August 15th 2001

Hispanic News

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THIRD ANNUAL RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY ACTION PLANNING WORKSHOP ENDS.
Future Activities are Planned for Forthcoming Year
See Article on Page 6-7

More than 150 persons, including educators, government leaders, community members and others participated in the 2001 Riverside County Community Action Planning Workshop in Rancho Mirage
Photo by RCOE

SAN BERNARDINO MAYOR JUDITH VALLES ASSURED OF 4-YEAR TERM
San Bernardino Mayor Judith Valles, above, was assured of a 4-year term due to lack of candidates for the forthcoming elections in November, 2001. Jim Penman, San Bernardino City Attorney, was the only potential candidate that had publicly indicated an interest in filing for the office. At a later date, Penman declared that he would not run. Valles stated in a previous interview with the IEHN that another four years was necessary to continue implementing the goals and programs for the city.

SANCHEZ RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NALEO
Latino Elected and Appointed Officials at their annual meeting in San Jose. Sanchez is a former Speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives. NALEO is celebrating its 25th anniversary in September 24 in Washington. Photo courtesy of Sanchez and Associates.

PURSUIT OF AWARENESS THROUGH A COLLEGE EXPERIENCE (PACE)
Armando Cepeda, background-center, instructs migrant students on the creation of art form at the Annual PACE Conference held at UCR. The week-long conference orient 10-12 grade students on college life, promoting basic skills and building self-esteem. The PACE Program was originated by Tina Martinez, Director, Migrant Education Region VII, Riverside County Office of Education.
Photo by IEHN

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GOVERNOR DAVIS HAILS THIRD YEAR OF PROGRESS ON SAT9 SCORES
Students Show Improvement In Reading and Math

Sacramento – Governor Gray Davis today praised California students, teachers and school administrators for a third year of steady improvement on academic achievement.

"Three years ago, when we launched the first accountability program in state history, I challenged our schools to improve student performance," Governor Davis said. "For an extraordinary third year in a row, our schools have risen to that challenge. The SAT9 scores released today show that our hard work and sharp focus on academics is paying off for California students."

Solid gains were shown over last year in the elementary grades, where most of Governor Davis' education reforms have been focused. In grades 2-6, the percentage of students who scored above the national average in math rose by three points, and in reading, by 1.6 points. Over the last three years, the percentage of students in grades 2-11 scoring at or above the national average in math has increased by 6.2 points and in reading by 3.5 points.

The greatest gains were in 3rd and 5th grade math, where students' average scores have moved from the 36th percentile to the 61st percentile and 40th percentile to the 55th percentile, respectively in three years.

"Today our standards are the toughest in the nation. Our reforms are fueling innovation and increasing learning, and our accountability program is ensuring that no school is left behind." The Governor continued. "We're on the right track, I challenge schools to maintain their focus on improving achievement."

Scores reveal much work remains to be done in grades 7-11, the Governor said. "That's why I've focused so much attention this year on middle school, where the groundwork is laid for academic success in high school.

"We need to redouble our commitment in the higher grades. That means tough standards and good teachers teaching to those standards."

One positive indicator of this effort is the increasing number of students taking algebra—a requirement for high school graduation beginning in 2004. This year, the number of students taking algebra increased by 24 percent and 15 percent in grades eight and nine, respectively.

Governor Davis also hailed a major milestone in the development of the statewide testing system. "For the first time, the test based on California's tough academic standards reports student achievement according to performance levels," the Governor said. "Parents, teachers and the public now have a clearer picture of how well our students are doing when measured against these standards."

Performance levels adopted by the State Board of Education rank students in five categories, from "far below basic" to "advanced." Scores for the English Language Arts portion of the 2001 California Standards Test are reported using these performance levels. Those scores will be integrated this year as baseline scores in the state's Academic Performance Index. Next year, growth on the English Language Arts portion of the Standards, Based Test will be measured on the API along with the first (baseline) year performance level scores on standards-based tests in mathematics, history, science and social science. Just 30 percent of students tested were ranked "proficient" or "advanced" in their knowledge of academic content in English Language Arts as measured by California's rigorous standards.

"Scores on the standards-based test show that there is still a lot of work to be done," Governor Davis said. "But we've set the bar high and I expect performance to follow."

Please visit http://star.cde.ca.gov/star2001 to view the 2001 SAT9 test results.

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Education
Wednesday, August 15, 2001

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Inland Empire Hispanic News

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Central Labor Council
Schedules
Labor Day Event

Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties 17th Annual Labor Day Solidarity Brunch will be held on Monday, September 3, 2001 from 9-12 Noon. The event will take place at the Hilton, San Bernardino, 285 E. Hospitality Lane, San Bernardino. Tickets are $40 per person or $200 per table of eight. Program advertising is available and should be submitted by August 20, 2001.

For more information call (909) 825-7871

The Inland Empire Hispanic News is publishing the Annual Special 16th of September edition and other added special historical articles during Hispanic Month, which commences on September 16th.

