NEW FAMILY LEARNING CENTER PLANNED AT CASABLANCA

Learning Center to Include State-Of-The-Art Learning Technologies

On January, 2001, the residents of Casa Blanca in the City of Riverside were excited due to the ground-breaking ceremonies being held for a new Family Learning Center to be built in the very heart of their community. The city celebrated the opening of a library approximately 25 years ago and this was also a special occasion for jubilation. Over a hundred invited officials, city and community leaders heard library officials review final plans for the construction of a state-of-the-art building incorporating the latest library technologies for the education of our young people and the community and will enhance the education of the neighborhood children and a community center.

Judith Auth, Director of the Riverside Public Library, spoke of the years of struggles to overcome the financial difficulties and long planning process to arrive at the current successful step of initiating the construction of the center. "The completion of this beautiful educational site will be the center of the community and will enhance the education of our young people and motivate them to higher learning. It is truly a legacy for the children and community," she stated.

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Loma Linda Hospital Gala Event Honors Hometown Heroes

Two Long-Time Area Residents Selected for Outstanding Community Services

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Hilda Garcia and Dr. Tom Rivera were selected as Hometown Heroes at the 8th Annual Loma Linda University Children's Hospital Foundation. The annual event benefits the quality of life for the children with processes dedicated to the Children's Hospital Special Team.

During the past three years, Garcia has coordinated the docent program and assisted in the training and docent scheduling in 43 elementary schools. Within the past year, she has presented half the total sessions and almost 1,000 children have benefited from her willingness, enthusiasm and commitment and her love of children in sharing the beauty of music.

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COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT DELIVERS STATE OF EDUCATION ADDRESS

Dr. Herbert Fischer, above, presented his state of education address to a special media audience represented by Inland County and Los Angeles newspapers at the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools building. Photo by EHH

Countv Superintendent Herbert R. Fischer shared a number of countywide education accomplishments during his second annual state of Education Address.

Fischer stated that he has focused the work of the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCCS) office to support districts in three priority areas: improving student performance, preparing students for 21st Century, and providing safe learning and working environments.

According to Fischer, San Bern-

Education
Wednesday, February 14, 2001

The Inland Empire Hispanic News

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San Bernardino, CA 92404

CLERK TYPIST II AND CLERK TYPIST II
BILINGUAL/BILITERATE (SPANISH)

$2,250.00 PER MONTH (8 hour equivalent) with a monthly stipend for Bilingual/Biliterate positions within this classification which have been designated bilingual and for those who are certified Bilingual/Biliterate.

The immediate designated bilingual vacancy is at Dunn Elementary School (6 hours, 11.5 months). This recruitment will also establish an eligibility list for future vacancies in these two positions.

REQUIREMENTS:
One year of paid experience performing varied general office or clerical functions, course work in basic computer applications, data entry, record management and general office practices is preferred;
45 wpm typing from clear copy; a valid California driver’s license, and a standard Red Cross First Aide Certificate is required within the first six months of employment, and knowledge of written and oral Spanish for designated bilingual positions.

THE VACANCY WILL BE OFFERED TO THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT CONTINGENT UPON PASSING A PRE-PLACEMENT PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND THE RULES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INFORMATION INDICATING THAT THE APPLICANT IS NOT PROHIBITED FROM BEING EMPLOYED.

Qualified applicants must file a District application on or before 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, 2001, at the Rialto Unified School District, 182 E. Walnut Ave., Rialto, CA. • (909) 820-7700.

RESUMES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IN LIEU OF THE APPLICATION.

NOTE: The District Office will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2001 in observance of President’s Day.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

"THE RIALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT IS A DRUG-FREE, TOBACCO-FREE WORKPLACE"
President Bush's new education proposals amount to two giant steps backwards by their emphasis of federal vouchers and nationwide school funding penalties based on standardized tests, California Teachers Association President Wayne Johnson said today.

"Californians continue to strongly reject vouchers at the polls, and so do residents of other states," Johnson said of overwhelming November voucher proposition defeats here and in Michigan. "It makes no sense for President Bush to claim he wants to help the nation's low-performing schools by allowing Title I federal funds designed to help them to be used as vouchers for private or religious schools. This is regression, not reform."

Johnson also questioned Bush's emphasis on using high-stakes testing as the sole criteria for whether public schools should be punished by taking away federal money for vouchers. "As we have said about California's standardized testing, these kinds of tests should not be the sole criteria for determining what public school students and teachers are really accomplishing in America's classrooms today," Johnson said.

He said that, like many politicians, Bush wants accountability but doesn't want to give teachers or public schools the resources to help high-priority students improve. The 300,000-member CTA is focusing on ways to help California's low-performing schools, and part of that strategy includes statewide radio ads to spark public discussion. In radio spots airing now, Johnson highlights issues such as how better teacher training and better salaries can help schools with the lowest test scores.

