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Hispanic News

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The Inland Empire's only Hispanic Owned English Language Newspaper

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Herbert R. Fischer discussed the challenges facing public education and his goals for education in San Bernardino County during his first Annual State of Education Address on Monday, January 25th before a large audience of educators, civic leaders and members of the public at the Norman F. Feldshen Central Library.

Although there are upward economic trends in our state and our county, we are still faced with the challenges of:

- Low college-going rates
- High school drop outs
- Children living in poverty
- Multiple languages
- Jobs for the new economy requiring higher education and high technical skills.

All of these challenges point to the importance of being better prepared to compete in the global market.

Fischer said the County Schools office will concentrate on three specific goal areas and support the efforts of school districts to: 1) Improve student performance; 2) Prepare students for the 21st Century and 3) Provide safe learning and working environments.

In the area of improved student performance, Fischer said, "Our expectation is that all students will meet high standards and all students will demonstrate growth." He spoke of the need to close the achievement and access gap so that "all students, regardless of language, socioeconomic status, or ethnicity, have the same opportunities for academic achievement."

Continuing, Fischer said, "This will mean raising the bar—not lowering expectations and standards.

Fischer cited a fact that most educators already know—students who aren't successful readers by the third grade are at greater risk of failing in school or dropping out all together. To this he proclaimed, "Reading is the foundation of all we do." Math skills are also an area the superintendent will provide an expanded emphasis. An important aspect of his focus will be his commitment to have the County Schools Curriculum/Instruction staff design and deliver teacher training in literacy and math intervention programs to target low performing students.

"For students to be successful in the 21st Century, they must graduate from high school academically prepared for the workforce and higher education," stated Fischer, stressing that family involvement is a key component throughout students' academic careers.

RIVERSIDE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR

The 21st Annual Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Installation of Officers and Awards Presentation was held on January 21 at the Riverside Convention Center with Eric Solander, Kaiser Permanente, as master of ceremonies.

Anita Perez Ferguson, Immediate Past President of the National Women's Political Caucus, was keynote speaker. Perez Ferguson spoke eloquently on the rise of the Hispanic population and its potential to play a key role in the economic, political, and educational areas and the utilization of its clout to affect policies at the local, state and national levels.

Awarded for this year's work: Business of the Year-Personnel Advantage, Inc., with Julie Vargas accepting the award; Corporate Business Partner of the Year-Holiday Inn, with Julie Varga accepting the award; and Community Service Award—Retired Riverside Chief of Police Jerry Carroll, (see editorial page 2).

Incoming board of directors: President—Damon Castillo, Jr., Vice President—Education-Olaf Valdez Yeager, Vice President—Business-Kohlin Lim, Secretary-Pete Esquivel, Treasurer—Susie Verduzco, Past President-Eric Solander, Board of Directors—Alfredo Figueroa, Mary Figueroa, Richard Ramirez, Bernie Gutierrez, Jaime Hurtado, Paul Petrilli, Marion Ruiz, Gilberto Esquivel, John Garcia and Luís Lopez.

Photo by Hispanic Lifestyle
Latinos urged to make themselves count in 2000 Census

by Louisa Ollague, Regional Census Director, MALDEF

This Spring Latinos in this country will have the opportunity to participate in an historic event that affects everyone in the United States for the next 10 years. This event is the 2000 census, which will be conducted in April 2000. Once every ten years the Census Bureau undertakes the monumental task of counting each and every person who lives in the United States, regardless of immigration status.

Census Information is crucial for all Latinos

In 2000, the Latino community now have good answers to questions like: How many are we? Who are we? Where do we live? What languages do we speak? And most importantly: What do we need? The information collected will affect decisions such as where federal and state funding is allocated, which services will be offered, and how communities will be politically represented. The Census Bureau estimates that the Latino community has reached a population of about 31 million. It is estimated that the number may reach 38 million during the next decade. The census provides the numbers to justify building more schools in communities. For instance, Los Angeles, over 53,000 children were not counted in the 1990 census and the result was that over 70 schools that might have been constructed if the numbers had been correct were in fact, not built. This phenomenon repeated itself all over the country.