Community-based organizations, school districts, governmental agencies and private groups are requested to submit information regarding special events at their sites that are scheduled during Hispanic Month. The information must be submitted to the IEHN by the week of September 3rd via fax no. (909) 384-0418, e-mail to hispanic_news@eee.org or mall to IEHN, 1558 N. Waterman Ave. Ste D, San Bernardino, Ca. 92404.

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A press conference held on August 9 at Arrowhead Credit Union proved informational as Elvira Cecilia Blanco and Alfonso Garcia, visitors from Caja Popular Mexicana, shared their views on credit unions in the United States and Mexico. Blanco and Garcia have been visiting California as guests of World Council of Credit Unions, Arrowhead CU, and the California Credit Union League.

"This has been a wonderful week," said Blanco in Spanish, "starting with the welcome by the people at Arrowhead and the League. They received us with so much warmth. These past few days have been busy days because we've wanted to take advantage of as much as we can in our visits to Arrowhead, the League and WesCorp."

In addition to those visits, Blanco and Garcia toured Norton Community Credit Union and met with local dignitaries including the mayor of San Bernardino, and State Senator Nell Soto. The visitors said they have gleaned many ideas to take back to their credit union.

Garcia expressed amazement at the technology available at U.S. Credit Unions. He said he hopes that Mexican credit unions will one day be par with their counterparts in the United States.

"We have less products and are lacking in technology," said Garcia, "but we are similar in that everything we do is for our members."

Garcia also said that, in Mexico, credit unions are not in competition with banks. "They have their niche carved out, and we're very conscious of that," he said. "But they work with numbers and we work with people. Their market is defined and it is not our market." Other differences included the fact that privacy issues, currently a concern in the United States, are not thought about in Mexico where the technology is not as advanced.

Blanco and Garcia spent much of their time in California studying the marketing and member retention efforts of the credit unions they visited. Caja Popular Mexicana uses similar marketing strategies to those employed by California credit unions, with the addition of door-to-door marketing efforts to gain new members. Community involvement is also stressed at the Mexican credit union.

"We are very involved in the community," said Garcia, "we open branches in communities that need them the most. We also help to start schools in those communities. The people know that the credit union belongs to them."

Government involvement has also grown for Mexican credit unions in the past few years. Mexican President Vincente Fox has offered support for Caja Popular Mexicana, attending credit union events and forming a friendship with the CEO. According to Blanco, this has given the public confidence in their credit union membership.

The visitors also shared their personal philosophies in regard to credit unions and their goals for the future. "My goal is that all credit unions will form to join one organization," said Blanco. Garcia said that he would like to help with growth of low-income communities.

"Everybody deserves service," he said, later adding that "We have many members but they deposit little. You have less members but they deposit much more."

After the press conference, Blanco and Garcia attended a reception held in their honor at Arrowhead Credit Union.

MEXICAN VISITORS END U.S. STAY WITH PRESS CONFERENCE AND RECEPTION
Caja Popular Mexicana Officials Express Thanks For Hospitality: Insights Into Mexico's CU System
By Tina Ramos Ingold
California Credit Union League

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Pursuit of Awareness through a College Experience (PACE) By Angela Vasquez

With the help of family and each other, migrant students are making it happen this summer at UCR’s PACE program.

The Pursuit of Awareness through a College Experience (PACE) Program, started in 1987, is an academically enriching experience for secondary level migrant students. PACE was designed to support high school students with the potential for graduating and attending college. The program allows 60-72 migrant students the opportunity to attend a one-week summer program at the University of California, Riverside.

“Migrant students are at a very serious risk. Many are transient and move around a lot. They follow their parents wherever the crops are, which doesn’t allow them to attend school regularly,” said PACE Coordinator Sal Gutierrez.

The program is headed by Tina Martinez, Director, Migrant Education, Riverside County Office of Education, and is staffed with two credentialed PACE teachers, three Inland Writing Project teachers, and UCR graduate students who provide instruction during the summer program. Mary Lopez and Sal Gutierrez are coordinators who handle elementary and high school programs. Many of the people involved with PACE are former and current teachers, or are working in the field of education.

Students are required to attend four hours of class per day. Students spend the first two hours of class focusing on a primary emphasis of PACE, writing skills. PACE students produce written material throughout the week, which are eventually published in September and sent to the students and their high schools.

The students also improve on their writing skills by producing two newsletters documenting the events of the weeklong program. The newsletters included articles like, “Life in the Dorms”, horoscopes, articles, poems, drawings and more.

“Fantastic, phenomenal, unforgettable, extraordinary, and incredible. It’s that way because it is nice to meet students from other schools and interchange ideas and work,” commented student Leonard Santos.

The PACE Olympics were a highlight of the program, in which students break up into teams and participate in relays and games. Students also had the opportunity to see several presentations: College of Engineering’s Robot Labs, MESA Program, Rosa Marta Zarate y las Mujeres del Proyecto Calpulli musical performance, “el 4 de Julio: A Raza Perspective”, “Las Llaves de tu Futuro”, and Salsa Dance Lessons from UCR students.

As a cultural exposure the students were taken to a Dodgers game, which was a new experience for many of the students who come from poor families and would never otherwise be able to attend a game.

