ALBERTO GONZALES SWORN IN AS ATTORNEY GENERAL

Alberto R. Gonzales, newly sworn-in United States Attorney General, the first Mexican-American to hold one of the highest positions in the White House hierarchy in the history of the United States.

Gonzalez, 49 was born in San Antonio to a poor Mexican farmworker living in a two-bedroom house, without basic facilities, his migrant parents working hard to give them opportunities.

He attended public schools and served in the Air Force from 1973 to 1975, then attended the Air Force... Continue on page 3

SINFONIA MEXICANA PRESENTS SENSATIONAL PROGRAM

Commencing on the 20th anniversary of presenting outstanding Mexican symphonic, mariachi and popular music, Sinfonia Mexicana announced the first of a series of four concerts on March 12, 2005, featuring the Trio Los Panchos and Mariachi Divas (back by popular demand), at the historic California Theatre of Performing Arts, 562 West Fourth Street, San Bernardino, starting at 7:30 PM.

The original Trio Los Panchos was formed in 1944 in New York with Mexican Jesus "Chucho" Navarro Moreno, Alfredo "El Guero" Bojalil Gil and Puerto Rican Hernandez Aviles. The group named themselves, by Gil. The requinto was integrated with every song and made the popular songs such as Sin Ti and Rayito de Luna greater hits. Trio Los Panchos' stylist renditions of long-time popular Latin songs were quickly emulated by other well-known trios of that era. Continue on page 6

RIALTO SCHOOL DISTRICT'S CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS ACCREDITED BY NAEYC

Rialto School District's child development centers; Boyd, Casey, Garcia, Myers and Trapp earned accreditation and received the prestigious National Accreditation Award from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the leading national association of early childhood professionals, after a two-year review process. Pictured above, (l to r) Robin Valles, director, Barbara Cervantez, teacher, Lidia Etcu, instructional assistant, Sandra Cummins, instructional assistant, Jessica Bravo, teacher, Bertha Gregory, instructional assistant, Michele Escalona, instructional assistant, Doris Arana, teacher, Dolores Gonzales, instructional assistant, Maria Marte, apprentice, Marcella Castrejon, teacher, Melissa Wagenhoffer, apprentice, Lena Ramirez, instructional assistant, and Lynne Brunner, co-director. See article on page 7

Photo by IEHN

Three Los Panchos photo courtesy of Sinfonia Mexicana

Mariachi Divas photo courtesy of Sinfonia Mexicana
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT DELIVERS STATE OF EDUCATION ADDRESS

San Bernardino – In his Sixth State of Education address, County Superintendent Herbert Fischer called for the education community to rally against Gov. Schwarzenegger’s proposal to undo state-mandated funding for public education.

“The only way to secure the viability and quality of life for California is by maintaining a guarantee for schools in the constitution and providing the appropriate level of funding for our public schools that will secure this state’s most important resource, our students,” Fischer said.

Suffering statewide budget cuts of $9.8 billion over the last three academic years, California schools have been forced to meet more challenges with less. Cuts have taken the form of larger class sizes; elimination of programs like the arts and sports; and reductions in teacher recruitment, intervention programs, supplemental services and professional development.

This year, Gov. Schwarzenegger proposes putting another $2.2 billion on the chopping block, weakening the Proposition 98 guarantee and burdening school districts with $469 million in pension costs currently paid by the state.

“We agreed to $2 billion in cuts last year with the governor’s promise that more harmful cuts would be avoided in future years. This governor must stand behind his promise, not on the shoulders of public school students,” Fischer said.

His remarks concerning this year’s state budget proposals were among the topics he discussed in his address at the Sturges Center for Fine Arts. State Superintendent of Schools Jack O’Connell attended the address and introduced Fischer at the event.

Among the other topics Fischer discussed during his 40-minute speech were the accomplishments of county schools and districts; school safety; the preparation of students for college and the 21st century workforce and the impact of new reductions in teacher recruitment, in-service training and other programs like the arts and sports; and proposals putting another $2.2 billion on the chopping block.

