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Hispanic News

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Richard Ramirez, a lifelong resident of Riverside, is well known for his extensive education and civic accomplishments, and equally recognized as a dedicated parent of seven children, and grandfather of 19 grandchildren (and two future grandchildren).

"Decades ago, I realized how fortunate I was to have had a father that instilled those traditional traits of faith in God, integrity, hard work and the importance of dedication to one's family. Dad's realistic approach to life and tough love greatly benefited me while growing up, being the guide as a husband and father, and success in my professional career. He also taught me the value of education and contribution to my community.

"My father was my only mentor and to this day, the role model whom I have emulated in my daily life," Ramirez said in an interview with the IEHN.

Ramirez' grandparents immigrated from Mexico via Juarez, the family working as migrant workers, and finally settling in the Walnut area. His parents moved to Riverside, raising four boys and two girls. Although his father had an eighth-grade education, he worked as a welder for the gas company, retiring after 30 years. His father died in 1986.

"My dad was the head of the house—hold, and the family understood his role. My mother cared for us children," Ramirez said. He also said his father had one strong belief, "don't be a problem and don't expect things to be given to you."

Ramirez attended local schools, graduating from Poly High School, and excelling in sports. "I was average in school, but I loved sports. Sports gave me self-confidence, competitive spirit, and ability to be part of a team," he said.

He was recognized for his involvement in sports: the CBL Football/Flag Football Award, Riverside County All Football Award; and Poly High Most Inspirational Football Player.

Graduating from a high school at that time was unusual for a Latino student from the Eastside of Riverside. The City of Riverside, he said, had policies of segregation in swimming pools and also other social, education and economic indignities prevalent in the community during that period.

Ramirez continued his education at Riverside Community College. Sports became an integral part of his college life. He received the ALL Conference for Football while at RCC.

He attended New Mexico State University on a sports scholarship, continuing his interest in sports. He also concentrated on his education. "I became seriously interested in my studies, attended classes and completing term papers," Ramirez recalls that the discipline in sports essentially helped.

He received a B.S. in Math and Physical Education in June, 1964.

Ramirez and the former Jan Flaherty were married on February 1, 1964 at St. Catherine of Alexandria Church in Riverside.

"Early in our marriage, Jan and I decided that family was the most important throughout our marriage. We strongly felt that we would dedicate our lives and energy to our community, our city and the county of San Bernardino," Ramirez said.

He was recognized for his involvement in many civic activities and organizations: the CBL Football/Flag Football Award, Riverside County All Football Award; and Poly High Most Inspirational Football Player.

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Parents, children, city and county officials, and agency representatives came together on Saturday, June 10, at Lincoln Elementary School to hear Mayor Pat Morris launch "Operation Phoenix," a broad-based crime intervention/prevention and neighborhood restoration strategy. Mayor Morris spoke to the festive crowd praising their beginning effort to work together to resolve problems of crimes and uplifting the adjacent targeted area with the collaboration of county and city resources; the community and business sector.

"Thinking together planning together, and now working together, San Bernardino is united in our effort to make our community better," declared Mayor Morris. "We are bringing innovative solutions to the tangled problems that threaten to destroy our neighborhoods and their best people."

Mayors outlined the results of a community survey which was the basis for creating Operation Phoenix's interfacing programs. Community residents identified factors such as after school activities, neighborhood clean-up, economic development and home ownership as issues to be addressed in conjunction with increased law and code enforcement efforts.

The Operation Phoenix collaborating partners include city and county law enforcement officials and education leaders, county health and children's services agencies, Cal-State, San Bernardino, and a myriad of related resources.

Collaboration partners have committed to providing specific programs, personnel and resources - and commitment to collaborate and innovate with related agencies to address the social and economic issues that has led to neighborhood deterioration and increased crime.

A surprising announcement by Police Chief Michael Billdt was a special helicopter the Police Department is leasing with the assets seized from Operation Phoenix. Billdt also outlined force deployment changes that will boost protection in other neighborhoods and hot spots throughout the city.