“The kids learn to have fun as a group, without drugs or alcohol. They quickly lose their inhibitions and become big fans,” said coordinator Sal Gutierrez.

BACA, LABOR, HISPANIC MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND LATINO ORGANIZATIONS STAND TOGETHER IN OPPOSITION TO FAST TRACK

Washington, DC – Congressman Joe Baca (D-Rialto) today joined organized labor, Hispanic Member of Congress, and Latino organizations to declare his opposition to renewing Fast Track Promotional Authority to the President. Congressman Baca said, “Fast Track will mean another NAFTA like disaster. We all know what has happened since NAFTA. The only jobs we have gained are fast cat Wall Street jobs while everyday people have lost their manufacturing and agricultural jobs. If we allow for this to happen we can be sure more of our jobs will be shipped outside our borders to nations that have little or no minimum wage, labor regulations, or environment standards.”

The press conference was organized by the labor Council for Latin American Advancement and the UNITE. Representatives attended the event from various Latino interest organizations and there were several members of Congress in attendance.

Congressman Baca said, “Workers in this county deserve protections to ensure that businesses do not go where they can make a profit by cutting corners on health, safety, and environmental protection. That is why I opposed NAFTA, that’s why I opposed PNTR, and that’s why I opposed Fast Track for Bush. Since NAFTA, jobs have moved south, working class Americans, including a great number of Latinos, have lost jobs—people who thought they had the American dream of owning a home and sending their kids to college. When a manufacturing center in Los Angeles closes down and moves to Ciudad Juarez—who looses? Most of the jobs we are loosing are many of the same jobs employ- ing Latinos in this country.”
If there has been one change that has been truly breathtaking within the Inland Empire during my lifetime, it is the speed with which the Hispanic community has become a major force. In 1980, the group’s rapid growth was an interesting sidelight. In 1990, they were starting to become a major force. The new 2000 Census shows that this community’s size and growth is one of the most important facts about the region.

In the past, lip service was given to the fact that our area’s leaders needed to understand this community better. Today, such knowledge is imperative if we are to create appropriate economic, training or educational policies. Where once businesses could passively think about the Hispanic market’s potential, today it must become a key part of their marketing and management decisions. All that said, for many outside of the Hispanic community, this important part of the Inland Empire’s population remains an enigma. As my work requires an understanding of the various nuances of life styles in our region, I have lately been trying to fill that knowledge gap. As always, this starts by reviewing numbers, but it also includes numerous conversations with Hispanic leaders like Ofelia Valdez-Yeager in Riverside.

There are two principal business owners for me. Since my first wife and mother of my children was a Latina, this effort has allowed me to freshen my relationship with some old friends.

How Big Is The Hispanic Community? In 2000, the Inland Empire had 3.25 million people, a few less than Oregon. Of these, 1.22 million or 37.8% were Hispanic. In nine cities, Hispanics are in the majority including two of the region’s largest: Ontario (59.9%) and Fontana (57.7%). In another five cities, they are not a majority but are the largest group. This includes three major cities. San Bernardino (47.5%), Chino (47.4%) and Moreno Valley (38.4%).

Where Are The Region’s Hispanic Residents? The largest number live in Riverside (97,315) followed by Ontario (94,610) and San Bernardino (88,022). While these are the region’s three largest cities, I was personally surprised to find Riverside in this group. However, checking back to the 1990 Census reveals that it was also true then, though the numbers were about half as large and the order somewhat different: Riverside (57,741), San Bernardino (56,413), Ontario (55,238).

Hispanics Grow, Whites Decline. In comparing the 1990 and 2000 Censuses, a result emerged for which I was completely unprepared. While the Inland Empire added 666,028 people, over four of every five new residents were from the Hispanic community (553,044). I expected an increase, but not that large. At the same time, I expected that the White population would show slow growth as occurred with the Black (72,189) and Asian (46,152) populations. I did not expect to find a decline of 81,486 people. The decrease in Whites was entirely in San Bernardino County, which lost 112,608. In Riverside County, there was a small gain of 31,122 largely fueled by migration from Orange and San Diego counties.

Within the major cities, five had significant changes of this type. Fontana gained the most Hispanics at 42,890, followed by Riverside (39,574), Ontario (39,372), San Bernardino (31,609) and Moreno Valley (25,281). At the same time, Riverside had the largest loss in White population at 22,971. Other major declines occurred in Moreno Valley (22,549), San Bernardino (21,187) and Ontario (20,712).

Different Job Pattern. To those of us concerned with economic development, one fact about the Hispanic community is of special importance. This is the difference between the occupations of that community and the population as a whole. U.S. Department of Labor data for 2000 show that these differences were particularly large in three sectors. Some 36% of Hispanics had blue-collar jobs in sectors like manufacturing, logistics and construction versus 25% for all workers. 17% of Hispanics had jobs in consumer service occupations versus 11% of all workers. Turning these shares around, 14% of Hispanics were employed in executive and professional jobs versus 30% of all workers.