Accountability and Improved Academic Performance

Fischer noted that for the fifth consecutive year, statewide test scores have risen for San Bernardino County students. Although the gain in Academic Performance Index scores was not as great as it was in previous years, Fischer called for public educators to remain “steadfast” in their commitment to boost student achievement.

“This is a long-term undertaking and it requires long-term commitment,” he said.

County students are closing the gap – and in some measures exceeding – in comparison with statewide measures.

• For 2004, 60 percent of county schools increased their API scores in comparison to 63 percent statewide.

• Last year, 94 percent of county schools improved their API scores compared to 90 percent statewide.

• The countywide API average has increased 104 points to 690 since the first year of reporting in 1999.

• Forty-one counties school wide achieved the state target of 800 or above, up from 37 last year and 30 in 2002.

On January 2003 when a group of concerned citizens informed the First 5 San Bernardino County Children and Families Commission that there were major administrative and fiscal problems in play. After months of investigation by the National Alliance for Human Rights (NAHR), a network of organizations and individuals committed to the preservation and assurance of human rights, despite the lack of transparency and cooperation by Commission staff, concluded that the San Bernardino County Children and Families Commission was failing miserably in fulfilling its mandate according to the California Children and Families Act of 1998.

The San Bernardino County Children and Families Commission was created as a result of Proposition 10, the Tobacco Tax Initiative, which was passed by California voters in November 1998. Proposition 10 established the California Children and Families Act and added a 50-cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes and tobacco products. Revenue generated from these taxes are required to be used to fund education, health, and child care programs that promote early childhood development from the prenatal period to age five. Proposition 10 called for an independent commission to be established in each county to distribute funding to local community programs. The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors appointed and oversees the San Bernardino County Children and Families Commission.

Don Larkin’s resignation as director of the Commission is not occurring in a vacuum. The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors-appointed Mr. Larkin, a person with no previous experience in children’s advocacy, as Commissioner. Under his management, the Commission has suffered devastating setbacks in the delivery of services to our community’s children.

Mr. Larkin and the Commission have dishonored their charge to oversee with integrity the civic and fiduciary facets of the First 5 program. The NAHR, along with numerous other organizations, considers these violations to be egregious. Despite the numerous times over the course of the last year, the commission and the Executive Director, have chosen to dismiss the concerns as unwarranted and/or inconvenient.

At a Commission meeting in November 2003, NAHR presented a document titled “Document of Concerns” to the Commission and requested that the allegations be investigated. The concerns demonstrated, at a minimum, mismanagement and negligence; and, at most, misappropriation of public funds.

The documents were also sent to the County District Attorney, the County Supervisor, the First 5 State Commission and numerous other individuals and organizations.

With the “resignation” of the executive director, a transparent investigation must be conducted on the allegations of fraud, misuse of funds, mismanagement and political favoritism. This also gives the Commission the opportunity to institute integrity, accountability and independence from political influence. It is important to note, some First 5 employees who raised questions as to the irregularities of the Commission and its director, have been forced to resign or have been terminated.

The NAHR is a network of leaders, activists, scholars and organizations committed to the promotion of human rights, social justice and political empowerment of the Latino community in the United States. Since its formation in the year 2000 the National Alliance for Human Rights has been in the forefront of issues affecting Latinos.

Maria An'ga Gonzalez
National Alliance for Human Rights
(951) 333-6819
**ALBERTO GONZALES SWORN IN AS ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Continued from page 1

Academy from 1975 to 1977. After his discharge from the service, he enrolled at Rice University in Houston, graduating in 1979. Later, he attended the prestigious Harvard University law school, where he received his law degree in 1982.