San Bernardino County Supervisor Josie Gonzales spoke on the participation of the County of San Bernardino in Operation Phoenix at Lincoln Elementary School.

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INLAND EMPIRE HISPANIC NEWS
RICHARD RAMIREZ-FAVHER OF THE YEAR-EXTRAORDINAIRE

The Inland Empire Hispanic News celebrates Father's Day by selecting men in the Inland Empire who portray outstanding family values, parenting qualities and role models in their respective communities.
lives to the children that God gave us, and provide for their welfare and education. Jan, as a stay-at-home mother, has taken the responsibility of raising our children and caring for their needs throughout our marriage. I have been blessed with having a special bond with my wife and who is the rock of our family," Ramirez said.

The children, according to Ramirez, were raised to accept responsibilities, with the boys doing outside jobs and the girls working in the home. The family attended Mass on Sundays, and involved in every family activity. Each of the family members became role models to their younger siblings; and generally expected to attend a college. “Our marriage is a combination of faith, love and discipline," he said.

Richard is made of good character and morals and follows his Catholic values. His safe voyage continues to bring him closer to God, which has been a blessing to us all throughout the years. I value his hard work ethic. His priority was always to provide for his family. By his example, he instills confidence and social skills in our children.

Mrs Jan Ramirez

The Ramirez children.

David Ramirez, 33, Notre Dame High School (1983), (football/baseball, All League Award); University of La Verne, Psychology (1987); Cal-State, San Bernardino, Accounting, CPA-Thomas, Bige, and Smith; wife Lisa, two daughters.

Shawn Ramirez, 32, Notre Dame High School (1984), (football, CIF Award); Riverside Community College, AA Degree (football-led team to State championship); Cal-Poly, Physical Education, Mustangs-assistant coach, Special Education-Santa Maria High School; wife Laurie, three boys and two daughter.

Greg Ramirez, 31, Notre Dame High School (1985), (outstanding football player); Cal-Poly, San Luis Obispo, Economic Degree; Mustang team (defensive back); Cal-State, Hayward, Master Degree, Agora Hills, CA, Assistant to City Manager; wife, Louren, boy and girl.

Kerry Ramirez-Valenzuela, 29, Notre Dame (1987); Riverside Community College, AA Degree; Cal-Poly, San Luis Obispo, B.A. Speech Communications; previously Medical Student Director, University of Irvine; husband Michael, three girls and one son, stay at home mother.

Angie Ramirez-Madura, 28, Poly High School (1988), (outstanding in basketball, volleyball, and softball), awarded All League in volleyball, Riverside Community College, AA Degree; Cal-Poly, San Luis Obispo, Physical Education Degree, M.A. Counseling; former physical education teacher-Arlington teacher and junior class advisor; husband, Joey, two boys; expecting in two weeks.

Amy Ramirez-Betten, 24, Poly High School (1992), homecoming queen, participated in softball, cheerleading, and student government; Riverside Community College, AA Degree; Cal-State, San Bernardino, Liberal Arts Degree; second grade teacher, Fontana School District; husband, Randy, former professional baseball player, Anaheim Angels, assistant baseball coach at UCR, two boys, expecting in two weeks.

Dana Ramirez, 22, Poly High School (1994), (baseball and volleyball, and named captain and All League for three years); Cal-Poly, San Luis Obispo (1998), B.A. in Liberal Studies (Cal-Poly Triathlon Team); currently in Teaching Credential Program at Cal-Poly; San Luis Obispo SLO; husband Jascha, boy and girl.

My dad is the greatest in the world. He has instilled in my siblings and me the good traits of hard work, integrity, and faith in God, and to give of oneself to others less fortunate. He has always been compassionate to others, his greatest trait. He has been a role model to follow. I will pass on those values and traits to my daughters.

Eldest son David Ramirez

Ramirez' teaching career included: math and athletic director at Rubidoux High School; physical education at Polytechic High School; counselor at North High School, and dean of students and vice principal at Ramona High School.

During his high school tenure, Ramirez is remembered as teaching and encouraging students to continue their education, and counseling many students with difficulties in school and family.

