we want to reflect the communities that we serve. We want to see the same success with other groups."

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Message from Dr. Arturo Delgado,
From page 2
receive a draft of their findings and recommendations by March of 2000.
When I came here, I was very pleased to see that the district tries to involve parents and the community in working with us to solve problems and enhance programs. The diversity committee is no exception. Its members are a cross section of the community with representatives from the faith community, classified and certificated employees, parents, government agencies such as the Housing Authority and Department of Public Social Services, and community based organizations. The bottom line is we need you; we need the community. I can't stand here and tell you that I or the district can make things better without your help. My philosophy is inclusion, not exclusion. The schools in a community belong to the community. You have a stake in all that we do because in the long run, everyone of you will be affected by how well we educate our students.
We have made great strides in technology. All schools have been wired for internet access and most have E-mail capability. If you haven't been to a school classroom lately and seen how technology is integrated into the learning experience, you're missing seeing something wonderful. I get the biggest kick out of visiting a kindergarten or first grade class and seeing the students working on their computers. I'm telling you they have absolutely no fear, and it's wonderful.
I get so excited when I'm talking about education and knowing that the best is yet to come. When we call on you for your support to work on a district committee or otherwise help us. I sincerely hope you'll respond positively. And I'd like to encourage you to take every opportunity to get involved in the schools and learn more about what's taking place. Become a school adopter, participate in Principal for a Day and community reading days, become a mentor. Don't forget these are your schools, your tax dollars support us, and we do welcome you.
I look forward to meeting with many community groups to tell them about our schools. But I also plan to do a lot of listening. I'm going to get out of my office and into the community. To make our schools successful, we must all work together and start by making a commitment to our children to put their educational needs at the top of our agenda.
Casa Blanca Elementary School Reunion
From page 1
limited. They urged that former students send in reservations as soon as possible. Cost per person is $20. Dinner: 1:30 PM, program: 2:45 PM. Tickets will not be sold at the door.
According to Chavez, former students include educators, doctors, nurses, law enforcement, probation, military (active and retired), and other professions.
The local G.I. Forum Chapter will present the colors. World War II, Korea and Vietnam veterans will be honored. Special guest is Charlie Villegas, son of Israel Villegas, a resident of Casa Blanca who was killed in the Pacific. As a result of his heroic action in battle, Villegas received the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Villegas Center was named in his honor and a bronze statue is located at Riverside City Hall, also in his honor.
Other military honorees are Andres Melendez and Ramiro Zamora, recipients of the Silver Star and Elías Olvera, Sr. received the Bronze Star. Ernest Robles, principal at the elementary school from 1966 to 1967, will be one of the speakers. Other speakers are Linda Peralta, Manuel Villapando, Lt. Colonel Antonio Hernandez, Edward Martinez, Edward Fuentes and Rudy Chavez.
Checks for reservation made to: Rudy Chavez, 3328 Madison Street, Riverside, Ca. 92504. For information call at (909) 688-2060 or (909) 688-6614.
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Director: Sra. Margaret Hill

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- El cáncer del seno se presenta en mujeres que no tienen una historia familiar de cáncer, en la mayoría de los casos (85%)
- El riesgo de sufrir de cáncer del seno aumenta con la edad
- El cáncer del seno se descubre en mujeres mayores de 50, en la mayoría de los casos (70%)

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- Después de hacerse el mamograma, hable con su doctor para recibir los resultados

Para información gratuita sobre Medicare y el cuidado de la salud llame a la Línea de Ayuda de CMRI Medicare al 1-800-841-1602 o visite CMRI en el internet www.cmri-ca.org

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Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Inland Empire Hispanic News
11 Factors for Financial Success

"Individuals and families who seem to go through life, seemingly without financial difficulties have certain factors working to their advantage," Dianne Wilkman, president and CEO of the non-profit Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS), one of the nation's largest credit counseling agencies. CCCS is also accredited by the Council Accreditation of Services for Families and Children.

"These factors for financial success, are in the areas our financial lives, where consumers who are deep in debt, need to develop as part of their overall financial self-discipline and financial accumulation and management," Ms. Wilkman added.

"These factors were compiled after thousands of counseling sessions with southern California consumers and their families," Ms. Wilkman concluded. "Some of the most common success factors we see are listed below," said Ms. Wilkman.

11 Factors for Financial Success

1. Keep a written plan and goals for advancement.
2. Promote and maintain favorable, positive attitudes.
3. Exercise good cash control - keep receipts.
4. Ability to reach decisions and then act upon them.
5. Build financial self discipline.
7. Keep and maintain good records of finances etc.
8. Being adequately insured.
9. Maintain good credit control and do not overspend.
10. A history of regular savings accumulation.
11. Keep knowledge about personal finances current.

CCCS is a nonprofit, community service organization that makes available confidential counseling, guidance, debt management and education programs to financially troubled consumers.

If you need to arrange a visit with a certified CCCS counselor, call 1-800-WISE PLAN or visit their website at www.credit.org.

Blueprint for Volunteer Diversity

Riverside, CA - Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge and United Way of the Inland Valleys are collaborating again for the fifth year to encourage diversity on public sector commissions and boards of community service non profit organizations through the Blueprint for Volunteer Diversity Program.

Blueprint for Volunteer Diversity is accepting applications for the 2000 leadership development program. Residents of Greater Riverside and Moreno Valley are invited to apply for the eight week training that begins on Saturday, January 29, 2000 and concludes with a graduation ceremony on March 22, 2000.

The purpose of the program is two fold: 1) identify, train, and support members of under represented groups to become effective, knowledgeable members of nonprofit boards and public sector commissions; and 2) prepare organizations to involve these newly trained volunteers.

A 1998 graduate of the program, Emilio Ramirez is a new member of several local boards, including Treasurer of Arlington Temporary Social Services and People Reaching Out. He credits Blueprint for his community involvement. "The program provided me the instruction, training and guidance I needed to better serve these organizations and my community.

Application deadline is Friday, October 11 1999. For information about the program, please call Frances Vasquez at (909) 697-4719 or Mary Ann Stalder at (909) 697-4700.

College Night Planned for High School Students

The ninth annual College Night for high school students in the San Bernardino City School Unified School District will be held on Wednesday, October 6, 1999 at Pacific High School, 1020 Pacific Street. College Night is sponsored by the College Collaborative, a partnership between the school district and local colleges and universities. Scheduled to begin at 5 p.m., the event is an opportunity for students and their families to learn first hand about entrance requirements, scholarships, and financial aid.

Representatives from more than 70 post secondary schools across the United States will be available to answer questions about their programs. Parents and students are encouraged to attend workshops on financial aid and scholarship opportunities; presentations by the University of California, California State University, private universities, technical schools, and local community colleges along with information about SAT and ACT preparation and registration. Students with special needs will learn about services that will assist them while away at college.

Along with the school district, College night is sponsored by California State University, San Bernardino; California State Polytechnic University - Pomona; University of California, Riverside; University of Redlands; San Bernardino Valley College and Crafton Hills College.

Baca Demo Candidate in November - From page 1

unified. "I will be looking forward to working with every Democrat in the district. I will continue. to be in a positive mode and not bash any person that worked against me."

A general election will be held on November 16, with Baca, Pirozzi, Rick-Simon, Reform Party and John Ballard of the Libertarian Party running in a special November 16 election.

The District includes San Bernardino, Grand Terrace, Rialto, Colton, Bloomington, Fontana, Rancho Cucamonga and portions of Ontario.

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