In this sense, the blue-collar nature of the Inland Empire economy has been a good fit for its rapidly growing Hispanic community. However, the fact that these jobs are in decline nationally and the nature of work within these sectors is becoming more technologically difficult presents challenges to the Inland Empire’s education community. Ultimately, many of the region’s adult workers are going to need more training, while young people entering the labor market will need to be prepared for more complex jobs than their parents.

Businesses can help. Hispanic Businesses, Entrepreneurship is alive and well in the Inland Empire’s Hispanic community. According to the recently released 1997 Census of Business, the Inland Empire’s 32,198 Hispanic owned business ranked 6th among U.S. metropolitan areas after Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Houston and San Antonio. These firms had $5.4 billion in sales.

Of the 31,198 Hispanic firms in the inland area most were small proprietorships without employees, 27,023 or 84%. They had total annual sales of $789 million or modest average of $29,200. On the other hand, the 5,175 firms with employees (16%) accounted for $4.6 billion in sales or average sales of $892,000. Finally, among the sectors, the largest number of Hispanic owned firms with employees were in retailing (1,659) and construction (1,269). The largest number without employees were in consumer services (11,105) and transportation (3,784).

Divinity, Power and Economic Success. There are some powerful messages in these numbers. If schools boards are to understand the children and adults their systems are trying to teach, they will need Hispanic members. The same is true for City Councils, if they are to make good decisions about the populations they are governing. Business leadership groups are going to need the participation of Hispanic business owners if they are to understand the economy they are trying to improve. And, companies throughout the region are going to need Hispanics in position of power if they are to adapt to the marketplace and labor force growing up around them.

Economist John Husing writes a column for The Business Press, a weekly newspaper covering the Inland Empire business community. This column appeared in the paper’s July 30 issue.
THIRD ANNUAL RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY ACTION PLANNING WORKSHOP ENDS. FUTURE ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED FOR FORTHCOMING YEAR

Accepting Outstanding Community Leaders Awards during the RCCAPW are: Judy Thompson of Azusa and Bob Doyle, Undersheriff, Riverside County Sheriff’s Department. At right is Dave Long, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools. Photo by RCOE

RANCHO MIRAGE—Urged on by State Sen. Jim Brulte and U.S. Olympian Torrey Folk, 130 participants at the recent Third Annual Riverside County Community Action Planning (RCCAP) have launched a new slate of projects designed to meet critical needs in Riverside County communities.

Dr. David Long, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, founded RCCAP. Long created RCCAP to bring together community leaders, educators and government officials to work on community projects.

Long credited RCCAP committees for their work during the last year, including: a countywide website (www.riversidecounty211.org) that will help residents find services they need; a Youth Summit attended by more than 500 students at UCR; a Safe Schools Summit hosted by the Riverside County Office of Education: a Riverside County School Resource Officer Association, which held its first meeting in Temecula with nearly 200 school police officers attending.

RCCAP participants this year met for three days to plan projects, attend strategy sessions and share information for a New Year of work.

Sen. Brulte attended the workshop. Brulte applauded the work of RCCAP participants, saying “what you are doing here is exactly what is needed to bring about change.” Brulte said that state government could benefit from the same type of exchange of ideas.

Participants were also motivated by Folk, a member of the 2000 Olympic rowing team in Sydney, Australia. Folk shared her experiences as a member of the rowing team, saying that her sport is demanding and strenuous.

Beyond the physical demands, one of the hardest mental challenges is to make sure that all eight rowers in the boat row as nearly the same time.

“You have to pull together as a team,” she told RCCAP participants. Long said her message was a perfect fit for RCCAP committees as they start a year’s worth of work.

“I am very impressed with the hard work and commitment the RCCAP committees demonstrated during the workshop,” Long said. “I am confident they will continue that commitment through the year many of their projects will make a positive impact on the communities of Riverside County.”

Long said the improving the lifestyle of Riverside County residents, especially the youth, is the main goal of RCCAP projects. Committees have tackled a wide range of projects, including literacy, health, public transportation, safety, and neighborhood improvements.

Some RCCAP committees are continuing their work from the first two years of RCCAP. Others are designing new projects. The following new projects were discussed:

Transporation- a continuing committee that promoted public transportation. This committee has already added new bus routes in the county and helped a school district transition to public transportation to save money on its busing costs.

Literacy- a continuing committee that is producing and distributing “literacy flash cards” and other materials to new families also is distributing reading kits through county service centers.

Youth Leadership- a continuing committee that last year sponsored a Youth Summit with more than 500 young people attending held at University of California, Riverside. This year the committee will attempt to network all youth councils in the county and hold more conferences to meet critical needs.

Tolerance in Learning- a new committee that will promote tolerance and cooperation in schools by publishing and “idea book” for tolerance education.

Jasmine Carillo, left, and Christine Corpus describe the first-ever Youth Summit held at UCR and organized by a RCCAP Committee. Over 500 students attended the summit. Photo by RCOE

The #1 way to save on energy costs for your business is through conservation.

Setting thermostats to 80 degrees or higher, installing energy efficient lighting and reducing non-essential electrical equipment are all great tips.

So is contacting Riverside Public Utilities. Our representatives will offer technical assistance and guide you through our energy conservation incentive programs. They’ll help you identify energy wasting lighting, motors and cooling equipment and offer rebates for replacing them with energy efficient equipment.