In 1988, Riverside Community College appointed Ramirez appointed to dean, student services; and in 1997, appointed vice president of student services.

During his tenure as an educator, Ramirez acquired the following credentials: Secondary School Administration, Pupil Personnel Services; General Teaching-Secondary; Special Teaching-Public Safety/Incident Prevention, Standard Teaching/Physical Education, CCC Instructional/Professional Educators, and CCC Community College Supervisor.

His community activities include: Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Southern California Latino Hall of Fame; Inland Valley United Way, previous chair; Youth Action Group; Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce, Blueprint for Volunteers; Raincross Club; YMCA-Riverside; Riverside Coaches Association; St. Thomas School Board, president; Norte Dame High School Board, president; Sierra Cluster, chair; Ramona High School Council; Riverside Savings and Loan, Director; Riverside County Olympic Committee; Riverside Sunrise Rotary, president; Inland Empire National Bank, past officer; Parkview Hospital, chair; Mission Inn Foundation; and Riverside Police Chief Advisory Board.

The following awards have been received by Ramirez and the family. Hispanic Latino Hall of Fame; Martin Luther King Visionaries Award; and County of Riverside Family Services-Family of the Year Award.

Rich has served the community well for quite a long time. His commitment to family has been demonstrated time and again with his own family and the youth of our local community. Growing up in Riverside and working at our local high schools and then at Riverside Community College has given Rich the opportunity to have a unique and positive impact on our young people. His countless hours of service to local boards and commissions have served to enrich the quality of life for all of us.

Ofeilia Valdez Yeager
REDLANDS MULTICULTURAL FAIR - A GREAT SUCCESS

Redlands School District's Moore Middle School hosted the Fourth Annual Multicultural Fair, an event that attracted over 300 students from elementary, middle and high schools to celebrate the myriad of cultures throughout the district's school campuses.

The annual event gives students from different ethnic backgrounds an opportunity to intermingle, develop relationships, and understanding of different cultures. The year's program theme was "Being Bilingual and Biliterate Rocks".

District schools encouraged their students to participate in art and writing contests. The first, second and third place winners from each grade span within the elementary, middle and high school levels were recognized and their work framed and posted for display at the event.

The day-long program, directed by Mrs. Carmen Berumen, included 17 song and dance performances by students and community groups from India, China, Philippines, Mexico, Turkey and other ethnic groups.

Midway in the program, students were invited to a delicious Mexican lunch.

The concept for a district program to become an annual event and the opportunity for students to share their cultures was the creation of the Redlands School District's English Learners Advisory Committee (DELAC). DELAC became the first planning committee consisting of Lena Racadio, Jeannette Carlson, Ruth Biscotti, Fernando Martinez, Pablo Olivares, Rafaela Salcido, Martha Romo, Raul Saenz, Joan Meier and Denise Cates-Darnell.

The first and second successful multicultural events were held at Clement Middle School, and third and fourth held at Moore Middle School.

Yolanda Contreras, director of Categorical Programs, stated, "DELAC recognized the increased number of our English Learner students in the district and proposed these annual events. The participation of schools and students every year has reflected a great interest, including the attendance of a large number of parents. DELAC members have stated that this event will be continued as a scheduled yearly event."

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Graduating together at the Crafton Hills College (CHC) 2006 commencement were the Molino family, left to right, Elizabeth, 24; Silas, 25, dad Alex, 49, and Natalie, 22.

The Crafton Hills College 2006 Commencement ceremony was an especially memorable event for the Molino family, four of whom graduated together, including Alex, 49; his two daughters, Natalie, 22; Elizabeth, 24; and his son Silas, 25.

"That I was able to graduate with my kids is terrific," said Alex, who signed up for college after deciding he wanted to change careers in midlife. "We've always been a close family, so it's neat that it worked out this way. I feel really proud of them."

Alex, who is earning a degree in business administration, credited his mom, Gloria Molino, for being their role model. Gloria earned her masters degree at the age of 50, and later worked at CHC for 15 years as a counselor and Spanish instructor.