Accurate numbers equal money and power for our communities

The impact of an accurate Count translates into money and power. Each and every community needs to ensure complete participation in order to achieve the economic prosperity and political equity they deserve. And remember... all individual information is kept strictly confidential by law, so there is no reason not to participate. If we're not counted, it's as if we didn't exist. Haga Contar! Make Yourself Count in April 2000.

For more information, visit the following websites:
www.census.gov
www.maldef.org
www.civilrights.org/lclf

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EastValley Mexican Heritage Organization Receives State Grant; Will Present Exhibition In April

The Redlands Oral History Project was recently awarded a grant from the California Council For The Humanities to present Visions and Versions: Living Lives in the East Valley in April 2000. Using rare photographs, documents, artifacts, and oral histories, the exhibition will look at the history of Mexican communities in East San Bernardino Valley from the late 1800's until the 1960's. Exhibits and several related public programs sponsored by A.K. Smiley Public Library the Redlands Area Historical Society, and the Council are scheduled to run April 29 through June 22,2000 at Smiley Library, San Bernardino City Library, and five additional locations in San Bernardino Valley.

The Project is currently seeking donations and loans for use with the exhibition before February 28. Materials needed include pre-1970's documents and photos, a pre-World War II correspondence from Mexico, Spanish-language periodicals, and physical artifacts relating to Mexican communities in the San Bernardino Valley. Examples of information about political activity, clubs (fraternal, service, and social), historic religious organizations: family and neighborhood histories, cirus labor, the Bracero program, and broad or other welfare-related activities are needed to augment oral histories and materials previously collected.

Redlands Oral History Project is entering its sixth year of collecting and developing archival and educational materials for public use regarding people of Mexican descent in the San Bernardino Valley: to loan or donate materials or to participate in the Project contact Robert Gonzales at (909) 307-9370, Box 1413 Redlands, CA 92373; or email Rgonzales@Dreamsoft.com

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GREATER RIVERSIDE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE year 2000 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Ethics, Stress Management and Verbal Judo.

I would be at a loss if I did not mention that standing right by his side for the past 27 years has been--Tom Tober.

As a Sgt. for 9 years, Jerry learned his most valuable asset. The value of staying in tune with the community. This ultimately became an important aspect of community policing. As a Capt., he developed the Strategic Plans for the Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving. As Chief, he worked hard to implement the Community Policing program for the City of Riverside and as a result, creating the Ounce of Community Policing.

But it is his value of being sensitive, the value of his outreach ability, and his value of understanding the people of his community that brings him before us tonight. As Jerry said, "Listening to what the community has to say is a philosophy rather than a program."

As a Sgt. Assigned to the Casa Blanca community, Jerry fostered and succeeded in breaking stereotypes and barriers between the "uniform in blue" and the residents they are charged to protect. Jerry's outreach to the then leadership of the community has resulted in some long term friendships which he still enjoys to this day. The value of that positive contact on those individuals lives, will never be fully realized.

I specifically remember his support and assistance, and yes, his commitment to a particular event. A local radio sta-
Jesse Ybarra: Many Years of Dedication to the Riverside Community

When Jesse Ybarra moved to Riverside from San Antonio, Texas 50 years ago, he had no idea what kind of an impact he would make on the city.

The city of Riverside was still segregated and the East side, where Ybarra lived with his family, was neglected by the city's government. Ybarra saw that changes needed to be made in the schools and the government to bring equality to the community.

"My goal was to help out," Ybarra, now 83 years old, recalled. "I wanted to help a lot of youngsters stay out of trouble and to help make them useful citizens."

Ybarra worked for the Community Settlement Association, a group he says aimed to serve and work with the community. For 22 years Ybarra upheld his commitment as Executive Director, working to take issues from school problems, police problems along with city and county services.

"It was our job to bring about changes to better the community," explained Ybarra. "The biggest reward was to bring about unity in the community to work together to bring about changes in the neighborhood."

The schools were one of Ybarra's main priorities for the city because without integration, Ybarra said children on the East side received second-hand books, desks and even teachers.