For more information on our incentive programs, call us today at 909.826.5485. Be POWERWISE and conserve electricity!
THIRD ANNUAL RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY ACTION PLANNING WORKSHOP ENDS.  
FUTURE ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED FOR FORTHCOMING YEAR

Washington, D.C. - The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), the nation’s leading Hispanic educational organization, will honor Emilio and Gloria Estefan and the Hon. Henry Cisneros with its 2001 Medallion of Excellence for Leadership, respectively. The presentation will take place at CHCI’s 24th Annual Gala, Wednesday, September 26, 2001 at the MCI Center.

This year, CHCI will also be joined by Jamie-Lynn Sigler (HBO’s The Sopranos) and Cristián de la Fuente (No. 1 box-office movie Driven as the Mistress and Master of Ceremonies. The legendary “Queen of Salsa” Celia Cruz will perform accompanied by world-renowned Jose “El Canario” Alberto.

CHCI’s Annual Gala, which began in 1977 as a small dinner, has become the largest and most prestigious event in the country commemorating Hispanic Heritage Month. The event attracts more than 2,000 guests, including media personalities, celebrities, Members of Congress, national leaders and the President of the United States. Last year’s record-breaking Gala raised $2.1 million to benefit Hispanic Youth. With this year’s theme, Celebrate Diversity, the Gala will undoubtedly be a spectacular and unforgettable experience in sight, sound, and taste.

What: CHCI’s 24th Annual Gala

Where: MCI Center (601 F Street, NW), Washington, D.C.

When: Thursday, September 26, 2001, 6:00 p.m.

Participants at the 2001 RCCAPW in Rancho Mirage discuss plans for the following year’s worth of projects. RCCAP is in its third year.

Your home could be loaded with cash

Pay for college tuition

Consolidate debt

Pay taxes

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A Home Equity line-of-credit from Arrowhead Credit Union is the smart way to borrow and can even give you a possible tax savings.

For more information call (909) 881-3355 ext. 2342 or ext. 2318 or, toll free (800) 743-7228 ext. 2342 or ext. 2318 www.arrowheadcu.org

INLAND EMPIRE HISPANIC NEWS

Wednesday, August 15, 2001

Martin Martinez of Indio was the recipient of the 2001 RCCAP Community Leaders Awards. Martinez was unable to attend the annual event and Tina Martinez, director of Migrant Education for the RCOE, accepted the award on his behalf. Photo by RCOE.

Dr. Dave Long, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, welcomes Olympic rower Torey Folk to the third Annual RCCAPW in Rancho Mirage. Folk, who competed in the 2000 Olympics in Australia, was a keynote speaker during the workshop. Photo by RCOE.

also the director of a “Safe House” for troubled youth, and has helped support after school and athletic programs for youths countywide.

Quinn Libert Hawley is the minister of First Congregational Church in Perris. Rev. Hawley has served the community of Perris and the Perris Union High School District in a collaborative effort to upgrade facilities and instructional programs. He spearheaded the first and only general obligation bond for new school construction, passes by and impressive 72 percent of voters. The bond will provide $40 million to improve schools. He sponsors the Interact Clubs at Perris and Rancho Verde High Schools, and assists in local scholarship programs through the Rotary Club of Perris. He serves as the military chaplain at Riverside National Cemetery and performs military funerals in his capacity as Captain, US Navy (RET). His work has touched the lives of thousands of individuals, including more than 50 deserving students who have received financial assistance for college or university training.

Martin Martinez is owner of Income Tax Service in Indio. He has been very active in local organizations. He is a founding member of the Coachella Valley Mexican American Chamber of Commerce, served as the group’s first president and was named as the group’s Humanitarian of the Year. He serves on the Palm Springs Desert Museum Board of Trustees and the John F. Kennedy Hospital Board of Governors. He is on the Coachella Valley Historical Society Board of Trustees and Executive Director of the Dr. Reynaldo J. Carreon, M.D. Foundation Scholarship Awards Program, which has given $475,000 to students since 1995. He has given his time and energy to the Coachella Valley for 20 years.

Judy Thompson is owner if the Park Avenue Deposition Service in Aguanga. Since moving to the Anza Valley area 10 years ago, she has given her time and energy to the community. She began the Anza Valley Seniors Group at the request of the pastor of the Anza Baptist Church. More than 200 seniors now belong to the group. She formed the Anza Valley Transportation system. The county received two vans donated by RTA and Judy found volunteer drivers to put the program together. She serves on the Municipal Advisory Committee as the Honorary Mayor of Anza.
LOCAL YOUNG LADY COMPLETES FOR THE MISS TEEN SAN BERNARDINO/PASADENA TITLE

Yesenia Rodriguez of San Bernardino was recently selected to participate in Nationals’ 2001 Miss Teen San Bernardino/Pasadena pageant competition that will take place on August 19, 2001. Yesenia learned of her acceptance into this year’s competition and took part in an interview with this year’s San Bernardino/Pasadena judging panel.