Gonzales joined the prestigious Houston law firm, Vinson and Elkins from 1982 to 1995, later becoming a partner. In 1995, he was the Texas governor’s general counsel, Texas secretary of state in 1997, Texas Supreme Court in 1999, and in 2001, became White House counsel.

During his term as White House counsel, several major controversial issues arose. One main issue being the antiterrorism policy he wrote in a 2002 memo which led the White House to decide it could waive antiterror laws and other international legal rights of terrorist detainees.

These issues were strongly presented by Senate Democrat senators during Gonzales' nomination process before the Senate Judiciary Committee. However, Democrats cast his nomination favorably by Gonzales' impressive family background and specifically in deference to their visive relationship with the previous Attorney General Ashcroft.

Reaction to Gonzales' appointment was mixed, with many Hispanics generally viewing him as a role model, especially for Hispanic youth, while others viewed his role as White House counsel as lacking (politically coinciding with Bush policy) in the areas of basic civil rights to prisoners of war and rights to legal counsel.

The Hispanic Congressional Caucus was non-supportive of Gonzales, primarily due to his lack of acceptance to speak to the powerful group. Other national Latino groups, such as the National Council for La Raza and LULAC were supportive, citing his strong educational background and rise to national prominence, but deferring to his political philosophies, not withstanding his personal beliefs.

In the Inland Empire, Hispanics' opinion coincided with the national consensus of Gonzales' background, political and personal beliefs.

**COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT DELIVERS STATE OF EDUCATION ADDRESS**

Continued from page 2

schools made AYP goals for 2004—that's more than double the amount that made it for 2002, the first year of federal reporting.

**Safer Schools and Facilities**

The countywide Gangs and Drugs Task Force is undertaking a comprehensive effort to reduce gang activities in communities and schools. Last year, two school safety summits were held to facilitate more cooperation between law enforcement and schools.

A big part of school safety lies with adequate facilities. In the past 18 months, county districts have received $813 million from the state for facilities. In the past 18 months, county districts have re­ceived $813 million from the state for facilities. Adequate facilities remain critical to student’s success and safety,” Fischer said.

**Preparation for the Future**

Three P-16 Councils have been established countywide to provide a seamless transition for the education of students from preschool through college. The P-16 Councils are collaborative efforts of 21 county school districts, six community college districts and three universities.

The P-16 Council is an innovation that State Superintendent Jack O’Connell has called to adopt statewide.

**CONGRESSMAN BACA CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL BIRTHDAY**

Congressman Joe Baca held a birthday celebration at the Radisson Hotel, one of the most successful get-together bash ever held in the Inland Empire with over 400 political, civic, labor and community supporters. (r to l) Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi, Congressman Baca, Attorney General Bill Lockyer and David Lizarraga, TELACU. Photo by IEHN

**DESERT SIERRA PARTNERSHIP PROMOTES EARLY HEALTH AND CANCER DETECTION PROGRAMS**

Cervical Cancer is preventable by having a yearly Pap Test. When found early Cervical Cancer is 100% curable. That is why it is important to have an annual Pap test.

The Cancer Detection Programs: Every Woman Counts provides FREE Pap tests to women age 25 or older who qualify. Call 1-800-511-2300. Languages include: English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean and Vietnamese.

Desert Sierra Partnership: Promoting Breast and Cervical Health (DSP) and the Cancer Detection Programs: Every Woman Counts are proud to support Cervical Cancer Awareness.

DSP covers the counties of Inyo, Riverside, and San Bernardino. Call (951) 657-5555 x245 for more information.

BEFORE YOU CHOOSE A CLUB, CHOOSE A DRIVER.

THANKS FOR DESIGNATING A DRIVER.
In a traditional ritual ceremony, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic War Veterans Post 762 and Women Auxiliary members and guests participated in the recent 59th installation ceremonies of Post and Women Auxiliary officers at its clubhouse at 298 S. D Street, San Bernardino.