CTA is concerned that, among other things, Bush's plan warns: "If schools fail to make adequate yearly progress for three consecutive years, disadvantaged students may use Title I funds to transfer to a higher-performing public or private school."

Bush's proposed $1,500 vouchers would go to parents who could use the money for private and religious schools, thereby draining funds away from the public schools that need it most.

The CTA is affiliated with the 2.5-million member National Education Association.

California's electricity prices are higher now than they've ever been. That's because supplies are tight and there are no price controls in the wholesale market. Unfortunately, Southern California Edison was forced to buy your electricity from this market - for far more than we're allowed to charge.

To help cover some of these high costs, the California Public Utilities Commission has approved a temporary one-cent surcharge for every kilowatt-hour you use. It will be added to your bill through the 5th of April. This surcharge equals about $5 a month for average residential customers.

The good news is the surcharge does not apply to customers currently on the California Alternate Rate for Energy (CARE) program. CARE offers income-qualified residential customers a 15% discount on their electric service. If you think you may qualify, fill out the application included in this month's bill and start saving money right away.

Everyone can enjoy the savings by saving energy. Adjust your thermostat to 68 degrees. Reduce the use of major appliances. In addition, unplug all electronic equipment that is not in use.

Meanwhile, Southern California Edison continues to work urgently with state and federal authorities to develop effective solutions that will allow us to continue serving our customers at affordable and reasonable rates.

For more information about our incomequalified rate, call us at 1-800-441-2233. And learn more about saving energy through our website at www.sce.com.
Lucia Negrete, above, was appointed Assistant Affirmative Action Officer for the San Bernardino School District. A resident of Grand Terrace, Negrete is a graduate of the University of Redlands with a BA degree in Business Management.

The San Bernardino Unified School District Board of Education recently announced the appointment of Lucia Negrete as Assistant Affirmative Action Officer.

MALDEF, NALEO AND WCVI SCHEDULE REDISTRICTING WORKSHOPS

Inland Empire. Pictured above is a workshop at the Riverside County Department of Education where instructions on the legal and political process were discussed with community persons. The instruction team consisted of Zachary Gonzalez, Amadis Raul Velez, Marie Cobian, Steven Ochoa and Juan Gallegos.

San Bernardino County residents interested in getting to know their county better and investigating various aspects of county government are invited by Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberta McPeters to volunteer for the 2001-2002 San Bernardino County Grand Jury.

Grand Jurors will serve from July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002. They receive a tour of the entire county and the opportunity to see the behind the scenes working of county government.

Grand Jurors must be at least 18 years of age, U.S. citizens, and residents of the county for at least one year. Grand Jurors are also required to possess sufficient knowledge of the English language, be in possession of their natural faculties, of ordinary intelligence, of sound judgment and of good character. By law, elected public officials are not eligible.

Service as a Grand Juror involves an average of 3 to 4 full working days per week. Compensation is $25 per day plus meals and mileage associated with service. The regular meeting place is in San Bernardino.

Born in Colton, Garcia was the first Latin from the Colton barrio to enroll at UCLA. She worked for Douglas Aircraft during World War II and returned to Colton in 1960, working for the Colton School District, retiring in 1985.

Actively involved in the Native Daughters of the Golden West since 1946, she has been president of several parols and elected president of past-presidents association in 1980. Garcia has been active with Coopertive Services, an organization that builds affordable housing for senior citizens. She has served at the national level and was national president in 1997.

Dr. Tom Rivera has been director of the Inland Empire Future Leaders Program, a summer leadership development program targeted toward low-income, at-risk youth. Initially organized in 1985, with its first summer conference in Camp Wrightwood, the IEFL has to date enrolled over 2,000 8th and 9th grade students in the program.

The weeklong program consists of sessions in government process, parliamentary procedure, elections, cultural awareness, college preparation, citizen responsibilities and public speaking.

The dynamics of the individual sessions encourages students to strive toward academic excellence and to contribute to schools and community through involvement irrespective of economic status.

Four-year follow-up surveys have indicated that the majority of participants in the program have a 99 percent high school graduation rate and 89 percent attend colleges. Many former participants who are currently college students or college graduates return on a yearly basis to assist in the program, thus assuring an ongoing success.
NEW FAMILY LEARNING CENTER PLANNED AT CASABLANCA
Learning Center to Include State-Of-The-Art Learning Technologies

Continued from Page 1

Rendition of the library to be built in the community of Casa Blanca. The library will incorporate the latest technology to serve the area students and as a community center.

presented hundreds of story programs in English and Spanish for the children. She has been a mentor and role model for many generations of children growing up in Casa Blanca. We present Grace with this small token of our appreciation for all the years of caring for our children.” Grace Bailon began working for the Casa Blanca Neighborhood Library in 1957 and retired in 1992.