If Yesenia is successful in winning the title of Miss Teen San Bernardino/Pasadena, she would represent San Bernardino/Pasadena and the surrounding communities at the City of America National Competition that will take place in Orlando, Florida. Over $60,000.00 in prizes and awards will be presented at the National Competition while each winner enjoys this expense paid trip of five nights and six days in Orlando, Florida.

There is no cost to Yesenia for participating in the pageant competition. Community businesses, organizations, and private individuals will assist Yesenia in participating in this year’s competition by becoming official sponsor to her. Through sponsorship, each contestant receives all the necessary training, rehearsals, and financial support which allow Yesenia to become a very confident and well-prepared contestant in this year’s San Bernardino/Pasadena Pageant.

Any business, organization, or private individual who may be interested in becoming a sponsor to Yesenia may contact her pageant coordinator, Michele Garris at 1-800-569-2487.

SAN BERNARDINO MAYOR JUDITH VALLES CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE TO HOST FUNDRAISER

The Judith Valles for Mayor Campaign Committee is hosting a fundraiser event at the San Bernardino Hilton, 285 Hospitality Lane, San Bernardino on August 28, 2001, with social hour at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00.

Congressman Jerry Lewis is the special keynote speaker. The honorary host committee is composed of elected officials, including Congressman Joe Baca, Senator Nell Soto, Assemblypersons John Longville and Gloria McLeod, Supervisors Fred Aguiar, Jerry Eaves and Dennis Hansberger, Inland Empire mayors, San Bernardino councilpersons and community activists.

“This event will give me an opportunity to thank all the citizens for their support during my tenure as mayor. I am also reviewing the accomplishments during these last three and a half years and our future goals for our city in the forthcoming four years,” stated Valles.

Persons wishing to attend the fundraising event are requested to RSVP by August 23 to (909) 379-6279.

BACA, LABOR, HISPANIC MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND LATINO ORGANIZATIONS STAND TOGETHER IN OPPOSITION TO FAST TRACK

Washington, DC – Congressman Joe Baca (D-Rialto) today joined organized labor, Hispanic Member of Congress, and Latino organizations to declare his opposition to renewing Fast Track Promotional Authority to the President. Congressman Baca said, “Workers in this county deserve protections to ensure that businesses do not go where they can make a profit by cutting corners on health, safety, and environmental protections. That is why I opposed NAFTA, that’s why I opposed PNTR, and that’s why I oppose Fast Track for Bush. Since NAFTA, jobs have moved south, working class Americans, including a great number of Latinos, have lost jobs— people who thought they had the American dream of owning a home and sending their kids to college. When a manufacturing center in Los Angeles closes down and moves to Ciudad Juárez – who loses? Most of the jobs we are losing are many of the same jobs employing Latinos in this country.”

PASS DEMOCRATIC WOMEN’S CLUB (PDWC)

The Pass Democratic Women’s Club (PDWC) holds their monthly meeting the third Wednesday of each month, either a luncheon or a dinner meeting. The next dinner meeting will be August 15, 2001, 5:30 p.m. at the Sizzler Restaurant, 1750 W. Ramsey. Guest Speaker will be Steve Graves, Director of Region 18, State Democratic Party, who will speak on “Policies, Procedures & organization of the Democratic Party in California.” For reservations, please call Dolly at (909) 769-3916.
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON SALUTED FOR ITS SUPPLIER DIVERSITY EFFORTS

A coalition of organizations led by the Greenlining Institute, a leading multi-ethnic, public policy center based in San Francisco, has identified Southern California Edison as having one of the most successful supplier diversity programs in America.

In a report entitled "Report Card -- California Utility Minority Contract Achievements: The Best in the Nation," the institute noted SCE awarded almost 25% of its supplier contracts to minority-owned businesses.

The typical Fortune 1,000 corporation, according to the report, spends less than 3% of its budget for outside contracts on minority firms, and few spend more than 5%

SCE was awarded an "A" in the report. The high grade was only the latest recognition SCE has received for either its diversity efforts in doing business or in meeting the needs of a diverse work force.

Last month, Fortune magazine ranked SCE as the fourth best company in America for minorities to work at. Moreover, it was the fourth straight year Fortune named SCE as one of America's 50 best companies for minorities.

In 2000, for the second straight year, LATINA Style Magazine named SCE one of the "50 best companies for Latinas to work for in the U.S."

And in 1999, A Magazine recognized SCE for providing one of "the best work environments for Asian Americans," and named the utility as one of the nation's top five Fortune 500 companies for Asian Americans.

"Our supplier diversity efforts are not just a matter of wanting to "do the right thing," said Frank Quevedo, vice president for equal opportunity at SCE. "Our diversity efforts just make good business sense. The number of female-owned and minority-owned businesses is increasing all the time. Their success is good for the region, and what's good for the region is good for Edison."

John Gamboa, director of the Greenlining Institute said, "The report card demonstrates that Edison and the other major utilities [regulated by] the California Public Utilities Commission award five-to-seven times more contracts to minority-owned businesses than do their counterparts in corporate America."

As a result of these voluntary procurements goals, more than $1 billion in contracts were awarded by California's eight largest utilities to small minority business in the year 2000, Gamboa added.

