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DIANE PEREZ APPOINTED ADMINISTRATOR TO SAFE SCHOOLS UNIT AT RCOE

Riverside County Office of Education Superintendent David Long recently appointed Diane Perez as Administrator of the Safe Schools Unit with the Division of Governmental Relations and Support Services.

"I am pleased to appoint Ms. Perez to this important position to administer the responsibilities of the Safe Schools Unit," said Superintendent Long.

Perez received a BA in Political Science with an emphasis in International Relations from UCLA, MA in Educational Counseling with a Pupil Support Services Credential and Administrative Credential from the University of Redlands.

Perez has been involved as administrator, planner and coordinator of various programs in the Safe Schools Unit. The Unit is responsible for the implementation, coordination, and monitoring/evaluation of programs in the county such as Safe and Drug-Free Schools, Tobacco-Free Prevention, Safe Schools/Health Students, Homeless Education, Child Welfare & Attendance, and other student-welfare programs.

Perez is also research and program grant developer for the Program and Administrative Support Division and a department consultant to county, city and other governmental agencies.

SAN BERNARDINO SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT APPOINTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

The San Bernardino Sheriff's Department has appointed Deputy Sheriff Michelle R. Kopp to the Public Affairs Division, assigned to assist in coordinating Operation CleanSweep, a Sheriff Department safe program that services approximately 30,000 students throughout the county.

Kopp also has collateral duties as department liaison in assisting with the Crime Free Multi-Housing and Community Program. The Program is a pro-active approach to crime intervention and prevention in apartment complexes, bringing the Sheriff's Department, managers and landlords together with the community. The aim is to have landlords and managers learn how to successfully manage properties and provide an improved quality of life for its residents.

The public Affairs Division, instituted in 1988, is an invaluable link between the Sheriff's Department and the community. Kopp's duties as community liaison include recruitment, attending public meetings and forums and identifying and resolving community issues and concerns.

DOM BETRO FILES NOMINATION PAPERS FOR CITY COUNCIL SEAT, WARD ONE

RIVERSIDE – Thursday, July 24, 2003, the Dom Betro for City Council campaign announced today that it has reached a major milestone on the way to victory in the November 4th general election.

The Betro campaign has filed its first California Campaign Disclosure Statement declaring over $32,700 has been raised. The total includes $41,857 in cash and $10,847 in non-monetary donations. To date, over 145 people have donated to his campaign and over 200 have publicly endorsed his candidacy. In response to the support Betro has received he stated: "I have been overwhelmed by the substantial outpouring of broad-based community support for this campaign."

Dom Betro entered the nonpartisan race for the Ward I council seat this spring after long time incumbent, Chuck Beaty, announced that he would not seek re-election.

This is the first election for the newly reshaped Ward I that now includes all of the Wood Streets and a large residential area near Box Springs Mountain, in addition to the Downtown and Northside neighborhoods and the Hunter Park industrial park.

Betro, his wife and three daughters have been residents of Riverside for over 18 years and own a home in the Wood Streets. He is the President and CEO of the Family Service Association and co-owner of the popular Italian restaurant, Calabria, on Magnolia Ave.

For more information contact Betro for City Council Campaign Manager Kim Davison-Morgan at (909) 660-5947.
Strengthening early childhood education has been a top priority for me throughout my career in public service. Research has shown that a child's early years are critical to the development of the brain. Ensuring good health and a quality educational experience during these years is crucial to success in later learning and intellectual growth. Head Start is our nation's premier early childhood program, providing comprehensive services to low-income children and families to help them prepare for school. Under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and Human Services, Head Start is able to meet a broad range of social, health, and educational needs, providing our nation's most vulnerable children with a foundation for success in school and beyond.