"I'm so proud of them, I'm puffed up like one of those puffed up birds," Gloria said. "It's super that they did this."

According to Alex, who has worked in restaurant management 25 years, when he informed his kids he was going to college too, they thought it was a good idea and encouraged him. He plans to transfer to California State University San Bernardino (CSUSB) to major in business administration and get a teaching credential.

"With four of my five kids out of the house and not as many bills, I thought it was about time," he said. "It is an emotional day. I know my wife was in the audience crying."

According to Natalie, 22, a liberal arts major, it was her grandma who recognized the importance of attending college and being able to earn their associate degrees.

"We couldn't have afforded college without it," Natalie said.

"I'm proud of my dad for going through Crafton in such a short time," said Elizabeth, who is considering transfer to the University of Michigan or San Francisco State in political science. "This sets an example for our children and grandchildren."

Both Natalie and Elizabeth, 24, recognized the importance of financial aid with helping them achieve their goal of attending college and being able to earn their associate degrees.

"We couldn't have afforded college without it," Natalie said.

"I'm proud of my dad for going through Crafton in such a short time," said Elizabeth, who is considering taking a break then transferring to a four-year school to major in Spanish and possibly philosophy.

Silas, 25, was also proud of his dad.

"It shows that age doesn't make a difference as long as you get it done," he said. "Besides my grandmother, we're the first to graduate in the family."

Silas, who plans to eventually earn a degree in communications, marketing, public administration, transportation or a related field.

The CHC class of '06 stands for the beginning of the commencement ceremonies. Ph.D. in history with a minor in religion, recognized the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) program with helping him succeed at college.

"Not only did it help me afford college, but the constant care and counseling sessions helped me keep my grades up," said Silas, who is married and has a young son. "College helped me realize my priorities, and having a family reinforced the importance of college.

Families and friends of the Crafton Hills College graduating class of 2006 packed the campus quadrangle for the event.

There were 366 students eligible for graduation, of which 132 were men and 234 were women. The average age of the graduates was 29. The oldest graduate was 57 and the youngest was 18. The average grade point average for this impressive group was 3.11.

The youngest graduate of the day was 18-year-old Fred Smith, who started taking classes at the college at 15 while attending Redlands East Valley High School.

Smith, of Highland, earned two scholarships at the college's recent Honors Convocation. His goal is to become a nurse, like his mom.

"She inspired me at a young age to go into the nursing field," he said. "She brought me to work. It seemed fast paced and always interesting."

Smith's mom, Leona, was also a CHC graduate in 1998 before transferring to Loma Linda University. She later worked in the emergency room, trauma unit, and intensive care.

"I love helping people," Smith said. "Getting into the medical field like my mom and being a nurse practitioner will be a great way to help people."

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Minimum Qualifications: Education: Equivalent to a Bachelor's degree in public administration, finance or a related field. Experience: Three or more years of professional experience, involving the preparation of various budgetary programs and/or administrative analyses. Strong verbal and written communications skills are required. A Master's degree in a related field may substitute for one year of experience. Desirable: Specialized coursework or training in program evaluation, budgetary planning, cost accounting, and the use of a variety of computer software products for report writing and presentation purposes.

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ONE DAD’S CLIMB TO PREVENT TYPE 2 DIABETES—STEP BY STEP  

by Jose Cortez

Nearly ten percent of Hispanic and Latino Americans have been diagnosed with diabetes. And the government estimates that a Latina girl born in 2000 has a 50 percent chance of developing diabetes in her lifetime. This is an alarming statistic—especially considering the fact that Latinos are America’s largest and fastest growing minority group. Diabetes threatens the future of our community.

Several years ago, I started taking steps to get healthy. I was 46 years old. Feeling out of shape and older than my age. Around this time, I began learning about different health risks prevalent within the Latino community. While doing this research, I learned about the diabetes epidemic and the health risks associated with people in my community and of my age. My wife, a Native American and member of the Pima tribe, told me that 50 percent of her tribe had been diagnosed with diabetes. I realized that not only was my wife and I at risk for type 2 diabetes, but our children were as well. As a father, I am responsible for helping my children understand their risk for type 2 diabetes and for setting an example for them to follow. I started my journey to better health with a commitment to hike a local mountain, Mount Prestiew (formerly Squaw Peak), every morning. An early morning hike is not for everyone, but for me it was a small price to pay for how much better I feel physically and mentally. My wife and kids often hike with me which is a fun way to spend time with each other. We also became increasingly aware of our eating habits and now we are making healthier food choices. Hiking every day changed my life and focused my attention on raising a healthy family.