The report strongly urged California Gov. Gray Davis and state regulators to continue supporting the voluntary program.

The Inland Congregations United for Change (ICUC) has been monitoring Assembly Bill 540 during its progress through the different levels of the legislative agenda, including the Senate and Assembly Committees on Higher Education. The bill is currently being reviewed by the Senate Appropriations Committee for fiscal impact.

Bill 540 modifies the law to allow students to become eligible for California student residential tuition fees in lieu of the required non-residential tuition fees.

"Numerous students who are academically qualified, have completed their elementary school, high school or community college, yet cannot afford non-resident tuition fees because they have not completed the lengthy INS process. Thus, time and politics rob them of their educational goals," stated Kathy Olguin, Holy Rosary Community leader.

Olguin said that these students are highly motivated and determined and are generally rewarded with barriers blocking their potential growth to educate themselves.

"With the proper education, these students will eventually contribute to our society, become involved in their respective communities and become taxpayers, just like their hard working parents," Olguin said.

Olguin is asking the public to call or write to Senator Dede Alpert, chairperson of the Appropriations Committee, to support AB540. His address is State Capitol, Rm. 5050, and Sacramento, CA 95840 or call his office at (916) 445-3952.

BURTON BILL EXPANDING FARM WORKERS RIGHTS BECOMES LAW

SACRAMENTO- Legislation by Senate President pro Tem John Burton that expands farm workers' "rights in recovering financial losses when defrauded by contractors was signed into law late Monday night.

"Everyone in California reaps the benefits of farm workers' labor," Burton said. "I'm pleased the State of California has recognized this by making it easier for farm workers to get their due if they are taken advantage of by an unscrupulous contractor."

Currently a farm labor contractor must post a wage surety bond from $25,000 to $75,000 depending on the size of their payroll. SB 1125 expands the surety bond to cover all monetary claims a farm worker is entitled to recover including not being paid on time, being issued a bad check, being denied meal or rest breaks and wrongful termination.

SB 1125 was sponsored by the United Farm Workers of America and supported by the California Farm Bureau, California Rural legal Assistance Foundation, the Citrus League, the Wine Institute and other organizations.

A companion measure, AB 423 by Assembly Speaker Robert M. Hertzberg, is awaiting action by the Governor.
Vincent Duro, Tribal Vice Chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, shakes hands with city officials during a ceremony awarding $875,000 to 8 local cities for traffic management. Pictured with Mr. Duro are (L-R) William Alexander, Mayor, City of Highland, Chino; John Starbuck, Mayor, City of Highland; and Patrick Griffin, Assistant City Manager, City of Chino.

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians will assist eight Inland Empire cities in completing their traffic coordination plans through a partnership totaling nearly one million dollars.

Checks were awarded to city officials in a ceremony attended by tribal members and local dignitaries on July 16, 2001. Cities receiving the funding are Fontana, Ontario, San Bernardino, Highland, Chino, Rancho Cucamonga, Upland and Montclair.

The $875,000 given by the tribe will go towards installing cameras at major intersections to monitor traffic flow and computer equipment to control traffic lights. Better control of traffic lights means a reduction in wait times at intersections and a corresponding reduction in air pollution from idling cars. Because of these efforts, the San Bernardino valley should see a meaningful improvement in air quality.

Tom Danna, Transportation Manager with the city of Chino, states, “We add several new traffic signals annually to accommodate traffic growth; however funding is not always available to tie these signals to our central computer. The city has two projects in its capital improvement program budget to upgrade and expand our traffic signal coordination and communication system. We have previously applied for grant money to assist with these projects but were unsuccessful. This contribution from San Manuel Band of Mission Indians allows us to update our efforts and fill in those gaps within our budget. Thanks to San Manuel, we can move forward and update the system,” he said.

“The tribe has always believed in supporting the local communities. As Native Americans, we feel very strongly about protecting our environment. This project is just one example of how Indian Gaming benefits the local communities,” said Deron Marquez, Tribal Chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

The traffic coordination project was developed and proposed to the tribe by Eddie Philips, Environmental Protection Coordinator for San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. “The tribe is developing an air quality plan and this project fits perfectly into that framework. Cleaner air is good for everyone,” he said. Allocation of the funds was based on city-proposed projects: $250,000 each to the Cities of Fontana and Ontario; $100,000 each to the Cities of San Bernardino, Rancho Cucamonga, and Chino; and $25,000 each to the Cities of Highland, Montclair and Upland.

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians sees this as a starting place for similar community programs. Future plans include community parks, computer programs for local schools, after-school programs and putting in sports fields. "The tribe is at the beginning stages of what we hope to be a long beneficial partnership with the local communities. The possibilities are endless,” said Deron Marquez.

Raymond G. Sanchez, President of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) and Former Speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives has been re-elected to serve as President of America's largest and most prestigious Association representing Americans of Hispanic Descent.

President Sanchez reaffirmed NALEO's resolve to accelerate the pace of it's agenda which he defined as, "America's agenda". To provide health care to all families; to ensure educational excellence for our children; to enhance economic opportunities; to secure adequate housing; and to continue to promote political access for all Americans of Hispanic descent."