There are currently proposals to move Head Start from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Education. The plan would also convert Head Start into a block grant program, while providing a funding increase that would not even match the rate of inflation. I believe these changes would weaken, not strengthen, Head Start. Shifting oversight of Head Start to the Department of Education could seriously threaten the program's ability to provide the comprehensive services that are key to its success. Furthermore, the block grant proposal would allow financially strapped states to use Head Start funds for other purposes and lower the high standards the federal government has required from the program.

Please be assured that I am committed to preserving and strengthening Head Start and will fight attempts to undermine this important program, which has an outstanding record of success. Persons wishing to contact me regarding this or any other federal matter, I encourage you to contact me at http://boxer.senate.gov/contact/webform.fm.

SAN BERNARDINO
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
APPOINTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Kopp, a 13 year law enforcement officer, has served in a variety of assignments including patrol duty at Central Station and incorporated areas of San Bernardino, Loma Linda and Grand Terrace. She has also participated in the Explorer Post and bike patrol.

Kopp grew up in Claremont, graduating from Claremont High School. She received a BS in Sociology and Law and Minor in Spanish at the University of California, Riverside.

The County of San Bernardino has 1,564 sworn law enforcement personnel. Deputy Sheriff Michelle Kopp is among those law enforcement officers committed to the safety of its citizens.

Congress is trying to pull a fast one on your right to overtime pay. Members want to cut overtime protection for workers, but they are doing so in a sneaky way. They claim to want to give workers more flexibility with their schedules. The only flexible thing about their plan is that it would stretch your work week beyond 40 hours without your boss having to pay you an extra dime. And for those of you who rely on overtime pay, your wallet may be in for some stretching, too.

A Republican-led bill in the U.S. House would take away mandatory overtime pay and allow employers to give you compensatory time off ("comp time") instead. The version in the U.S. Senate would take away overtime pay and the 40 hour workweek. Under the Senate version, your boss could ask you to work 60 hours one week and 20 the next - but until you worked more than 80 hours in two weeks, you wouldn't qualify for overtime.

Republicans argue that the law has to be changed so that soccer moms and dads can have extra hours with the kids and that parents need to change the law to get more time off. Don't believe it for a minute. The so-called Family Time Flexibility Act does not provide any more work-schedule flexibility for workers than they already have under current law. Under this legislation, all the flexibility and all the important decision-making rights would go to your boss.

Employers would still choose when workers can take their time off. You may have the hours in the bank, but your boss still have ultimate control over when you can use them. There's no legal guarantee that you can use your comp time for a medical emergency, get off early to see the holiday pageant at school or take a family vacation.

In fact, it is far more likely that employers would encourage workers to use comp time when business is slow instead of when you need the time. That way your boss gets to work you overtime during busy times at basically no cost.

For those of you who want or need to work overtime, hang on to your wallet. Cost-conscious bosses could give extra hours to workers who accept free comp time instead of workers who want to be paid in cash. So workers who could count on overtime pay in the past can now count on a pay cut in the future.

Millions of workers depend on cash overtime to supplement their income. In March 2003, overtime pay accounted for 13 percent of the average manufacturing worker, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Without this supplemental income, many workers would not be able to pay their housing, health care or food bills. They might be forced to take a second job just to earn the extra income they need to provide for their families.

Despite the shattering pain caused to employees at Enron and WorldCom, the Republican plan does nothing to compensate workers if their company goes bankrupt before they use their comp time. Last year, 550,000 businesses closed their doors. If their employees had banked comp time, most likely they'd be out of luck and out of cash.

The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 guaranteed workers in America the right to a 40-hour workweek and a two-day weekend. It makes no sense to turn back the clock and deny overtime pay to those who work more than 40 hours a week.