Other improvements Ybarra focused on were better streets, street lights, better sewage and sidewalks for the East side.

"As a community we felt there was a need," said Ybarra. "We worked so there was better equipment for our children.

Two factors put steam behind Ybarra's efforts to make positive changes in the community, he says.

First, Ybarra said, his Hispanic culture and heritage helped him to do a better job at the Community Settlement Association because he could understand his neighborhood.

Second, the clout Ybarra earned as a soldier in the U.S. Army during WWII showed the city of Riverside that he not only has the education, but he has the heart of a true American.

Ybarra had earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in sociology from Trinity University in San Antonio Combined with his military record, Ybarra says this gave him the skills and the respect to relate to the city's power structure.

Growing up as an orphan in a poor neighborhood, Ybarra says he knew that an education was the ticket to a better life.

He kept a commitment to his roots however, helping children he says were beyond the reach of schools and even juvenile justice. Ybarra says he tried to get out of the trap they were in and teach them to be successful and clean from drugs.

"I tried to make them understand that there was a better way," explained Ybarra.

When it came to politics in the city of Riverside, Ybarra was very involved. He collaborated with the Mexican American Political Association and the League of United States Latin-Americans to push for leaders who would help solve the problems of the community.

Through his involvement in a group called the Brown Baggers, Ybarra moved to bring gun-control to the city of Riverside, making citizens more cautious and aware of gun-safety.

For 15 years, Ybarra lobbied with the City Advisory Affirmative Action Committee to place more minorities in the Riverside workforce.

Ybarra also pushed for more government grants to be used to improve the East side by aligning himself with the Neighborhood Advisory Committee.

As a member of the Mexican American Golf Club, Ybarra practices the hobby he loves every week. He has won several trophies and says his best score was a 78.

Ybarra and his wife of 57 years, Velia, raised two daughters, Azalia and Luana, who are both married with children of their own. Ybarra and Velia have three grandchildren and four great-granddaughters.

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Ybarra pictured above has dedicated many years of service to the Riverside Eastside Community.

Jesse Ybarra is a grass roots person who is aware of issues and problems. When residents had questions, they would address the problem together. He solved many problems in our community.

Proxy Loya
Riverside's Eastside Resident
Continued from Page 1

Fischer spoke of the fantastic potential in this century for students who are well educated and well prepared. "Today, the earning premium on education is dramatic," he said. "A good high school education begets a good college education, and the median earnings of those with a bachelor's degree far exceeds that of the worker with a high school diploma."

His third goal area is school safety. "We can't expect our students to learn if they don't feel safe in school," he promised to continue work with law enforcement agencies and community groups to keep schools and neighborhoods safe.

Fischer also spoke of recent successes in education throughout the county including Community Coalition programs in the areas of early literacy and math, school-to-career, school safety and technology. He also pledged to earmark $1.7 million to fund continued Community Coalition programs. The Coalition is comprised of teachers, administrators, board members, association members, community members, the business community, elected officials, religious leaders, law enforcement partners, parents and students.

He also outlined points of a Master Plan for K-12 education endorsed by all 33 county school districts and teachers associations. Some of those points included focusing on student achievement and academically preparing students for higher education and/or the workforce; closing the achievement and access gaps for all subgroups regardless of language, socioeconomic status, or ethnicity; ensuring adequate funding for education by raising revenue limits to or above the national average, and increasing discretionary dollars; and promoting parental responsibility in supporting student achievement.

While California has moved forward in per pupil spending, it is still far behind the national average of $7,583, and is ranked 41st in the nation in per pupil spending. "If we're going to hold our students accountable to world-class standards—and we should—we can't continue second-class funding of our schools," Fischer said.

Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Year 2000 Community Service Award

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Apply: City of Riverside Human Resources Department
3780 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501
(909) 782-5808

Community News
Wednesday, February 2, 2000
Free Job Training for San Bernardino County Residents

Out of work? Need job skills? Will can help!