Newly installed Post officers for 2005 included: Frank Romero, commander, Tony Montoya, first vice commander, Paul Alvarez, 2nd vice commander, Mario Montecino, adjutant/treasurer, Pete Martinez, officer of the day, Joe Vega, welfare officer and Joe Fierro, chaplain.

Women Auxiliary officers for 2005: Sally Fierro, president, Ernestine Martinez, 1st vice president, Rosie Sales, 2nd vice president, Paul Montoya, 3rd vice president, Julie Ally, secretary/treasurer, Loyie Sanchez, ritual, Esther Montecino, historian/trustee, Lucy Zamora, trustee, and Gloria Rodriguez, chaplain. Sally Fierro, president, Ernestine Martinez, 1st vice president, Rosie Sales, 2nd vice president, Paul Montoya, 3rd vice president, Julie Ally, secretary/treasurer, Loyie Sanchez, ritual, Esther Montecino, historian/trustee, Lucy Zamora, trustee, and Gloria Rodriguez, chaplain. Sally Fierro, president, Ernestine Martinez, 1st vice president, Rosie Sales, 2nd vice president, Paul Montoya, 3rd vice president, Julie Ally, secretary/treasurer, Loyie Sanchez, ritual, Esther Montecino, historian/trustee, Lucy Zamora, trustee, and Gloria Rodriguez, chaplain.

With Fidencio Mejia as its first commander,

Since its founding 59 years ago, the Post has been involved with the community, according to long-time member, Joe Vega. In addition to religious activities with the parish, the members have contributed Christmas baskets, and food baskets throughout the year to needy families. The tradition is to frequently visit fellow veterans at the Pets Hospital, distribute gifts and other necessities; presenting scholarships to students at local schools; and financial contributions to many worthy causes. "The Vega family, father Matias, mother Calistina, four brothers and two sisters, has resided in the City of San Bernardino since the early 1900's. Joe Vegas served in the Philippines during World War II. Many Post members and their siblings also have resided in the San Bernardino area for many decades. Pete Martinez, active in military groups, stated that members were involved during the recent fires, visiting families at Norton Air Force Base, and have contributed to families during previous floods in the area.

Since its founding, the Women Auxiliary has been an influential and vital partner in the success of the Post's involvement in activities and projects.

A major source of income for the Post was the food booth at the Annual Orange Show from 1947 to 1987. Volunteers operated the popular booth and strongly patronized by many in the community. "This was a major source of income for us, and we distributed those funds to many worthy causes," Martinez said. For many decades, Post 762 has had a strong, solid base in their membership of veterans primarily residing in the West Side area of San Bernardino, with a small membership from adjacent communities. The majority of those veterans primarily served during World War II, with a smaller number from the Korean War. That base has consisted of families that have concentrated roots in the area for several generations with strong Catholic beliefs and traditional family values and traditions. Those veterans from that era, namely World War II, have greatly diminished in numbers due to advanced age, illness, or death. Consequently, Post membership, similar to many other veterans groups, has had to carry the mission of serving veterans interests and their respective communities with lesser number of veterans involvement.

A strong core of Post members and the Women Auxiliary have challenged this barrier, according to Commander Romero, "We have continued our mission of serving the Catholic Church, veterans, and our community," he said.

CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS 59TH INSTALLATION CEREMONIES

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic War Veterans Post 762, Catholic War Veterans charter. Photo by IEHN

Catholic War Veterans-Women Auxiliary, (l to r): Sally Fierro, president, Ernestine Martinez, 1st vice president, Rosie Sales, 2nd vice president, Paul Montoya, 3rd vice president, Julie Ally, secretary/treasurer, (back row, l to r): Loyie Sanchez, ritual, Esther Montecino, historian/trustee, Virgin Garcia, member, Arcelia Saenz, new member, Lucy Zamora, trustee, Angie Romero, member, Nellie Martinez, new member, Cristina Granado, member, and Gloria Rodriguez, chaplain. Photo by IEHN

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS/QUOTATIONS

Notice is hereby given that proposals will be accepted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765 for the following: 2Q05-21 Technical Advisor Services for the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) Closing Date: 3/8/05 2:00 p.m. Contact: Cynthia Ravenstein (909) 396-3269 2Q05-04 Temporary Employment Services Closing Date: 3/16/04 1:00 p.m. Contact: Maryann Gomez (909) 396-3323 Persons attending a bidder conference should confirm their attendance by calling the contact person. Bids will not be accepted from anyone not attending a mandatory bidder's conference.