Linda Chavez-Thompson is the executive vice president of the AFL-CIO. She can be reached at pmpro@progressive.org.
Nic Montanez is a native and lives in the Inland Empire. He is a son, husband, father, and grandfather. He was educated locally and earned his BA in Psychology at California State University San Bernardino, California. His experience includes working as a Social Worker for the Department of Public Social Services (Cal-Fresh) and Adult Protective Services of Riverside County in both the Inland Empire Hispanic News and Adult Protective Services Programs. In addition to the social services field he has also worked as a treatment counselor in Substance Abuse and Alcohol Abuse, treatment counselor in a Youth and Family Treatment Program and a Mental Health Worker in a Mental Health Treatment Program. Through his vast experiences in the social and treatment fields he has ventured to become a Self-Published Author of "Journeys Within the Self", a Deeper Insight", a book about self exploration, self acknowledgement, self appreciation, love, dignity, integrity, happiness, parenting, empowerment, and self destination.

Nic Montanez is also a Professional Motivational Speaker. His experiences have enabled him to undertake strategic approaches in presenting comprehensive and positive workshops in all aspects of his book. Perspective and Empowerment is but one of the different models that he speaks on from his book. "Journeys Within the Self", "A Deeper Insight".

The District also has a large Democratic registration, unlike other assembly districts in the County of San Bernardino. Assemblyman John Longville is termed out in 2004 and has announced his candidacy for the Fifth Supervisorial District. Baca is a history teacher and baseball coach at Rialto High School. He previously worked as a correctional officer for the California Department of Corrections and probation officer for the County of San Bernardino.

"While working as a probation officer, I realized that helping young people get an education was the best way to give them an opportunity to succeed in the world of work, and I made a choice to become a teacher," he said.

Baca received an A.A. from San Bernardino Valley College, a BS in Business Administration, MA in Public Administration and currently enrolled in a Masters Degree in Education, all at Cal-State, San Bernardino. He also attended the University of La Verne Law School for two years. He graduated from Eisenhower High School, Rialto.

Baca stated that education is a high priority in his agenda: "We need to continue to support the education system and equity in education for every student. We have a high bilingual population and they have to receive a quality education," he said.

Economic development for the area is essential in order to compete with other areas in the state, Baca said. He also emphasized public safety and was supportive of law enforcement agencies in the region and state.

"Our demographics are growing rapidly, especially with the housing boom that we have," he said. "We have to expand the Alameda Corridor, especially the Alameda East. And the housing boom in the east portion of the county will create transportation problems that have to be resolved quickly."

Baca community involvement includes baseball clinics in Bloomington and Rialto, tutoring programs/youth accountability board, Boys and Girls Club, Citizens Academy, all in Fontana, American Heart Association, summer counselor-Little League Western Regional and many other area activities.

He is a member of numerous Democratic clubs in the Inland Empire, CTA, NAACP, REA, California League of High Schools, among others.

Baca has been endorsed by U.S. Senator Boxer, Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante, Mayor Grace Vargas, School Board Members Elsa Valdez, Teresa Parra, Donald Singer, Kent Taylor, Tobin Brinker, Councilpersons Gary George, Josie Gonzalez, Nena Torres, Teamsters Local 63, CWA Local 9573 and 9548, TCU Cement Masons Local 500 and a myriad of elected and community activists.

"The vast experience I have received coupled with my education and a desire to serve will be the catalyst to make the right decisions for the people of the district," he said. "When I get elected, I will be the only person to make the decisions to help serve the people of the district." Baca and his wife, Jennifer live in Rialto. He has a daughter, Kaylie, age 11.

CRY-ROP OFFERS A FULL SLATE OF FALL CLASSES

Fall class schedules for the Colton-Redlands-Yucaipa ROP (CRY-ROP) will be available August 7. Mail-in registration is accepted through August 15 and walk-in registration for adults and out-of-district high school students starts August 20 at 7:30 a.m. CRY-ROP offers quality career technical education.

No appointment needed. Register at the ROP main office located at 1214 Indiana St., Rialto. The office is open Monday – Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed September 1 for Labor Day.