You may qualify for free vocational training and job placement assistance from the San Bernardino County Jobs & Employment Services Department. Funded through Federal tax dollars, the program is designed to assist San Bernardino County residents to get back into the workforce and earning that all important paycheck! The program offers a wide variety of approaches to make you more marketable to employers, short-term vocational training and skills updating, on the job training and in some cases, gives employers hiring tax credits. You will be provided with an assessment to match your interests and abilities to training in a demand occupation. All services are free to qualified individuals. You’re on your way to that new job! All you have to do is call the San Bernardino County Jobs & Employment Services Department at toll free at 1-800-451-JOBS. To better serve you, we have offices and One Stop Career Centers conveniently located throughout the county.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL CHILDREN’S SPINE FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING EVENT ON FEBRUARY 17, 2000

Continued from Page 1

deformities at an early age and with spinal education, they can avoid painful radi­cal surgery, spinal reconstruction or per­manent disfigurement and prevent dis­abilities in later life." Dr. Haider performs over 300 operations per year.

Spine deformities and injuries affect more children throughout the U.S. and a disproportionate number are seen in Southern California, due to its high popu­lation and large immigrant communities.

Dr. Haider, a native of Afghanistan, received his B.A and M.A. at the University of Colorado and medical training at Loyola University’s Stritch School of Medicine. His internship, residency and spine fellowship were at the University of Colorado.

In 1990, Dr. Haider started his spinal orthopedic practice in Riverside and be­gan his association with the big-medical­science programs at the University of California, Riverside. He invented and patented a spinal sur­gical device, which became a state-of-the-art tool in spinal surgery. The royalties has to date produced over $2 to $3 million per year and pledged to UCR.

He had previously donated $5 million. The Dr. Thomas Haider Biomedical Sci­ence Program has been enhanced by his donations, which will keep students at UCR in lieu of enrolling at UCLA. A fu­ture medical school has been planned at UCR.

Congressman Joe Baca, Congressman Jerry Lewis, Assemblyman John Longville, Fifth District’s Supervisor Jerry Eaves, and San Bernardino Mayor Judith Valles have endorsed the event, in addition to many other officials, commu­nity groups and individuals.

"The importance of the Foundation’s mission has energized the committee into working more diligent to reach this year’s goal. We urge the public to support this worthwhile project which will benefit the CSF and its effort to assist economically disadvantaged children," Haider empha­sized.

Dr. Haider recently toured and had dis­cussions with Executives from San Ber­nardino Arrowhead Regional Medical Center to develop a Surgical Spine Clinic like the one recently unveiled at River­side County Regional Medical Center.

The Annual Nutrition & Health Alert Essay Contest, sponsored County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health Nutrition Pro­gram and co-sponsored by California Dietetics Association, Inland District, is now underway. High school stu­dents throughout San Bernardino County can win monetary awards by writing a two page, double spaced essay on a nutrition or nutrition quackery-related topic. The awards will be in increments: first place-$200 savings bond or $100 cash; second place - $100 savings bond or $50 cash; third place-$75 savings bond or $37.50 cash; and 4 honorable men­tions will receive $50 savings bonds or $25 cash. All winners will receive many exciting prizes such as free passes to amusement parks, movie tickets, free pizza, etc. as well as rec­ognition at a prestigious awards cer­emony before the County Board of Supervisors. Winning essays will be displayed at the County Superinten­dents of Schools building Students interested in participating or teachers who would like to sponsor the con­test should call Julie Mortimore, RD at (909) 387-6331 An entry form must accompany all submitted essays. The deadline is March 3, 2000 (entries must be postmarked by March 3, 2000).

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL OFFERS DIABETES EDUCATION CLASS

San Bernardino, CA - Community Hospital of San Bernardino will offer a Diabetes Education class. The Diabetes Education class is a series of three two-hour classes designed to offer-the-person with diabetes infor­mation on better managing diabetes as a part of their life and how to make the necessary lifestyle changes.

10th Annual Homeless Veterans’ Care Fair

Classes begin February 28, 2000 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Commu­nity Education Center, 1859 N. West­ern Avenue. There is a $10 fee for the class. Scholarships are available. For more information or to register call (909) 887-6333, ext. 4730.