Sanchez, describing the conference in San Jose as being, among the best, welcomed the participants to Albuquerque, New Mexico June 27-29 for the Annual Conference and commended Loretta Armenta and the Albuquerque Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for their efforts in making this a reality.

NALEO, with well over 5,000 elected and appointed today, was founded twenty-five years ago on September 29, 1976. It was re-organized on May 11, 1978 to reflect the spirit of the organization, a non-partisan organization devoted to strengthening the participation of all Latinos in our democracy.

Sanchez, also stated; "In collaboration with the NALEO Education Fund, NALEO has been a powerful voice in advocacy for full integration of Latinos in the American political process. On September 24, NALEO will celebrate it's 25th Anniversary in Washington, D.C. and honor the pioneers of its community, their legacy and the efforts to create a society that is just and provides an equal opportunity for all its members".

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GOVERNOR DAVIS APPLAUDS UC MOVE TO ESTABLISH A "CALIFORNIA HOUSE" IN MEXICO CITY

UC Regents Approve Agreement between Governor Davis and Mexico President Fox

Governor Gray Davis praised the University of California Regents for voting today to formally authorize UC to establish a California House in Mexico City to facilitate academic exchanges and research between Mexico and the Golden State. "The California House in Mexico will bring the vast resources of the State of California and the University of California together in an effort to fuel education, tourism and trade opportunities," Governor Davis said.

Governor Davis and Mexico President Vicente Fox signed an agreement to establish the foreign academic and trade center in Mexico during President Fox's visit to California last March.

California House will serve as local headquarters for the University of California and the California Trade, Commerce and Technology Agency.

Governor Davis included $5 million in the University of California's 2000-01 budget to fund collaborations between UC and Mexico in issues of mutual interest.

The Mexico City California House will also be connected to Internet 2, a high speed Internet link connecting all UC and California State University campuses with Mexican universities. The office will also establish links of communication and interaction with the California Trade and Commerce Agency office in Mexico City.

In 1999, Governor Davis attended the official opening of the first California House in London. The Mexico City office will be the second international office of the University of California. A site for the California House in Mexico City has not yet been selected.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE INLAND EMPIRE

September 5, Wednesday
IEHCCA monthly Board of Directors meeting. Location TBA

September 14, Friday
Fontana Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Cultural Festival, at Miller Park 5:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. for more information call 909-428-6797

September 15, Saturday
Fontana Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Cultural Festival; at Miller Park 10:00 a.m. till 10:00 p.m. for more information call 909-428-6797

September 16, Saturday
Fontana Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Cultural Festival, at Miller Park 10:00 a.m. till 10:00 p.m. for more information call, 909-888-2188

September 19, Wednesday
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) 22nd Annual Convention & Business Expo, September 19-22, 2001, in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information, call 1-800-874-2286.

September 21, Friday
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) 22nd Annual Convention & Business Expo, September 19-22, 2001, in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information, call 1-800-874-2286.

September 22, Saturday
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) 22nd Annual Convention & Business Expo, September 19-22, 2001, in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information, call 1-800-874-2286.

September 27, Thursday
B.E.A.N.S at Mitla's Restaurant Mt. Vernon, San Bernardino, CA at 7:15 a.m. for more information call, 909-888-2188

City of San Bernardino Summer Utility User's Tax Rebate Program

Rebate Application for Residents

You're getting money back!
The City of San Bernardino Summer Utility Rebate Program

Questions? Call (909) 873-3409

Yes it's true! If you're a resident of the City of San Bernardino, or you own a business in San Bernardino, you're getting a rebate!

With the arrival of summer and a new round of electricity rate increases, the City of San Bernardino wants you to get some financial relief. The City gets a portion of your electricity payments, through a UUT (Utility Users' Tax). With the higher electricity bills, the City will receive more money from the Tax than it needs. So, you're getting some back!

Residential Example: My Utility Users Tax for July is $4.50. My Utility Users Tax for August is $5.50. I get the $10 rebate for each month for a total of $20.

My Utility Users Tax for July is $7.00. My Utility Users Tax for August is $15.00. I get the $10 rebate for each month for a total of $20 and I can apply for an additional rebate check for August in the amount of $8.00.

How do I get my $10?

You don't have to do anything! Residents who get water from the City of San Bernardino will receive a $10 payment made on the City's water bill. Those residents who get water from outside the City, or if they are on a well, are eligible to apply for an additional rebate check for August in the amount of $8.00.

How do I apply for an additional rebate amount over the $10 per month?

Applications are at City Hall, 200 North D Street, Fontana Lobby or Finance Department, on the website www.csbsanbernardino.ca.gov at Finance Department, 4th Floor of City Hall.

I'm a renter and/or do not have City Water. Do I get a rebate?

Yes! Even if your landlord pays your water bill or you get water service from outside the City, you can get a rebate. Just fill out an application for the rebate that will be mailed to you if you can pick one up at City Hall Lobby.

What's happening with the rebate?

Business owners can apply for a rebate too! Applications are being mailed to every business with a business registration on file with the City of San Bernardino.
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