I am helping my family be aware of their risk for diabetes but it doesn’t stop at home. It was important that I share the good news message with my colleagues and help them to know about their risk and what to do about it. I began a workplace health and wellness program to help my colleagues get moving. I used my research about diabetes in our community and my personal experiences with physical activity and eating well to develop the program.

Thanks to the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) and the "Prevengamos diabetes tipo 2. Paso a Paso." public education campaign, we are spreading the word throughout our community that type 2 diabetes can be prevented. The Diabetes Prevention Program clinical trial has shown that the onset of type 2 diabetes can be prevented or delayed when people at risk for type 2 diabetes lose a small amount of weight by getting 30 minutes of physical activity five days a week and eating healthy foods in smaller portions. As a father and community leader, I am committed to working with my family and community to let them know that diabetes prevention is powerful, proven, and possible.

Nothing happens overnight. But as a community we can begin to turn back the tide of this epidemic that threatens us if we get moving and start taking small steps today.

Jose Cortez, a father of six, is the public relations manager at the community development corporation, Chicanos Por La Causa, in Phoenix. As a member of the National Diabetes Education Program’s Small Steps. Big Rewards Team to Prevent Diabetes, Cortez is leading by example that type 2 diabetes can be prevented in the Hispanic Latino community. For more information and resources on diabetes prevention contact the NDEP at 1-800-438-3383 or log on to www.ndep.nih.gov. Materials are free and open to the public.

Continue on next page

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COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO HOSTS JOB FAIR

SAN BERNARDINO, CA—Job seekers from all levels will have an opportunity to meet with representatives of more than 40 employers during a Job Fair from 10am to 2pm on Saturday, June 17, 2006. The event is being held at the San Bernardino International Authority, located at 105 N. Leland Norton Way in San Bernardino (formerly Norton Air Force Base) at terminal 675.

The Job Fair, sponsored by the County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors and the San Bernardino International Authority, is free and open to the public.
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO HOSTS JOB FAIR

"Why spend hours on the freeway trying to get to and from work when there are good jobs here?" said Fifth District Supervisor Josie Gonzales. "That is precious time that can be spent with our families. I encourage people to attend the job fair to explore many job opportunities available."

From entry-level positions, to administrative to management, full-time or part-time—a wide range of positions are being offered at this one-stop job fair. Positions available from both public and private sectors include: clerical, warehouse, food service, health care, labor, manufacturing, sales, retail, security and much more.

All participants seeking employment are encouraged to bring plenty of resumes. Have information available to complete applications, be prepared to meet on-site with human resource personnel, and come dressed for a job interview.

Whether you are looking for a new job, currently employed and looking for a better job, or tired of a long commute, this is an event you can't afford to miss. For additional information, please contact the County of San Bernardino Economic Development Agency at 1-800-451-JOBS (5627) or visit us on the web at www.sbcounty.gov/eda.

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ROUTE 210 ROUNDUP

Lilac pedestrian bridge will be closed for summer months

The Lilac Avenue pedestrian bridge in Rialto will be closed this summer for improvements starting June 19. The bridge opened early to provide safe passage for Kolb Middle School students and other walkers.

Now that the school year is over, crews will return to complete fencing, lighting, drainage, and sound wall improvements along the Lilac bridge.

Work is set to end before school starts again in late August.

In addition, storm drain improvements at Casmalia Street and Lilac Avenue will require this intersection to be closed the week of June 26.

For more information, call the Route 210 Helpline: 1-866-HELP-210 ¡Se habla español!