Free meals, personal items hair­cuts, showers, legal consultation, health screening, identification cards, shelter information, training opportun­ities, application for social services, mental health counseling, and job in­formation are provided to those who attend. Volunteers and donations are still needed. To find out how you can help contact (909) 955-3010 or (909) 686-4402.

Noche Cultural at UCR

The UCR Chicano Student Programs is pre­senting the Third Annual Noche Cultural, an evening of variety entertainment, on Sat­urday, January 22, 2000 at the University’s Theatre 400, starting at 7:00 PM. The entertainment will include the Ballet Folklorico, Cutral de Colton, Mariachi Trompet De Mexico, Los Romeros, Ballet Folklorico de UCR and many other local en­tertainment. Tickets are $7 for students and $9 general. For further information call at (909) 787-3821.

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Voter Registration

If you want to vote at the Primary Election, you must be registered. Your last day to register is Monday, February 7. (Registrar of Voters will be open until midnight to receive your affidavits registration.)

You need to register if you:
• Are not presently registered in Riverside County; or
• Are registered but have moved or changed your mailing address; or
• Want to change your political party affiliation;

You are eligible to register if you are:
• A United States citizen; and
• A resident of California; and
• Not in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony; and
• At least 18 years of age at the time of the election.

You can be registered by one of the many Deputy Registrars in the County. Or you can get a postcard registration form, fill it out, and mail it to the Registrar of Voters yourself. Postcard forms are available at hundreds of locations throughout the County—post offices, banks, government and business offices. Or you can write or phone the Registrar of Voters, and a postcard form will be sent to you promptly.

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
2724 Gateway Drive, Riverside CA 92507-0918
Phone: (909) 486-7200 or (800) 773-VOTE
Web site: www.voterinfo.net

San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters
777 E. Rialto Avenue
San Bernardino, CA. (909) 387-8300
Toll Free 881-Vote
TDD (909) 387-2788
and all libraries in the county

FIRST ANNUAL YOUTH RECOGNITION AND AWARDS CEREMONY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2000

The First Annual Youth Recognition and Awards Ceremony has been scheduled for February 10, 2000 at the Gents Community Center 1462 E. Art Townsend Dr. San Bernardino (Formerly Norton Air Force Base), according to Martin Valdez, Program Chair. The event is sponsored by 5th District Supervisor Jerry Eaves and San Bernardino County Superintendent Schools Herbert Fischer and hosted by San Bernardino Families for Youth Development.

Key business, elected officials and community organizations have been invited to attend.

The Recognition Program will award four $500 scholarships, four $300 college saving bonds and eight $100 educational gift certificates.

Visit of Patron Saint's Image to Riverside

Hispanic venerated the Virgin de Guadalupe at Lincoln Park, Riverside during the Patron Saint's tour of the Southland

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENT

Hearing Board Vacancies

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Board of Director is soliciting candidates for two (2) appointments and their alternates to the SCAQMD Hearing Board: Attorney and Engineer Members. The Hearing Board is chartered under Division 26 of the California Health and Safety Code and operates independently of the SCAQMD and its Board of Directors. The Hearing Board is a quasi-judicial entity vested with the authority to grant variances to companies and public agencies to SCAQMD rules, to revoke and suspend SCAQMD operating permits; and to issue Orders of Abatements. In addition, the Hearing Board has the authority to hear appeals regarding (1) the denial and issuance of SCAQMD Permits to Operate and Construct (including RECLAIM permits), (2) conditions imposed on Permits to Operate and Construct, (3) the denial and issuance of emission reduction credits, and (4) the approval and denial of air pollution control plans, including Rule 2202 - On-Road Motor Vehicle Mitigation Options submittals.

The Hearing Board meets three to four days per week (Tuesday - Thursday, occasionally on Friday), from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at District Headquarters located in Diamond Bar. Occasionally, the Board may schedule an evening or weekend hearing at a location other than District Headquarters when a matter has generated significant community interest. Hearing Board members receive $50,000 annually and will be required to meet at least three days each week. The Chair of the Board, appointed by fellow Board members, will receive $55,000 annually and will be required to be available four days a week. Alternate members are compensated at the rate of $325 per day for days spent doing work of a regular Member.