The RFP/RFQs may be obtained through the Internet at: http://www.aqmd.gov/rfp/

If you have questions or would like a copy of the RFP/RFQ mailed to you, call the contact person. It is the policy of the AQMD to ensure that all businesses including minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, disabled veteran-owned businesses and small businesses have a fair and equitable opportunity to compete for and participate in AQMD contracts.

SE RENTAN APARTAMENTOS

Espacios de una y dos recamaras y estudios, se mantienen con puertas de seguridad, localizados centralmente cerca de centros comerciales y escuelas

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Inland Empire Hispanic News

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PETE MARTINEZ-CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS OLDEST SERVING MEMBER

Pete Martinez, the longest serving member (51 years) of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic War Veterans Post 762, Martinez is a strong supporter of the military and active in numerous military organizations, and has received many awards for his active involvement. Photo by IEHN

Pete Martinez has the single distinction of 51 years of continued membership in Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic War Veterans Post 762, serving in myriad of positions in the veterans group.

Born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Martinez and his wife, Ernestine (Ernie), married 50 years, are well known in the community for their active participation in many worthwhile activities.

Martinez, a retired federal electronic engineer and retired businessman, is a strong military supporter, serving in the Army and Air Force Reserve, and the 187th Airborne Division, and the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team for 10 years active and reserve, with two jumps in North Korea.

In civilian life, Martinez has continued to become actively involved in military-related activities, including the 187th Airborne Association (held several positions, national and regional); 82nd Airborne National Association (Command Sergeant-Major-Raymond Verdugo Los Angeles chapter), Los Angeles Hispanic-American Airborne Association, Inland Empire Airborne Association; Alamo Silver Wings-San Antonio; recent appointment as Veteran Affairs Voluntary Service National Deputy Representative for the Catholic War Veterans of the United States.

His military awards include: Senior Parachutist Badge; Combat Infantery Badge; Jumpmaster Rated Parachute Badge; four Major Korean Campaign stars (one Spearhead Award); Good Conduct Medal; South Korean Service Medal, United States and South Korean Presidential Citations; Japan and Asiatic Service Medals, among others.

The Inland Empire Hispanic News congratulates Pete Martinez for 50 years of continued Catholic War Veterans membership, and comments his valued involvement in military and civilian activities, and support for veterans welfare.

FAMILY SUPPORTS MILITARY TRADITION

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic War Veterans Post 762 is in an enviable situation with a three generation membership of the Garcia/Granado families contributing their efforts toward the longstanding mission of helping veterans and community.

Virginia Garcia, 75, is an active member of the Catholic War Veterans-Women Auxiliary alongside her husband, Joe Garcia, who served in the Army during World War II from 1941 to 1946 in Germany. The couple, residents of Colton, had daughter, Christina and son Jerry. Christina married John Granado of Colton, and parents of two daughters and a son, John Jr. John Sr. served in Vietnam from 1966 to 1968. After his discharge, he became an active member of the Catholic War Veterans. Virginia also joined the Women Auxiliary in 1996. John died in 1996.

John Granado, Jr. 26, enlisted in the Marine Corps and served in Japan and Korea from 1996 to 2000. He joined the Catholic War Veterans in 2004. Commander Romero said the Garcia and Granado families are an asset to the Post and have contributed many volunteer hours. Romero also stated that many couples in the Post have a history of service for many decades. "We appreciate every member's contribution. This makes our work that much more worthwhile," he said.