High school juniors, seniors, and adults are welcome to enroll in courses from the following fields: business and marketing, health/medical, industry, technology, and services. Courses are offered in Bloomington, Colton, Redlands, and Yucaipa areas. Due to great labor market demand in the area, a new course, warehouse occupations, are being offered this fall. Another popular course is electronics technology that offers an opportunity to work with electronic circuitry in a classroom/laboratory environment. Fifty other courses are offered, such as Microsoft Office applications, medical services occupations, automotive repair, internetworking (Cisco Academy), and veterinary assistant.

For more information on available courses, call (909) 793-3115 or check our website at www.cryrop.kl2.ca.us.
CONGRESS TAKES STEPS TO STOP ISSUANCE OF MATRICULA CONSULAR CARDSdraw FIRE

WASHINGTON - Mexico's issuance of a consular ID card that is proving popular with Mexicans living in the United States, particularly those here illegally, could face U.S. regulation under a measure endorsed by the House.

The provision affecting Mexico's matricula consular, inserted into the State Department authorization bill approved Wednesday, is drawing fire from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and others who deride it as "anti-Hispanic."

But the measure's author, House immigration subcommittee Chairman John Hostettler, R-Ind., describes it as necessary in light of the FBI's concerns that the cards are vulnerable to fraud and pose a national security risk.

The amendment, approved on a 226-198 vote with near-solid Republican support and Democratic opposition, directs the State Department to develop regulations governing foreign consulates' issuance of consular IDs.

The amendment would impose penalties for foreign governments that don't meet U.S. regulations, including maintaining computer data bases to prevent duplicate or fraudulent issuance of cards; requiring recipients to notify the consulate of address changes, and sharing cardholders' identities with the State Department.

"It is important to note that this amendment does not address the acceptance of these documents in the United States, nor does it prohibit their issuance, so long as the foreign mission complies with the requirements in the amendment," Mr. Hostettler said.

That distinction found little favor with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, the San Antonio Democrat who chairs the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. They denounced the provision as "anti-Hispanic."

"As a nation of immigrants, we need to ensure that newcomers have basic access to our government," Ms. Pelosi said. "We won't give up until the matricula consular is recognized by the federal government."

The U.S. government has yet to take a stance on the cards, which bearers use to open bank accounts, get driver's licenses in the 13 states that recognize the matricula and access other services. A task force for months has been trying to work out competing views between various federal agencies.

Taking on the critics of the card, Mr. Rodriguez said, "One thing that needs to be clarified in their muddled argument is the fact that immigrants cannot use matriculas to obtain work authorizations, the right to vote, to obtain public benefits, nor do they provide an immediate form of legalization status."

The Mexican government, which has issued more than 1.4 million of the cards since 2002, describes its matricula program as a way of identifying and registering Mexicans who live abroad in hopes of better serving them. Though new fraud-resistant features have been added to the card, Mexico has yet to set up a computer database of all recipients.

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks derailed legalization talks with the U.S. government, Mexico has campaigned for U.S. businesses, government and law enforcement agencies to accept the card as a valid form of I.D.

Mexico's shift in strategy is what makes U.S. intervention necessary, said Hostettler spokesman Michael Jahn.

"If they were doing it solely for the purpose of allowing their nationals to contact the consulate, that would be reasonable," he said. "But when they are going beyond that and asking it to be recognized as an ID card then there are national security concerns involved."

The Mexican Embassy was circumspect about the amendment, which faces an uncertain future. While the House has passed its version of the State Department authorization a companion bill in the Senate is stalled and could be sidetracked over unrelated fights with Democrats.

"The embassy is respectful of the discussion carried out in the U.S. Congress, and we follow with attention these and other issues with regards to the bilateral agenda," said spokeswoman Meryya Magana.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PANEL SEeks MEMBERS

The San Bernadino County Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission is seeking volunteers to help with evaluating programs that serve juvenile delinquents.

There are openings for adult as well as youth (teenager) members.

If recommended for membership, volunteers are appointed by a presiding superior court judge for a two-year term.