Riverside City Councilwoman Maureen Kane, representing the 4th Ward, spoke of the many obstacles that had to be overcome in order to finalize the planning of the library site. Kane is credited with continuing the effort throughout the years to complete the library project.

The new library is designed to include an information center, computer lab, world wide web access, books on tape, printed books meeting rooms, audio and video tapes and disks and a library of the community’s history.

The history of the first library in Casa Blanca began when the Casa Blanca PTA President Mrs. Ernest Benzor and a committee campaigned before the Riverside City Council for a branch library. As a result of their efforts; the city council, on March, 1955, signed a lease for the first library at 3133 Madison Avenue. A second site was opened at 2895 Madison Avenue.

CBPAC, library and city officials persevered to successfully complete the project, along with other obstacles, however, the commitment of the CBPAC, library and city officials persevered to successfully complete the project.

The history of the new library is a reflection of the history of the community. The library includes a large volume of books, with the emphasis on Mexican American heritage, juvenile and adult book collection, weekly preschool classes, tutoring, art and craft instructions and adult activities.

The library administration was part of the community and involved in its organizations, programs and cultural activities. Throughout these many years, the local community expanded, in terms of population and economics, along with other regions in the area.

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The history of the first library in Casa Blanca began when the Casa Blanca Project Area Committee. Photo by IEHN.


The CBPAC worked with the library administration and city officials in planning and fund procurement process. The recent recession halted the process, along with other obstacles, however, the commitment of the CBPAC, library and city officials persevered to successfully complete the project.

In her address, City Librarian Auth said, "This family learning center will be a showcase for the neighborhood and its residents of all ages. This is the day that a vision has become a reality and a gift to the community, our children and our children's children.”

Continued from Page 4

VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED FOR SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY GRAND JURY

Continued from Page 4

387-3825 to request an application, pick one up in person in room 200 of the Central Courthouse at 351 North Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0243, or may request an application in writing from that address.

Applications are also available at the various district Court offices throughout the County.

Applications will be accepted through April 13, 2001.
LT. GOVERNOR CRUZ M. BUSTAMANTE PROCLAIMS 'CAL GRANT DAY'

Lt. Governor Cruz M. Bustamante issued a proclamation declaring "Cal Grant Day" in California, noting that the deadline for graduating high school students to apply for an award under the $1.2 billion financial aid guarantee program is in exactly one month, March 2.

"The new Cal Grant Program guarantees an award to every student who is financially and academically eligible to receive one. We must ensure that students who are fully eligible to receive a Cal Grant award actually meet the March 2, 2001 deadline for applying," said Bustamante, who issued the proclamation in his capacity as Acting Governor.

The proclamation comes a day after Bustamante launched his "College Opportunity and Outreach Program," which will, among other things, promote the historic expansion of Cal Grant awards, California's basic financial aid program. Among those attending Bustamante's news conference was Lorenta Hultman, a college counselor at Roosevelt High School in East Los Angeles, who said many of her students believe they can't afford college. "Many of them come in to see me and say, "I have the grades, but I don't have the money to go to school." This (Cal Grant) wipes out that concern," Hultman said.

Under Cal Grant guidelines, students who meet financial eligibility requirements and who graduate with a "B" average of 3.0 qualify for a Cal Grant A award. needy students with a "C" average of 2.0 qualify for a Cal Grant B award. Community college transfer students must earn at least a 2.4 grade point average and be eligible to transfer to a four-year institution to be entitled to a Cal Grant award.

Cal Grant A recipients can receive a renewal award annually for up to four years to cover the cost of tuition and fees — up to $1,428 for the California State University; up to $3,429 for the University of California; and up to $9,708 for private colleges and universities. In their first year, Cal Grant B recipients can receive a grant up to $1,551 for books and living expenses. In subsequent years, Cal Grant also helps pay for tuition fees.

For more information about Cal Grant financial eligibility requirements, contact the California Student Aid Commission through their Web site at www.csac.ca.gov or through a toll free number, 888-CA-GRANT.
Riverside Community College is beginning for its spring semester which begins February 20.

Day, evening, and weekend classes are offered at the RCC campuses in Moreno Valley, Norco, and Riverside, with several courses available online through the Open Campus program. Classes are offered at the low tuition of $11 a unit. For more information about RCC’s spring semester or to receive a schedule of courses, call 222-8857.