CITY OF INDO PREPARES FOR THE 2005 INDO INTERNATIONAL SALSA FESTIVAL, APRIL 2ND & 3RD IN OLD TOWN INDO

Hot Salsa Food, Hot Salsa Music and Hot Salsa Dancing, this festival is sizzling for the whole family this April.

The City of Indio and Kevakworks are organizing the third annual Indio International Salsa Festival (http://www.salafest.org - 760-837-7228) for the weekend of April 2nd and 3rd, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Old Town, Indio. Just think of all salsa all the time.

The Indio International Salsa Festival will include everything from artisans to merchant vendors with an extensive farmers market; community parade; a classic car show and midway carnival for the little ones; and of course, salsa dancing exhibitions and lessons with an unbelievable salsa food contest completed with entrants from all corners of the globe.

If you think you've got an ancient family salsa recipe you'd like to share with the world, we want you to join our contest and compete for cash, prizes and bragging rights.

Bring the entire family down and join us for two days of fun and sun in Old Town Indio this April. Don't forget your dancing shoes and taste buds because it's gonna be hot!
SINFONIA MEXICANA PRESENTS SENSATIONAL PROGRAM
Continued from page 1

After becoming the toast of New York, Trio Los Panchos toured Mexico, playing in many famous nightclubs in Mexico City. Other tours included Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Puerto Rico and Japan, becoming the most famous trio in the world.

After many years of touring, Aviles left the group and later formed Los Tres Reyes with the brothers Gilberto and Raúl Puente. Other musicians throughout the years became part of the Trio Los Panchos. Aviles died in 1986 and Navarro died in 1993.

During their long musical career, Trio Los Panchos recorded 2,500 songs on 250 albums, selling millions, and appeared in 50 films. In 1998, Trio Los Panchos were honored with the Excellence Award at the Premio Lo Nuestro Awards in Miami.

Mariachi Divas, founded in 1999, is an all-female group making big waves in the Los Angeles scene. The group is composed of Mexican, Cuban, Samoan, Costa Rican, Panamanian, Japanese, Honduran, Swiss, and Anglo members. "Music is a way of uniting our cultural backgrounds, with a foundation in mariachi, and we have added musical elements to reflect our diversity," stated founder and musical director, Cindy Shea.

Mariachi Divas have added varied instrumentation such as timbales, congas, bongos, cajon, tambora, percussion, tres and flute to their traditional mariachi instruments. The traditional mariachi music is blended with cumbia, cha-cha, and merengue, with a combination of Mexican traditional music, Latin, and many other variations pleasing to the young and old.

Mariachi Divas have played at the Arrowhead Pond, Universal Amphitheater, NAMMA Show, Fiesta Broadway, Los Angeles County Fair, Disneyland, and many other venues throughout California. The group performed for Sinfonia Mexicana's Concieto Para Las Madres in 2004, and was an instant hit.

Ticket prices are $22, $27, $35 and $40, and can be purchased by calling the Sinfonia Mexicana business office at (909) 884-3228 or toll free 1-866-687-4284.

We treat our pediatrics patients with kid gloves...

Comprehensive services designed to ensure optimum health for every child are available at ARMC's Family Health Centers. There is a Family Health Center near you, with two locations in San Bernardino and one in Fontana.

Services are also available at the Pediatrics Clinic at ARMC.

SAME DAY APPOINTMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR SICK CHILD

Our services include:
- Health assessments and routine immunizations
- Pediatric inpatient care
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- Sports physicals
- Outpatient follow-up care
- Same-day appointments
- Walk-in acute care (Available at all three Family Health Centers & ARMC Pediatrics Clinic)

The Heart Of A Healthy Community

The InterContinental Hotel Houston was awash in bright colors and festive piñatas in honor of Arte Publico Press' 25th Anniversary celebration on November 13, 2004. The three hundred attendees were equally vibrant as they raised $110,000 in support of the acclaimed, non-profit press based at the University of Houston. Keynote speaker, actress and activist Lupe Ontiveros, commented on the significance of Arte Publico's achievements and the importance of the community's support, saying, "Here's where it all begins. They publish the works that eventually become the scripts for my movies and TV performances. They are so true to our culture as Latinos in the United States."