For more information and application, e-mail jdpjc@pro.bksbcounty.gov, or call Anea Cronin at (909) 387-5714.
PEPE AGUILAR AND JENNIFER PEÑA
RECEIVE 4TH ANNUAL LATIN GRAMMY® NODS

Univision Records Artists Earn Nominations in Two Important Regional Mexican Categories

Woodland Hills, CA - Univision Records announced that two of its leading artists have been nominated for the 2003 Latin Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences’ (LARAS) GRAMMY® in the Regional Mexican category.

Mexican music icon Pepe Aguilar, and his debut album with Univision Records, “Y Tenerte Otra Vez” (To Have you Again) earned a nomination for Best Ranchero Album. A past GRAMMY® winner and considered by many to be one of the finest Regional Mexican artists, Aguilar learned about his nomination this morning in his Mexico City residence.

“I am pleased and happy to know that I have been nominated for this very important award along with some of our Mexican music’s best representatives; they’re all incredible and well-respected artists in the Ranchero genre,” stated Aguilar.

In addition, his most recent hit “Yo La Amo” (I Love Her) has already remained in the top 10 for several consecutive weeks in Mexico and the United States. Also receiving a nomination, Mexican-American pop sensation Jennifer Peña earned a nod in the same Regional Mexican genre for Best Grupero Album for “Libre” (Free), her debut album with Univision Records, released in the year 2002.

The music industry nominations Peña has obtained thus far for her album “Libre” are indisputable evidence of her musical talent and potential. Following the success garnered by the first promotional cut, “El Dolor de Tu Presencia” – evidenced by the two recent awards she received for “Best Female Performer of the Year” and “Female Artist of the Year” at the first edition of the South Texas Music Awards. Furthermore, in the recent 2002 Los Nuevos Latin Music Awards, she received two nods in the “Female Artist of the Year” and the “People’s Internet Choice Award” categories and took home the 2003 Billboard Latin Music Award for “Best Album of the Year, Female” in the Regional Mexican category. At this pace, Jennifer promises to continue shining for many years to come.

The 4th Annual Latin GRAMMY Awards will take place on September 3 at Miami’s American Airlines Arena. The show will be broadcast live by the CBS Television Network and CBS International to move to 100 countries around the world.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT APPOINTS
COMMISSIONER PATRICIA GARCIA

Governor Gray Davis announced the appointment of Commissioner Garcia as judge of the San Diego County Superior Court. Garcia, 42 of San Diego, has been presiding over child support, cases since her appointment as a Superior Court Commissioner in 2000. Before becoming a Commissioner, she practiced family law with the San Diego law firm of Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek from 1993 to 2000 and Barry & Pike from 1989 to 1993. She also served as a Judge Pro Tempore for the San Diego Superior Court, Family Law Division, from 1997 to 2000, and as a volunteer arbitrator for the San Diego County Bar Association Arbitration Committee from 1994 to 2000.

WASHINGTON – The Federal Aviation Administration has given final approval to a $3.5 million grant to construct a regional aircraft rescue and fire-fighter training facility at the San Bernardino International Airport, Congressman Jerry Lewis announced today. The facility will be operated by San Bernardino Community College & Crafton Hills College and will train hundreds of firefighters from throughout Southern California.

“The Community College District has been working for many years on an aviation fire training facility that will be a tremendous asset to San Bernardino, and indeed to all of Southern California – one of the most traveled air corridors in the nation,” said Lewis, who began lobbying for the facility more than five years ago with the late Congressman George Brown.

The center will be located on 20 acres at the former Norton Air Force Base, a perfect location with easy access for firefighters throughout the region, Lewis said. The current grant is for the first phase of construction. The program will be operated by the Crafton Hills College campus of the community college district, in cooperation with the San Bernardino Community Fire Department.

FIREFIGHTERS will be offered specialized drills on fighting flames in passenger airplanes. The planned facilities include classrooms and two mockups of 737 aircraft. The proposal will place one plane in a 125 foot gravel pit to allow training on fuel spill management. The other mockup will be above ground to provide firefighters experience with going inside during a disaster simulation.