HEARING BOARD POSITIONS - Term of Appointment - Three Years

Attorney Member Qualifications: Admitted to the practice of law in the State of California, with two or more years of practice, preferably with litigation experience,

Engineer Member Qualifications: A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college in chemical, mechanical, environmental, metallurgical, or petroleum engineering, with two or more years of practical experience, and preferable who is a professional engineer registered pursuant to the Professional Engineers Act (Chapter 7 [commencing with Section 6700) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code).

Interested candidate should send or submit a resume and cover letter detailing the relevancy of their experience to the work of the SCAQMD Hearing Board to the Clerk of Board, SCAQMD, 21865 East Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765. The cover letter with resume must be timed-stamped by the Clerk of the Board no later than 5:00 p.m., March 3, 2000. Letters and resumes received in the Clerk’s office after the closed date will be returned to the applicant. The cover letter should also indicate your availability and willing to serve the alternate position. Candidates invited for an interview will be required to submit the names of three individuals who could provide professional references if contacted by the District. It is anticipated that these appointments will be acted upon by the District Board at its May 19, 2000 meeting. Appointees will be expected to commence a paid ($150/day), 30-day orientation period by June 6, 2000.

General News

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

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GOOD NEWS FROM THE FRONT...WE ARE NOW SERVING THE HIGH DESERT. CALL OUR NEW OFFICE (760) 952-3336 ASK FOR KEN OR TONY.
Behind-the-scenes Program Examines How Public Policy Is Developed and Implemented

Washington D.C. - The national Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund and Shell Oil Company have begun a nationwide search for Latino college and university students to participate in an intensive six and a half week summer legislative internship program The NALEO 2000 shell Legislative Internship Program (SLIP) is designed to give undergraduate and graduate-level students a behind-the-scenes look at how public police is developed and implemented at the state and federal levels.

"The day to day dynamics of public policy are not widely visible. One cannot be taught in a classroom," said Arturo Varkas, NALEO Executive Director. "We believe it is important to develop our cadre of Latino leaders in an environment where key decisions are made."

During the six and a half week program, interns will travel to Washington, D.C. to work with Members of Congress and their staffs for one week and then spend four weeks in their home state in the office of a Latino elected official intern will research legislation, monitor hearings and prepare briefing papers. They will also meet with White House representatives, federal department heads, national advocacy organizations and the news media.

Another highlight of the internship is participation at NALEO's 17th Annual Conference, to be held June 22 through 24 in Denver, Colorado. At the conference intern will attend workshops and network with prominent national Latino elected officials and leaders.

Fourteen students representing the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, New Mexico, New York and Texas will be selected. Students must be residents of these states but do not need to attend schools in these states. Interns will receive a stipend, transportation and accommodations at NALEO's Annual Conference and Washington D.C.

Applications and program information are available at the NALEO Educational Fund website (www.naleo.org). Students may also call (202) 546-2536 for an application. Applications must be received at the NALEO Washington, D.C. Office by 6 p.m. EST, Friday, March 3rd, 2000.

The NALEO Educational Fund is the leading organization that empowers Latinos to participate fully in the American political process, from citizenship to public service. The NALEO Educational Fund is a national non-profit, non-partisan organization whose constituency includes more than 5,400 Latino elected and appointed officials nationwide.

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For up-to-date information on NALEO activities, visit our home page at: http://www.naleo.org

Inland Empire Hispanic News

NALEO AND SHELL OIL COMPANY BEGIN NATION WIDE SEARCH FOR LATINO COLLEGE STUDENTS

Course Para Familias Y Cuidadores

De Enfermos Cerebrales "De Familia A Familia"

Un curso de 12 semanas para personas diagnosticadas con enfermedades mentales comenzaran el 24 de febrero de 2000, de 7:00 a 9:30 pm, en VISTA Community Counseling, 17216 Sliver Ave., Building L, Fontana. Estas clases son completamente gratuitas.

Para mayor información o para registrarse llamar a Della Russosseid, teléfono (909) 377-1221. Por favor, deje un breve mensaje si es necesario, su nombre y su teléfono.

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