Guests of the gala dinner enjoyed a delectable meal and a multimedia program showcasing the contributions of Latinos in the arts and in popular culture. Special guests included actress and activist Lupe Ontiveros and director and screenwriter Jesús Treviño. In a fitting tribute to both artists and Arte Publico, Ontiveros read a selection from Treviño's acclaimed short story collection The Fabulousシンkhole and Other Stories, published by Arte Publico Press in 1995. Raymund Paredes, Commissioner of Higher Education for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and Houston Mayor Bill White also contributed to the festivities, while Houston businesswoman and philanthropist Trinidad Mendenhall served as the Piñata Party Chairperson. After dinner, the lights went down and guests danced to the music of local Latino band Mango Punch.

Arte Publico Press is the nation's largest and most established publisher of contemporary and recovered literature by U.S. Hispanic authors. Founded in 1979 and based at the University of Houston since 1980, Arte Publico Press, Piñata Books and Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage project provide the most widely recognized and extensive showcase for Hispanic literary arts and creativity. For more information, please visit our website at www.artepublicopress.com.

Lupe Ontiveros, an award-winning stage, television and film actress, as well as a producer and community activist, is known most recently for her role as Juanita "Mama" Solis in ABC's Dangerous Housewives. She first received acclaim for her comedic/dramatic role as La Nacha in the Oscar-nominated film, El Norte, for which she gained international recognition. Ontiveros' other film credits include Real Women Have Curves, As Good as it Gets, Chuck and Buck, Mi Vida Loca and Desperado. She most recently was featured in Lila Downs' music video for "Unica" and was a key speaker at the Women's Resource Center's Silvery Success Auction.

CO-FOUNDER OF THE UNITED FARM WORKERS OF AMERICA UNION TO SPEAK AT CAL STATE SAN BERNARDINO

SAN BERNARDINO, CA - Dolores Huerta, who with the late Cesar Chavez co-founded the United Farm Workers Union of America, will be the keynote speaker at the third annual Women's Resource Center Activism Conference at Cal State San Bernardino.

The conference will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the university's Charles and Shelby Obershaw Dining Room in the Upper Commons. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. The conference is free to students, staff, and faculty with CSUSB ID cards. The cost for the general public is $10 per person, parking at the university is $1.50 per vehicle. Those attending will also receive a free tote bag loaded with goodie bags with goodie bags.

Seating is limited to the first 200 people to arrive

The conference will focus on women's activism, and will feature three speakers in the first half of the event, including Huerta and student activist Angela Ashbell. Workshops will follow in the second half. The conference is aimed at women who are interested in activism or support women as activists. Participants will leave the conference with the tools and techniques that will help them actively advocate for causes they care about and to make a different in their community, organizers said.

For more information about the conference, contact Cal State San Bernardino Women's Resource Center at (909) 880-7203.
RIALTO SCHOOL DISTRICT'S CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS ACCREDITED
BY NAECY

The Rialto School District’s Board of Trustees meeting room was filled with teachers, school aides and education specialists anxiously awaiting the announcement of a presentation with teachers, school aides and Education of Trustees meeting room was filled of five elementary school state pre-school programs with the prestigious National Accreditation Awards, a distinguished national designation presented by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Robin Valles, Director of the District’s Child Development Department, in addressing the board, stated, “We are very proud to be accredited by NAEYC, and recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards. NAEYC accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early experiences.”