POESIA PELIGROSA

The University of Cali Aztlan, Riverside, invites the public to join us for an Evening of Readings by Olga Echeverria Garcia

“Where Skin Peels”
Olga Angelina Echeverria Garcia is a nopal-eating Chicana poet from East L.A. Her poetic, barrio-focused, verbal creations appear on two cds. “Raza Spoken Here” and “When Skin Peels” produced by Calaca Press and

Donato Martinez

“Tacos de Lengua”
Martinez is an English Instructor at Santa Ana Community College and the author of a poetry book, “Tacos de Lengua”

His favorite expression is cultura cura and his favorite snack is oranges.

TEATRO QUINTO SOL * OPEN MIC

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2001
7:00 - 9:00pm Humanities 1500
University of Cali Aztlan, Riverside

Sponsored by UCR Chicano Student Programs & Teatro Quinto Sol

For Info: (909) 787-3821

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino will hold a public hearing on February 27, 2001, at 10:00 A.M., in the Chambers of the Board of Supervisors, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor, San Bernardino, CA. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the County’s 2001-2002 Housing, Community, and Economic Development Needs Identification Report and 2001-2002 Citizen Participation Plan.

NOTICE OF HEARING

BACKGROUND Each year since 1975, the County of San Bernardino has qualified to receive federal housing and community development grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funds are to develop viable communities by providing decent housing, suitable living environments, and expanded economic opportunities principally for low and moderate-income persons. In 1999, HUD renewed the County’s qualification to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Act (HOME) programs for Fiscal Years 2000, 2001, and 2002. The CDBG funds are for eligible projects in the unincorporated communities and (4) cooperating cities. These cities are Adelanto, Barstow, Big Bear Lake, Chino Hills, Colton, Grand Terrace, Highland, Loma Linda, Monclair, Needles, Redlands, Twentynine Palms, Yucaipa, and the Town of Yucca Valley. For the purpose of these grant funds, this area is referred to as the “County Consortium.”

In 1995 HUD combined the HOME, ESG and CDBG programs into a single grant application process. As part of the grant application, the County is required to submit a document that addresses the strategies and priority needs for using the three grants over a five year period. This document is called the Consolidated Plan. The County adopted its second Consolidated Plan on April 18, 2000. That Plan covered the 2000-2001, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 fiscal years. As part of preparing the first year of the five-year Consolidated Plan, the County gathered information on the community housing and economic developments needs in the localities covered by the County Consortium. The Needs Identification Report was developed from information gathered at twenty (20) Needs Identification Forums held in cooperating cities and unincorporated communities throughout the County during the Fall of 1999, from information received from County departments cities and non-profit agencies, and from surveys received from agencies, citizens and adjoining jurisdictions. Additional needs information has come from the project proposals received since October 2000, for the County’s 2001-2002 Community Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The Needs Identification Report will be presented for public comment and for review by the Board of Supervisors at the February 27, 2001 public hearing. The February 27, 2001 hearing is the first of the two HUD required hearings on the Consolidated Plan. The proposed Consolidated Plan will be considered by the Board of Supervisors at a second public hearing to be scheduled for April 3, 2001.

Also, as part of the grant application process under HUD regulations, the County must develop a Citizen Participation Plan to address how the public can become involved in the development of the 2000-2005 Consolidated Plan. The proposed Citizen Participation Plan will follow prior year plans that were previously approved by the Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENT For a period of thirty (30) days beginning on February 13, 2001 and ending on March 15, 2001, the public is invited to submit written comments on the Housing, Community, and Economic Development Needs Identification Report and Citizen Participation Plan. Copies of these documents are available for public review at the office of the County Department of Economic and Community Development. Comments received after 5:00 p.m. March 15, 2001 cannot be considered in the final preparation of the Needs Identification and Citizen Participation Plan. Send comments to County ECD at the address shown below.

Those individuals wishing to express their views on these substantial amendments may be present and be heard at the public hearing. You may make your comments in writing to assure that you are able to express yourself adequately.

San Bernardino County
Department of Economic and Community Development
290 North “D” Street, Sixth Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0000
Attn: Program and Compliance Section or call (909) 388-0959

FRED AGUIAR, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

J. RENEE BASTIAN, INTERIM CLERK
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Yesterday's Dream–Today’s Reality

Recognizing African American History Month

WHEREAS Americans of African descent helped develop our nation in countless ways and participated in every effort to secure, protect, and maintain the essence and substance of American democracy; and

WHEREAS the history of African Americans reflects a determined spirit, perseverance, and cultural pride in the struggle to share equally in the opportunities of a nation founded upon the principles of freedom and liberty for all people; and

WHEREAS the San Bernardino City Unified School District also plays a role in promoting the knowledge and understanding that can be gained by all students, regardless of race, through a study of African American history;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the San Bernardino City Unified School District declares the month of February 2001 to be acknowledged in all District schools as a period of recognition of African American history as it relates to the history and culture of our country.