“As we focus on the war on terrorism, we must make sure that our local firefighters, who are on the front lines in that battle, are prepared for the threats that we face,” Lewis said. “I believe that this training facility will help all of our firefighters be more prepared for an airline disaster, and may someday be expanded to provide training for other first responder needs.”
STRENGTHENING THE AGENDA VIA THE LATINO VOTE IN 2004

By Linda Feldmann

Democrats make new bid for Hispanic voters — who are now more numerous, independent and potential voters. Democrats acknowledge that their Hispanic agenda contains few new initiatives, and is instead a reaffirmation of their commitment to Hispanic Empowerment. Their aim is to make Hispanic voters feel included as part of the Democratic plan begins.

"If they [the Democrats] are indeed going to do something they had better be serious," says Lionel Sosa, a veteran Hispanic media consultant in San Antonio. "They have been giving lip service to the Hispanic vote forever." He predicts the Democratic Party will push three key issues to woo Hispanic voters with more handouts, and calls that an antiquated approach, dating from the 1960s. Then, Hispanics began identifying with the Democratic Party because of President Kennedy's Roman Catholic faith and his positioning of the party with the poor and downtrodden. Now, says Mr. Sosa, the Latino community is much more diverse, more Latinos are calling themselves political independents than in the past.

"The message they're identifying with is opportunity, inclusion in the American dream, being treated as equal Americans," he says.

One area where the Bush administration is seen as having let down Hispanic is in relations with Mexico. During the 2000 campaign, Bush promised to make Latin America a foreign policy priority, and as president he followed up with an initiative to grant immigration amnesty to 3 million Mexicans in the US. But the Sept. 11 attacks halted that momentum, and now US-Mexican relations are strained over a variety of issues.

"Democrats know that Hispanic values are American values, the Democratic plan begins.

The Mexican American Legal Defense And Education Fund (MALDEF), announced the 2004 Jimenez Scholarship for Immigrant Students. The Equal Justice & Federico Jimenez Scholarship Program will award $25,000 scholarships to deserving Latino college students who are ineligible to receive federal and/or state financial aid and who have been accepted to a community college or university in California. Texas. Students must be enrolled full time in order to qualify. The scholarship is awarded to students based on the following three factors: demonstrated involvement in and commitment to serve the Latino community in the United States; Academic Achievement, and financial need. A Social Security number is NOT required to apply. For more information, please e-mail undergradfund@maldef.org or call (213) 629-2512. You can access the Application Form online.

MALDEF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INELIGIBLE STUDENTS ANNOUNCED

Arrowhead Credit Union hosted a Job Seekers workshop to teach members of their teen club, Generation Arrowhead Club, what employers are looking for in job candidates. The members ages ranged in age from 15 to 18. The workshop course includes asking club members what they like in school and what their skills are, to develop an interest in future career aspirations. Members learn the best ways to look for work and an opportunity to answer interview questions in front of the other attendees. Future workshop courses will include selection of college majors. These courses will discuss the avoidance of changing majors during the college years and cost of added classes. "We want the Generation Arrowhead Club to give students the tools to help them as they move through these important education phases in their lives." Stated Tracy Judy, VP of Marketing at Arrowhead Credit Union.

MORE THAN FINANCIAL EDUCATION FOR ARROWHEAD CREDIT UNION TEENS

The City of San Bernardino's Investment Board, in conjunction with the Employment and Training Agency, are sponsoring a leadership development program for at risk youth on Tuesday, August 5, 2003, at the University of Redlands' Orton Center, from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. The goal of the program is for business and community leaders to interrelate job and life skill experiences with youth. RSVP is requested by August 1st by calling (909) 888-7881 ext. 106.

S.B. INVESTMENT BOARD TO SPONSOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOUTH

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Inland Empire Hispanic News

Wednesday, July 30, 2003

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