Valles gave an overview of the accreditation process to the board and audience. NAEYC, a nationally leading organization of early childhood professionals, created the national accreditation program in 1985 to set professional standards for early childhood education and aid to families to identify high-quality childcare and early education programs. Each program in the nation strives to meet those standards.

The accreditation process extends over an approximate two-year period, conducted by independent professional validators and reviewed by a national panel, and includes criterion in 10 major categories, including parent, staff and administrative evaluation. There are 6,700 licensed child care facilities in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and 16 NAEYC accredited facilities within a 25 mile radius.

The recognized school sites and personnel included Boyd School - Marcela Castrojen, teacher, Irma Celaya and Wendy Summers, instructional assistants, Leticia Martinez and Melissa Wagenhofer, apprentices; Casey School - Doria Arana, teacher, Grace Urbe and Dolores Gonzales, instructional assistants, Kathy Golde, apprentice, Garcia School - Tina Sanchez, teacher, Lena Ramirez and Tonya Wilson, instructional assistants, Maria Gonzales and Monique Overstreet, apprentices; Myers School - Jessica Bravo, teacher, Bertha Gregory and Michele Escalona, instructional assistants, Antoinette Johnson, apprentice; Robertson School - Barbara Cervantez, teacher, Lidia Eto and Andres Castro, instructional assistants, Veronica Mayorquin and Sandra Cummins, apprentices.

More than 8,000 early childhood programs, serving three-quarters of a million children are currently accredited by NAEYA. “By earning accreditation, Rialto’s programs has become a leader in a national effort to raise the quality of early childhood education, and to help give all children a better start,” said Mark Ginsberg, Ph. D., executive director of NAEYC.

For information contact Robin Valles, Director of Child Development Department at (909) 421-4201.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino will hold a public hearing on March 1, 2005, 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 2005-2010 Housing, Community and Economic Development Needs Identification Report and 2005-2006 Citizen Participation Plan.

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 2002, HUD renewed the County’s qualification for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and HOME Investment Partnership Act (HOME) programs for Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005. The CDBG funds are for eligible projects in the unincorporated communities and thirteen (13) cooperating cities. These cities are Adelanto, Barstow, Big Bear Lake, Colton, Grand Terrace, Highland, Loma Linda, Montclair, Needles, Redlands, Twentynine Palms, Yucca Valley, 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 process, 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 five-year Consolidated Plan on April 18, 2000. That Plan covered fiscal years 2000-01, through 2004-05. Now, HUD rules require the County to develop a new Consolidated Plan to cover the next five years. These are fiscal years 2005-06 through 2009-10. As part of preparing the new five-year Consolidated Plan, the County is gathering information on community housing and economic developments needs in the localities covered by the County Consortium. The Needs Identification Report is being developed from information gathered at twenty-four (24) Community Needs Identification Forums held in cooperating cities and unincorporated communities throughout the County during the Fall of 2004.

The Needs Identification Report will be presented for public comment and for review by the Board of Supervisors at the March 1, 2005 public hearing. This hearing will be the first of the two HUD required hearings on the Consolidated Plan. The proposed 2005-2006 Consolidated Plan will be considered by the Board of Supervisors at a second hearing to be scheduled for March 29, 2005.

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 2005-2010 Consolidated Plan. The proposed Citizen Participation Plan update for FY 2005-06 also will be presented at the March 1, 2005 public hearing. The goals and objectives of the proposed Citizen Participation Plan will closely 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 14, 2005 and ending on March 15, 2005, 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, 2005 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 or may, prior to the time of the hearing, submit written comments to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, Second Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0130.

If you challenge any decision regarding the above proposal in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you presented at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Board of Supervisors at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Due to time constraints and the number of persons wishing to give oral testimony, time restrictions may be placed on oral testimony at the public hearing regarding this proposal. 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 92415-0040 Attn: Program and Compliance Section or call (909)388-0959

BILL POSTMUS, CHAIRMAN BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

J. RENEE BASTIAN, CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 02/09/05

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