INFORMACIÓN RUTA 210

El Puente Peatonal Lilac estará cerrado durante los meses de verano

El puente peatonal de la Avenida Lilac en Rialto estará cerrado este verano para mejoras que comenzarán el 19 de junio. El Puente se abrirá antes de tiempo para proporcionar el paso seguro a los estudiantes de la escuela secundaria Kolb y otras personas.

Ahora que el año escolar a terminado, los trabajadores regresarán a terminar la cerca, las luces, el drenaje y los mejoramientos a la pared contra sonido a largo del Puente Lilac. El trabajo está programado a terminar en agosto, antes que el año escolar de comienzo.

También, las mejoras a las alcantarillas para tormentas de la calle Casmalia y la avenida Lilac requerirán el cierre de esta intersección la semana del 26 de junio.

Para más información, llame a la línea de asistencia de la ruta estatal 210: 1-866-HELP-210 ¡Se habla español!
HISPANICS FILL OVER 41 PERCENT OF JOBS CREATED SINCE MAY 05

By Andrea Lehman

Hispanicbusiness.com June 2nd, 2006 - The Hispanic unemployment rate dropped significantly in May, from 5.4 percent in April to 5.0 percent, according to data released today by the U.S. Department of Labor. The overall U.S. unemployment rate decreased from 4.7 percent in April to 4.6 percent in May, reaching a five-year low.

The unemployment rate is the ratio of unemployed people divided by the total labor force, comprised of both the employed and unemployed. People are considered unemployed only if they are actively seeking work at the time they are surveyed for the sample. Therefore, whether people are even considered in the labor force also fluctuates.

In May, job growth for Hispanics was less than usual (mirroring the overall U.S. labor market trend), adding only 65,000 new jobs. At the same time, the number of Hispanics considered unemployed dropped by 74,000 individuals. This represents those that found work as well as an additional 9,000 Hispanics that left the labor market altogether. Together, this created the unemployment rate drop of 0.4 percentage points.

The Hispanic civilian population in the U.S. increased by 86,000 in May. Added together with the 9,000 individuals previously in the labor force, this increased the number of Hispanics considered “not in the labor force” in total by 95,000.

On an annual basis, employment of Hispanics increased by 977,000 jobs, bringing the Hispanic unemployment rate down from 5.9 percent in May 2005 to the current 5.0 percent. Overall, the U.S. economy added 2,405,000 jobs since May 2005. Hispanics filled 40.6 percent of those positions, despite being only 13.6 percent of the total U.S. labor force.

Looking at the seasonally unadjusted data for Hispanic sub-groups, the unemployment rate for Hispanic men (20 years and over) decreased to 3.3 percent in May from 3.9 percent in April. This was due to 77,000 previously unemployed Hispanic men all finding work.

The unemployment rate for Hispanic women 20 years and over also dropped, from 5.8 percent in April to 5.0 in May. There were 63,000 new jobs for Hispanic women in May, which decreased the rolls of the unemployed by 61,000 as well as absorbing an increase into the labor market of 1,000 Hispanic women.

The unemployment rate for Hispanic youths (age 16 to 19) actually increased in May to 13.8 percent from 12.4 percent in April. Teenagers of all ethnic/racial groups have the highest unemployment rates of any age group. This is due to their lack of job skills and experience as well as having less attachment to the labor force in response to school schedules and more frequent geographical relocations.

In May, 37,000 Hispanic teenagers joined the labor force. Only 17,000 were able to find jobs, leaving approximately 19,000 unemployed, which increased the unemployment rate.

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National Alliance for Human Rights
Schedules Meeting

The National Alliance for Human Rights has scheduled a community meeting at the Feldheym library, San Bernardino, on Saturday, June 17, 2006 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. The agenda includes:

1) San Bernardino Illegal Immigration/Relief Act.
2) Latino political efforts at the state and local levels.
3) Efforts in support of Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador for president of Mexico.

Mayor Pat Morris' chief of staff, Jim Morris and Congressman Joe Baca and community activist have been invited to attend. The public is invited to participate in the discussion of the agenda items. For information call Dr. Armando Navarro at (951) 333-6819.
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